

Goosander

Mergus merganser

The Goosander is the largest of Iceland's freshwater ducks. They are predominantly white with cream or pink tint. Their head is metallic dark green with puffed nape feathers instead of crest. The back is black and rear is grey. The females have a grey body, and a reddish-brown head. White throat and clear line between brown and grey on neck. Both sexes have a large white wing patches, which is larger in males. Both sexes have a long, narrow, red bill with black nail. Feet are red and eyes are brown.

Their habitat is on lakes and rivers where prey is found. Nest in a crevice or hollows on cliffs or banks. Winter on unfrozen freshwater or at sea. The largest winter group is in Lake Mývatn in northern Iceland.



Jóhann Óli Hilmarsson. (2005).

Icelandic bird guide. Reykjavík: Iðunn.

Image: Daníel Bergmann, taken from

<https://www.ni.is/biota/animalia/chordata/aves/anseriformes/gulond-mergus-merganser>