This map shows several good birdwatching sites in NW Iceland. About 90 species have been seen at these sites and in the surrounding area since the year 2000. Most of them are breeding birds in Iceland or birds which migrate through Iceland to Greenland and/or Canada. Some are winter visitors such as Grey Heron, King Eider and Iceland Gull, or annual vagrants such as Bohemian Waxwing.

The best time to watch birds is in spring (mid-May) because many migrating birds stop off in Iceland to refuel, and it is also the best time to find vagrants. The best time of day is early in the morning or in the evening when breeding birds are most active and the males are busy displaying.

The Westfjords region is renowned for its long coastline and the huge sea cliffs containing millions of seabirds. The dramatic scenery and abundance of birds have long attracted visiting birdwatchers but until now there has been little information on where to watch birds in the area.

The Westfjords region has been divided into 12 maps and this is the first map to be published. This map is number 2 in the series and it covers the birdwatching sites in Bolungarvík (town), Ísafjörður (town), Álftafjörður (fjord), Súgandafjörður (fjord), Önundarfjörður (fjord), Vigur (island) and Hestfjordur (fjord).

The Westfjords Natural History Institute is publishing data on the region’s birdlife and the project is sponsored by the Westfjords Growth Agreement. The photographs have been taken by Böðvar Þórisson (BÞ), Bastien Louboutin (BL) and Ágúst Svavar Hrólfsson (ÁSH). The photograph of the Golden Plover on the front page is by Bastien Louboutin.
good birding sites in Bolungarvík: the harbour

Bolungarvík

Breasted Merganser and Common Eider are common in the winter) can be seen in the harbour in the summer. King Eider is

and have somewhere to wash your clothes afterwards when visiting the Arctic Tern colony!

in the summer about 100 Red-necked Phalarope feed in the estuary

is free of ice from late April or

is frozen most of the time but

to see Harlequin Duck and

a few birds can be found

is protected between 15 April and 14

Hestfjörður and in the summer. The best sites for Harlequin Duck are simply from

summer. At Lake Syðradalsvatn and the area around the museum at

which is inhabited by a few small

and have somewhere to wash your clothes afterwards when visiting the Arctic Tern colony! Other sites

Vigor

is a small town in the fjord Álftafjörður. It is located on the south side of the

Hestfjörður and in the summer. The best sites for Harlequin Duck are simply from

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