

## Turnstone

### *Arenaria interpres*

The Turnstone birds are rather small, sturdy shorebirds, colourful and lively. In summer they are reddish-brown above, with black streaks on head and breast, white below. Head is white and crown striped. In winter they are greyer, with duller colouring. Bill is black, short and pointed. Legs are short, orange and eyes are dark.

Stay in rocky shores and open beaches with large quantities of seaweed. Often seen inland in spring. Several hundred winter on the shores of SW Iceland, and a few non-breeding birds remain through the summer. The



name is derived from the feeding behaviour of the bird, as it turns stones on the beach to find small animals.

Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson. (2005). *Icelandic bird guide*. Reykjavík: Iðunn.

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/tildra-arenaria-interpres>