

Inventory of birds on the artificial island in the Vistula Lagoon in 2024

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Methodology

28 site inspections were executed with special focus on water birds and waders: both migratory and nesting birds were counted. The number of nests was established and the nestlings of selected species were ringed. The visits consisted of walking around the island's rim: some of them included only fragmentary inspections- not all birds were counted.

Results

118 bird species were identified on the Island in 2024. 76 of them belonged to water birds and waders: 21 to the family of ducks (Anatidae); 1 rail (Rallidae); 33 plovers - 1 stilt (Recurvirostridae), 1 oystercatcher (Haematopodidae), 6 Charadriidae and 25 Scolopacidae; 15 gulls (Laridae), 3 grebes (Podicipedidae), 1 cormorant (Phalacrocoracidae) and 2 herons (Ardeidae).

The greatest reported numbers of specimens among water birds and waders included graylag goose (8850), black tern (1890), little gull (1500), European golden plover (1425) and dunlin o (1022). In all, for 25 water birds and waders, more than 100 specimens were reported during one inspection.

Tab. 1 Dates of site inspections

No.	Date	All non-nesting birds counted	Nests counted/Nestlings ringed
1	13.03.2024	+	
2	23.03.2024	+	
3	30.03.2024	+	
4	15.04.2024	+	+
5	17.04.2024		+
6	22.04.2024	+	+
7	27.04.2024	+	+
8	03.05.2024	+	+
9	05.05.2024		+
10	09.05.2024		+
11	14.05.2024	+	+
12	19.05.2024		+
13	25.05.2024	+	+
14	31.05.2024	+	+
15	28.06.2024	+	+

16	09.07.2024	+	+
17	20.07.2024	+	+
18	26.07.2024	+	+
19	02.08.2024	+	+
20	09.08.2024	+	+
21	20.08.2024	+	+
22	24.08.2024	+	
	30.08.2024*		
23	02.09.2024	+	
24	12.09.2024	+	
25	17.09.2024	+	
26	30.09.2024	+	
27	16.10.2024	+	
28	11.11.2024	+	

*additional visit – only one species counted

Tab.2. Birds identified on Vistula Lagoon artificial Island

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	Max number of specimen
Water birds				
1	gęgawa	Graylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	8850
2	gęś białoczelna	White-fronted goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	50
3	gęś tundrowa	<i>Tundra bean goose</i>	<i>Anser serrirostris</i>	100
4	bernikla obrożna	<i>(black) Brant</i>	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	2
5	bernikla białolica	<i>Barnacle goose</i>	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	1
6	bernikla kanadyjska	<i>Canada goose</i>	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	1
7	łabędź niemy	<i>Mute swan</i>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	6
8	ohar	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	34
9	kazarka rdzawa	<i>Ruddy shelduck</i>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	1
10	cyranka	<i>Garganey</i>	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>	2
11	płatkonos	Northern shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>	115
12	krakwa	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	91
13	świstun	Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>	340
14	krzyżówka	<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	265
15	rożeniec	<i>Northern pintail</i>	<i>Anas acuta</i>	45
16	cyraneczka	<i>Eurasian teal</i>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	702
17	głowienka	<i>Common pochard</i>	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	325
18	czernica	<i>Tufted duck</i>	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	50
19	ogorzałka	<i>Greater scaup</i>	<i>Aythya marila</i>	1
20	lodówka	<i>Long-tailed duck</i>	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	1
21	nurogęś	<i>Common merganser</i>	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	4
22	łyska	<i>Eurasian coot</i>	<i>Fulica atra</i>	1
23	szablodziób	<i>Avocet</i>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	4

