

## Harlequin Duck

*Histrionicus histrionicus*

The Harlequin Duck is typically found on fast-flowing freshwater rivers and surf-beaten shores. They are small, short-necked, dark-coloured diving ducks. The males are colourful, their main colour is blue, with white, black-edged stripes. Flanks and sides of the crown are reddish-brown, wings are dark and scapulars with white stripes. Females are uniformly brown, with white patches on ear coverts and between the eyes and the bill. Have a paler belly.

They fly fast with rapid wingbeats, rarely fly overland, choose to follow rivers.

Are very agile swimmers, can swim in surf and fast-flowing rivers. Their summer habitat is by freshwater rivers and lake outlets. They nest on riverbanks or islets. Outside the breeding season their habitat is on rocky, surf-beaten shores.



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

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from <https://www.ni.is/node/27134>