

## Razorbill

*Alca torda*

The Razorbill has a black head, neck and back and white breast and belly. In winter the foreneck, throat and ear coverts are white. Their bill is flat-sided, curved at the end, with a white band along its length and a clear vertical band. They fly fast and straight with the neck extended and low over the surface of the sea. They are agile swimmers and good divers like other auks but they are clumsy walkers.



Both found in shallow and deep seas, believed to be largely migratory. Breed in colonies by the sea. The largest razorbill colony is found at Stórirurð in northwestern Iceland, where 60% of the Icelandic population breeds.

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

Image: Daniel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/alka-alca-torda>