

White Wagtail

Motacilla alba

The White Wagtail is a small, lively passerine with a long tail that is constantly flickering. They are grey on back and rump, with black throat and breast, white forehead and cheeks. The breast is white, and outer tail feathers. Wings and central tail feathers are dark. Males are darker than females. Bill is slender, short and black. Feet are black and eyes are dark.

Breed at farms, in urban areas, rocky areas by the sea, by lakes, rivers and elsewhere in lowlands. The nest is rough, made of twigs, stems, leaves and moss. Outside breeding season they are often seen at seashore. Migrate to western Africa in autumn.



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

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/passeriformes/mariuerla-motacilla-alba>