

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

The Great Black-backed Gull is the largest of the gulls. Adult birds have a black back and upper wings, but are otherwise white. Wingtips are black with white spots. In winter there are light-brown spots on their head. Bill is sturdy, yellow with a red spot in the front. Eyes are yellow with a red eye ring.

Breed in various habitats close to the sea, sands, islands, in marshes and on mountains. Breed in colonies, sometimes with other gulls. In winter they stay in shallow seas or at the coast. Sometimes seen inland.



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

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/svartbakur-larus-marinus>