

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

The Tufted Duck is a rather small duck, with a light build. Males have a black rounded head with metallic blue sheen, and drooping tuft from nape. The flanks and belly are white, underwings and wing bars as well. Their plumage is otherwise black or blackish-brown. Females are dark brown above, with light-speckled flanks, white belly and wingbars. Most have a white patch at the base of the bill. Both sexes have a greyish-blue bill.

They are gregarious at all seasons. Are an agile diver but heavy in take-off. Summer habitat is shallow lakes and ponds. In winter they are found at sea and on unfrozen fresh water. They commonly stay over winter in Iceland, but also migrate elsewhere .e.g to the British Isles.



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

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from <https://www.ni.is/node/27132>