

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

The Kittiwake is similar in size to the common gull. Adults are bluish-grey on the back and upper wings, with black wingtips, otherwise plumage is white. In winter hind neck and nape are grey, black blotches on ear coverts appear. Bill is yellow on adult birds and black on juvenile birds. They have short, black legs and dark eyes with a red eye ring.

They are seabirds, often seen far out at sea, are rarely found inland. Are very agile fliers. Breed on sea cliffs, often in large colonies. Nest is made of dry grass, remnants of vegetation and seaweed. This bird is common in many birdcliffs in Iceland.



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

Image: Daniel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/rita-rissa-tridactyla>