

## KRUNNIT ISLANDS

**Location:** 65° 21-26' N, 24° 25' - 25° 29' E.  
The area is situated at the bottom of the Gulf of Bothnia, in the province of Oulu and in the municipality of Ii.

**Area:** 4 560 ha, comprising about 4 200 ha of water and 360 ha of land.

**Protection status:** The area is owned by a foundation and has been protected as a nature conservation area since 1936. The island group of Krunnit is already included in the Ramsar Convention sites and in the Natura 2000 network of protected areas.

**Site description:** The area consists of four separate groups of islands. The three largest islands are covered by forests. The northern part of Ulkokrunni Island is crossed by a low esker on which heath-like vegetation dominates. The island groups include also about 20 smaller, for the main part treeless islands or islets.

### **International and national importance:**

The area has very diverse and abundant archipelago bird fauna. The most numerous species of waterfowl are (1985): Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) with 95 pairs, Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*) 60 pairs and Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) 37 pairs. The breeding bird fauna also includes Scaup (*Aythya marila*) and Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*).

There are also plenty of waders and gulls. 12 species of waders breed; in 1985 the total number of breeding pairs was 280. The most numerous species are Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*). Species which in the Gulf of Bothnia area have been classified as threatened, include Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*) and Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*).

In 1985 there were over 1 150 breeding pairs of gulls in the islands. The most numerous species are Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) with 565 pairs, Common Gull (*L. canus*) 200 pairs and Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) 180 pairs. The strongly decreased (in the Baltic) Lesser Black-backed Gull holds 150 pairs. Terns are also numerous: Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) with 200 pairs, Caspian Tern (*S. caspia*) 90 pairs and Common Tern (*S. hirundo*) 80 pairs. The Little Tern (*S. albifrons*) is an occasional breeder. The breeding bird fauna also includes Razorbill (*Alca torda*) and Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*).

**Protection criteria:** 1b and 2a.

**Changes in ecological character:**

Rapid landupheaval and succession of the vegetation are changing the environment.

**Management measures:**

None implemented

**Possible threats:**

Spreading of the American Mink (*Mustela vison*) to the outer archipelago could cause considerable damage.

**Research:**

Several studies on archipelago bird fauna have been carried out since 1930.

**References:**

Haapanen & Rassi 1980, Helle et al. 1988, Hilden & Hario 1993, Merikallio 1930, 1950, Pulliainen & Tynjälä 1984, Salkio 1952, Finnish Legislative Collection 44/76, Vartiainen 1967, Väisänen 1972, 1973, 1974, 1977, Väisänen & Järvinen 1977a, 1977b.