

STATUS OF CLIFF-BREEDING SEABIRDS IN ICELAND IN 2005-2008

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A complete survey of Icelandic cliff-breeding seabirds was conducted in 2005-2008, repeating a survey from 1983-1986 (Gardarsson 1995, 1996). The first survey yielded estimates (thousands of pairs) for Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla* (630), Common Murre *Uria aalge* (990), Thick-billed Murre *U. lomvia* (580) and Razorbill *Alca torda* (380), and a partial estimate for Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*. Most murres bred at Látrabjarg and Hornstrandir, NW-Iceland, most Razorbills at Látrabjarg, most Kittiwakes on cliffs of the Northwest and Northeast. By 2005-2008, Razorbill and Kittiwake levels were 82-84% of what they were in the 1980s, Fulmar and Common Murre 70% and Thick-billed Murre 56%. Numerical trends among species were unsynchronised, with each species showing considerable spatial variation. Fulmars declined except in central N-Iceland. Kittiwakes decreased widely but maintained numbers at Hornstrandir and increased at several small northern sites and two major southern sites. Common Murres declined to 50% in the Southwest and 80% at Látrabjarg and Hornstrandir but changed little in the North and East. Thick-billed Murres maintained numbers only at Látrabjarg and at Drangey, N-Iceland. Razorbills generally declined, but increased substantially at Grimsey, N-Iceland. The marked spatial variability in population changes of each species calls for intensified monitoring, designed to cover both spatial and temporal variation.

References

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