

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

The Black-headed Gull is a common wetland bird, and the smallest gull that breeds in Iceland. In summer adults are light-grey on back and wings but otherwise largely white. The dark-brown cap on their head reaches down to neck. Wingtips are black. In winter plumage they don't have a cap but have black blotches on ear coverts. Their slender bill and feet are bright red. Eyes are dark with white eye rings.

Breed in colonies in various habitats in lowlands, both marshy and dry, but prefers wetland. Nest is a pile of dry vegetation, may be large in wetlands. Birds that stay in Iceland through the winter are found at harbours and in urban areas. Migrants winter in western Europe and also North America.



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

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/hettumafur-chroicocephalus-ridibundus>