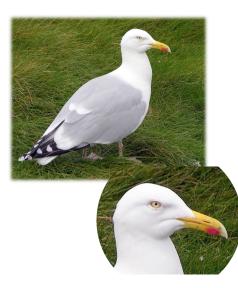
# ID GUIDE COMMON GULL SPECIES



Gulls are one of the most familiar types of seabird—partly because some can spend a lot of time inland. However, it can be a real challenge to tell the difference between our most common gull species. This simple guide to adult gull identification will help you take the first step to becoming a gull guru.



### HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

- Light-grey back
- Black wing tips
- Pink legs
- Yellow hooked beak with red spot
- Around 60cm in length



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Did you know that there is no species of gull called 'seagull'? The word seagull is an informal word used to refer generally to birds like the ones shown here.

## LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus fuscus

- Dark-grey back
- Black wing tips
- Yellow legs
- Yellow hooked beak with red spot
- Around 55cm in length

# GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

Larus marinus

- Dark grey-black back
- Pink legs
- Yellow hooked beak with red spot
- Up to 78cm in length
- The world's largest gull



# ID GUIDE COMMON GULL SPECIES





### BLACK-HEADED GULL

Chroicocephalus ridibundus

- Dark brown head in summer
- White head with dark smudges in winter
- Fine red beak
- Red legs
- Light grey back
- Around 35 cm in length



Rissa tridactyla

- Silvery-grey back
- Black wing tips
- White head with dark eyes
- Yellow beak
- Black legs
- Around 40cm in length

### COMMON GULL

Larus canus

- Similar to Herring gull, except...
- Yellow-green legs
- Yellow beak (but no red spot)
- Around 40cm in length
- A 'cuter' face
- Despite its name it's not the most common gull species

Juvenile gulls look very different to their parents. Chicks start out fluffy and many species retain a speckled appearance as they mature to older juveniles—like these Common gulls.





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