Fulmar

Fulmarus glacialis

A large seabird, around 1 kilogram, is similar to a gull. They have a thick neck and long, narrow wings. Are mainly white but wings, rump and tail are grey, underwings are light in colour with dark edges. Bill is short and thick, grey above and yellow below. Have nostrils in tubes on top of the bill. Feet are a grayish pink colour.

They are distinguished from gulls by their flight pattern, flap their wings a few times, then glide on outstretched wings. Are good swimmers and clumsy walkers.

Breed in colonies of cliffs and rocks by the sea or inland. Have moved increasingly inland, sometimes tens of kilometres from the sea. Vanish from dry land in the autumn, remain in the North Atlantic and come back to breed in early spring.



Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson. (2005).

Icelandic bird guide. Reykjavík: Iðunn.

Image: Daniel Bergmann, taken from https://www.ni.is/node/26962