

Common Guillemot

Uria aalge

Is a common and rather large auk. In summer they are dark above and white below. In winter the white of the breast extends to chin, sides of the neck and cheeks. An identifying feature are dark streaks on the flanks. Feet and bill are black.



They nest in large colonies on birdcliffs or at the top of rock pillars or rocky islands. Are found at sea, both in the shallows and at deeper seas. They don't build nests, but lay eggs on bare ledge. Most of the Icelandic population breeds on birdcliffs in northwestern Iceland. Little is known about where Icelandic birds winter, some remain close to the Icelandic coast but most are migratory.

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

Image: Daniel Bergmann, taken from <https://www.ni.is/node/27097>