

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

This is one of the typical birds of marshy lowlands. They are slender with long legs and long necks. In summer they are reddish-brown on head, neck and down to breast, otherwise they are mottled brown. In winter they are uniform, greyish-brown above and light below. Females are less colourful and larger than males. Bill is long and straight, orange at the base with a dark tip. Legs are long and dark, eyes are brown with a white eye ring. Their flight is fast with rapid wingbeats. Noisy and restless at breeding grounds.

They are exclusively a marshland bird, nest at and near various lowland marshland, mires, estuaries and sloping mires. Outside breeding season they stay mostly in wetland, farmland and mudflats.



Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson. (2005).

Icelandic bird guide. Reykjavík: Iðunn.

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from <https://www.ni.is/node/27160>