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	Max number of specimen
24	ostrzygojad	<i>Eurasian oystercatcher</i>	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	1
25	siewnica	<i>Grey plover</i>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	412
26	siewka złota	<i>European golden plover</i>	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	1425
27	siewka złotawa	<i>Pacific golden plover</i>	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1
28	sieweczka obroźna	<i>Common ringed plover</i>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	115
29	sieweczka rzeczna	<i>Little ringed plover</i>	<i>Thinornis dubius</i>	23
30	czajka	Northern lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	729
31	kulik mniejszy	<i>Eurasian whimbrel</i>	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	14
32	kulik wielki	<i>Eurasian curlew</i>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	9
33	szlarnik	<i>Bar-tailed godwit</i>	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	36
34	rycyk	<i>Black-tailed godwit</i>	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	9
35	Kszyk (bekas)	Common snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	18
36	płatkonóg szydłodzioby	<i>Red-necked phalarope</i>	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	10
37	terekia	<i>Terek sandpiper</i>	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1
38	brodziec piskliwy	<i>Common sandpiper</i>	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	51
39	samotnik	<i>Green sandpiper</i>	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	4
40	brodziec pławny	<i>Marsh sandpiper</i>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1
41	łęczak	<i>Wood sandpiper</i>	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	29
42	krwawodziób	Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	55
43	brodziec śniady	<i>Spotted redshank</i>	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	22
44	kwokacz	<i>Common greenshank</i>	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	17
45	kamusznik	<i>Ruddy turnstone</i>	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	16
46	biegus rdzawy	<i>Red knot</i>	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	26
47	batalion	<i>Ruff</i>	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>	420
48	biegus płaskodzioby	<i>Broad-billed sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>	6
49	biegus krzywodzioby	<i>Curlew sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	155
50	biegus mały	<i>Temminck's stint</i>	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	30
51	piaskowiec	<i>Sanderling</i>	<i>Calidris alba</i>	7
52	biegus zmienny	<i>Dunlin</i>	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	1022
53	biegus morski	<i>Purple sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	1
54	biegus malutki	<i>Little stint</i>	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	41
55	biegus arktyczny	<i>Pectoral sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	1
56	mewa mała	<i>Little gull</i>	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	1500
57	śmieszka	<i>Black-headed gull</i>	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	850
58	mewa czarnogłowa	<i>Mediterranean gull</i>	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>	2
59	mewa siwa	<i>Common gull</i>	<i>Larus canus</i>	120
60	mewa białogłowa	<i>Caspian gull</i>	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	600
61	mewa srebrzysta	<i>European herring gull</i>	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	120
62	mewa siodłata	<i>Great black-backed gull</i>	<i>Larus marinus</i>	50
63	mewa żółtonoga	<i>Lesser black-backed gull</i>	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	2
64	rybitwa białoczelna	<i>Little tern</i>	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	150

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	Max number of specimen
65	rybitwa wielkodzioba	<i>Caspian tern</i>	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	140
66	rybitwa czarna	<i>Black tern</i>	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	1890
67	rybitwa białoskrzydła	<i>White-winged tern</i>	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	13
68	rybitwa popielata	<i>Arctic tern</i>	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	1
69	rybitwa rzeczna	<i>Common tern</i>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	300
70	rybitwa czubata	<i>Sandwich tern</i>	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	10
71	perkozek	<i>Little grebe</i>	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	1
72	perkoz dwuczuby	<i>Great crested grebe</i>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	1
73	zausznik	<i>Black-necked grebe</i>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1
74	kormoran	<i>Cormorant</i>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	950
75	czapla biała	<i>Great egret</i>	<i>Ardea alba</i>	22
76	czapla siwa	<i>Grey heron</i>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	5
Other birds				
77	gołąb skalny	<i>Rock dove</i>	<i>Columba livia</i>	1
78	siniak	<i>Stock dove</i>	<i>Columba oenas</i>	2
79	grzywacz	<i>Common wood pigeon</i>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2
80	jerzyk	<i>Common swift</i>	<i>Apus apus</i>	5
81	błotniak stawowy	<i>Western marsh harrier</i>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1
82	kania czarna	<i>Black kite</i>	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	1
83	bielik	<i>White-tailed eagle</i>	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	4
84	myszołów	<i>Common buzzard</i>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	4
85	sokół wędrowny	<i>Peregrine falcon</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1
86	kawka	<i>Western jackdaw</i>	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	2
87	wrona siwa	<i>Hooded crow</i>	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	3
88	kruk	<i>Common raven</i>	<i>Corvus corax</i>	2
89	bogatka	<i>Great tit</i>	<i>Parus major</i>	1
90	skowronek	<i>Eurasian skylark</i>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	2
91	zaganiacz		<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	2
92	rokitniczka	<i>Sedge warbler</i>	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	1
93	trzcinniczek	<i>Common reed warbler</i>	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	1
94	brzegówka	<i>Sand martin</i>	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	X*
95	dymówka	<i>Barn swallow</i>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5
96	oknówka	<i>Western house martin</i>	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	X*
97	pierwiosnek	<i>Common chiffchaff</i>	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	1
98	gajówka	<i>Garden warbler</i>	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	1
99	cierniówka	<i>Common whitethroat</i>	<i>Curruca communis</i>	1
100	strzyżyk	<i>Eurasian wren</i>	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	3
101	szpak	<i>Common starling</i>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2
102	rudzik	<i>European robin</i>	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	1
103	podróżniczek	<i>Bluethroat</i>	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>	1
104	kopciuszek	<i>Black redstart</i>	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1
105	pokląskwa	<i>Whinchat</i>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	Max number of specimen
106	kląskawka	<i>European stonechat</i>	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	1
107	białorzytka	<i>Northern wheatear</i>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	4
108	pliszka żółta	<i>Western yellow wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	10
109	pliszka siwa	<i>White wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	150
110	świergotek łąkowy	<i>Meadow pipit</i>	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	8
111	świergotek drzewny	<i>Tree pipit</i>	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	2
112	świergotek nadmorski	<i>European rock pipit</i>	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	16
113	jer	<i>Brambling</i>	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	1
114	rzepołuch	<i>Twite</i>	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>	2
115	makolągwa	<i>Common linnet</i>	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	5
116	śnieguła	<i>Snow bunting</i>	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	35
117	trznadel	<i>Yellowhammer</i>	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1
118	potrzos	<i>Common reed bunting</i>	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	4

