Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

The Long-tailed Duck is a typical duck of highland lakes. They change plumage more frequently than other ducks. Males have long central tail feathers except during late summer, in summer the head, neck, breast and back are dark brown. Males have white patches on the side of their heads. Males are much paler in winter, with dark patches on cheeks. Females have a dark and pale head pattern in winter, with dark neck ring and are otherwise greyish-brown above, white below. In summer, darker head and breast, dark-brown above. Bill is dark at the base and tip and pink between in males. Bill is bluish-grey in females. Feet of both sexes are bluish-grey and eyes are brown.





They breed inland and on seaside ponds and lakes in lowlands. Nests are normally near water. Winter at sea, on shore and in deeper waters where they feed on plankton.

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

Images: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/anseriformes/havella-clangula-hyemali

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