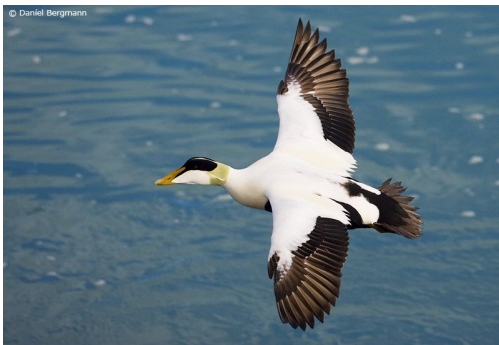


Eider

Somateria mollissima

The Eider is the most common of Iceland's ducks, they are large diving ducks which live almost only at sea or sea shore. Males are white above and black below with a black cap, pale green patches on nape and a pinkish breast. The wings are black with a white front edge and with long white scapulars. Females are dark, reddish-brown, with horizontal streaks below, dark-dappled above, vermiculated on head and neck. Bill is rather short and thick, triangular in profile, yellow-green in males, grey in females. Both sexes have greyish-green feet and brown eyes.



Are seabirds, also at breeding season. A few breed by rivers and lakes. Breed in colonies, often in large on islets or elsewhere where the birds are protected. In Neskaupstaður they are often seen in large groups in the harbour areas.

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

Images: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/anseriformes/aedur-somateria-mollissima>