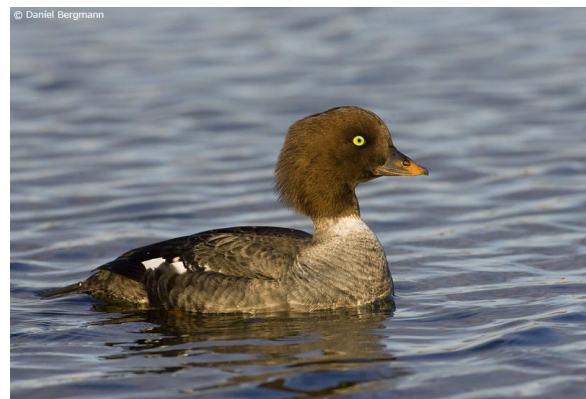
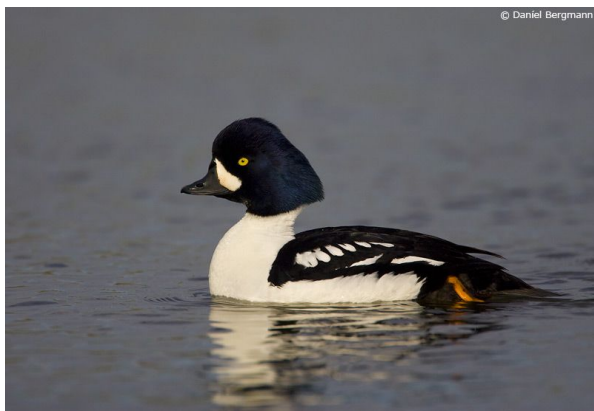


## Barrow's Goldeneye

### *Bucephala islandica*

Barrow's Goldeneye is the characteristic bird of the Lake Mývatn area. They are medium sized ducks with an unusually shaped head. Males have a metallic blue-black head with drooping tassel on nape, steep forehead and a white patch between the bill and eyes. They have a white neck, breast, belly, flanks and rear along with a row of white spots on scapulars. The wings are black with white speculum and white central coverts. Females have a chocolate-brown head, white neck ring, dark grey body and white breast. The head shape and pattern is similar to the males. Both sexes have orange feet with dark webs and bright yellow eyes.



When flying they make whistling sounds with their wings. Males claim an area of water as their territory, and they often fight with other males. They are agile swimmers and are often found in fast-flowing water. Their preferred habitat are eutrophic lakes and freshwater rivers. They breed in holes and clefts in cliffs and lava fields. They winter at nesting places and on unfrozen rivers and lakes in south Iceland.

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

Images: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/anseriformes/husond-bucephala-islandica>