

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

The Oystercatcher is one of the largest waders in Iceland. They are easily identified by size and colour. Their back, head and neck are black down to the breast, but they are white below. They have black wings with striking white bars. The tail is white with a black edge. The bill is long, orange coloured, feet are pinkish-red and eyes bright red.

They nest in gravel and sand near the sea, by rivers and loes, near road verges and on roofs. Outside breeding season they are found on the shoreline. Majority of the Icelandic population migrates to the British Isles in autumn, several thousand winter on the shores of western Iceland.



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

Image: Daniel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/charadriiformes/tjaldur-haematopus-ostralegus>