X - number of specimen not counted

Tab 3. Rare birds identified on artificial Island on Vistula Lagoon

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	No. specimen	Date of identification
1	bernikla obrożna	<i>(black) Brant</i>	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	2	28.06.2024
2	kazarka rdzawa	<i>Ruddy shelduck</i>	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	1	17.09.2024
3	szablodziób	<i>Avocet</i>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	max 4	11.11.2024
4	siewka złotawa	<i>Pacific golden plover</i>	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	1	28.06.2024
5	płatkonóg szydłodzioby	<i>Red-necked phalarope</i>	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	max 10	09.08.2024
6	terekia	<i>Terek sandpiper</i>	<i>Xenus cinereus</i>	1	28.06.2024
7	brodziec pławny	<i>Marsh sandpiper</i>	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	1	09.07.2024
8	biegus morski	<i>Purple sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	1	16.10.2024
9	biegus arktyczny	<i>Pectoral sandpiper</i>	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	1	09.07.2024
10	mewa czarnogłowa	<i>Mediterranean gull</i>	<i>Ichthyaeus melanocephalus</i>	max 2	31.05.2024
11	rybitwa popielata	<i>Arctic tern</i>	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	1	09.08.2024
12	rybitwa czubata	<i>Sandwich tern</i>	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>	max 10	26.07.2024

Tab.4. Identified birds hatching on the artificial Island in Vistula Lagoon.

No.	Polish name	English name	Latin name	No. Hatching pairs	
				min.	max.
1	śmieszka	<i>Black-headed gull</i>	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	1228	1500
2	rybitwa rzeczna	<i>Common tern</i>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	157	180
3	rybitwa białoczarna	<i>Little tern</i>	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	46	80
4	sieweczka obrożna	<i>Common ringed plover</i>	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	6	6
5	sieweczka rzeczna	<i>Little ringed plover</i>	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	7	8
6	krakwa	<i>Gadwall</i>	<i>Mareca strepera</i>	2	3
7	krzyżówka	<i>Mallard</i>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1	1
8	gęgawa	<i>Graylag goose</i>	<i>Anser anser</i>	1	1
9	pliszka siwa	<i>White wagtail</i>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1	1

Summary

Even though the Island emerged only 2 years ago and its habitats are still forming, it has already become a very important nesting area for birds. Last year, at least 1800 pairs of birds of 9 species nested on the island. For species like black headed gulls, little ring plovers, and little terns, their colonies on the island were either the largest or one of the largest in the whole Pomorskie province.

The inventory has clearly shown that the island has great potential as a habitat for water birds and waders, both hatching on the island and migratory. The shaping of that habitat is very dynamic, so constant monitoring of changes in that habitat and their impacts on the population of the birds. In order to further enhance the knowledge of the role the island will be fulfilling for the population of birds, it appears indispensable to continue research efforts in the coming years. The inventory done in 2024 may be treated as the beginning of regular monitoring, which will allow for tracing changes in migratory and hatching avifauna.



Fig. 1 Ringing nestlings: common tern (left); little terns (right), 02-08-2024



Fig. 2 Just ringed nestling of common ringed plover: 31-05-2024



Fig. 3 Gadwall nestling 07-07-2024



Fig. 4 Abandoned graylag goose nest 14-05-2024

References

Trzeciak, H., Kośmicki, A., Bzoma, Sz., Janczyszyn, A., Zaniewicz, G. (2024). Inventory of birds on artificial Island in Vistula Lagoon in 2024. KULING Water Bird Research Group, 21 pp. (Pol.: Sprawozdanie z inwentaryzacji ptaków na Wyspie Estyjskiej w 2024r.).