List of Gulls
with References
Compiled by Joe Hobbs
**Introduction**

I have endeavored to keep typos, errors etc in this list to a minimum, however when you find more I would be grateful if you could mail the details during 2011 to: josephobbs@gmail.com.

Grateful thanks to Chris Batty and Dick Coombes for the cover images.

Joe Hobbs

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The general order of species follows the International Ornithological Congress’ World Bird List. A number of differences occur with regard to the treatment of subspecies within the genus *Larus* where some are treated as full species and others are included with different species.

**Cover**


**Version**

Version 2.3 (1 August 2011).

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Relevant Publications


Reviews


General Notes


Swallow-tailed Gull  
*Creegrus furcatus* [Néboux 1846, Monterey, California (error = Galapágos)].  
Galapágos Islands & Malpelo Island (Colombia). Winters Colombia S to N Chile off the coast.


Fraser, M. 2004. Avian revelations (The battle to preserve island wildlife). *Birdwatch* 143: 10-12.


Black-legged Kittiwake  
*Rissa tridactyla* [Linnaeus 1758, Great Britain].  
[R.t. *pollicaris*] NE Siberia, Kamchatka, Sea of Okhotsk & Kuril Islands thru the Bering Sea to Alaska. Winters S to East China Sea & NW Mexico.


McGrath, D. & Walsh, P.M. 1985. Population decline and current status of breeding Kittiwakes in east Waterford. *Irish Birds* 3(1): 75-84.

**Red-legged Kittiwake**
*Rissa brevirostris* [Bruch 1853, NW North America].
Commander Island, St. Paul Island & St. George Island (Pribilof Islands, Bering Sea) and Buldir Island & Bogoslof Island (Aleutian Islands, Bering Sea). Winters N Pacific.

Ivory Gull

*Pagophila eburnean* [Phipps 1774, Spitsbergen].


Sabine’s Gull

Xema sabini [J. Sabine 1819, Sabine Islands, near Melville Bay, Greenland].

Circumpolar. Winters SE Atlantic off SW Africa and E Pacific off NW South America.

Gen. Sir Edward Sabine (1788-1883), British army & explorer who was the brother of Joseph Sabine who described the species.


**Slender-billed Gull**

*Chroicocephalus genei* [Brème 1839, Sardinia].

Senegal & Mauritania and S & E Iberia E thru Mediterranean, Black Sea, Middle East & Asia Minor to E Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan & NW India. Winters S to Horn of Africa.

Giuseppe Gené (1800-1847), Italian naturalist and author whose main interest was in entomology. He succeeded Bonelli as Professor of Zoology and Director of the Royal Zoological Museum at Turin in 1830.


**Bonaparte’s Gull**

*Chroicocephalus philadelphia* [Ord 1815, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA].

W Alaska & S British Columbia E to E Quebec. Winters along Pacific coast S to Sinaloa (Mexico) and Atlantic coast S to Florida & the Greater Antilles and occasionally C USA from Great Lakes S to Gulf of Mexico.

Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte (1803-1857), French ornithologist and diplomat, Nephew to Napoleon Bonaparte.

1st WP Record: [adult winter] 1 February 1848. Shot on the River Lagan near Belfast, County Antrim, Northern Ireland (Ussher & Warren 1900).


**Red-billed Gull**

_**Chroicocephalus scopulinus**_ [Forster 1844, Dusky Sound, South Island, New Zealand].
E coasts of North & South Islands of New Zealand, Lake Rotorua (North Island, New Zealand), Stewart Island, Chatham Island, Bounties Islands, Snares Islands, Aucklands Islands & Campbell Islands (off New Zealand).
Treated by some as race of Silver Gull.


**Silver Gull**

_**Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae**_ [Stephens 1826, New South Wales, Australia].
[**C.s. novaehollandiae**] S Australia.
[**C.s. gunni**] Tasmania.
[**C.s. forsteri**] N Australia, New Caledonia & Loyalty Islands.


**Black-billed Gull**

_**Chroicocephalus bulleri**_ [Hutton 1871, New Zealand].
South Island, New Zealand and Rotorua, Gisborne, Clive & Porangahau (North Island, New Zealand). Winters S North Island & N South Island (New Zealand) and occasionally to Stewart Island and Snares Islands.
Other names: Buller’s Gull.
Sir Walter Lawry Buller (1838-1906), New Zealand ornithologist and lawyer who also spent time as a Government minister between 1896 and 1899.


Andean Gull
Chroicocephalus serranus [Tschudi 1844, Jauja Valley, Junín, Peru].
Andean lakes from N Ecuador S to N Chile, W Bolivia and N Argentina. Winters Pacific coast S to SC Chile.

Brown-headed Gull
Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus [Jerdon 1840, India].
Other name: Indian Black-headed Gull.


Brown-hooded Gull
Chroicocephalus maculipennis [Lichtenstein 1823, Montevideo, Uruguay].
SC Chile & Uruguay S to Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands and probably Rio Grande do Sul (SE Brazil). Winters N to N Chile & CE Brazil.
Other name: Patagonian Black-headed Gull, Pink-breasted Gull.


**Black-headed Gull**


Grey-headed Gull

Chroicocephalus cirrocephalus [Vieillot 1818, Brazil].
[C.c. cirrocephalus] Coastal Ecuador & Peru and coastal C Brazil to S Buenos Aires (Argentina) and along the river basins of the Paraguay and Paraná to Lake Melincué (Santa Fé, Argentina). Winters to the N of breeding areas.
[C.c. poiocephalus] Scattered populations from Ethiopia S to Malawi and S Africa (including Rift Valley lakes) and coasts and inland rivers of W Africa. Winters; some sedentary but some from S Africa move N along Atlantic and Indian Ocean coasts. Within WP at Banc d’Arguin, Mauritania, 20-30 breeding pairs (1995).
Other name: Grey-hooded Gull.
Hartlaub’s Gull

Chroicocephalus hartlaubii [Bruch 1853, Cape of Good Hope].
Coastal SW Africa from C Namibia to SW Cape Province.
Treated by some as race of Silver Gull.
Karel Johan Gustav Hartlaub (1814-1900), German ornithologist, explorer & academic.


Saunders’s Gull

Saundersilarus Saundersi [Swinhoe 1871, Fujian, China].
Liaoning & Hebei S thru Shandong to Jiangsu (Coastal NE China). Winters South Korea & S Japan S to N Vietnam.
Other name: Chinese Black-headed Gull.
Howard Saunders (1835-1907), British ornithologist and expert on gulls.


Little Gull

*Hydrocoloeus minutus* [Pallas 1776, rivers of Siberia].
N Scandinavia, Baltic republics & W Russia E to W Siberia between rivers Ural & Ob' and the basin of the River Lena SW to L Baikal (E Siberia) and sporadically in W & C Europe with small numbers in NE North America. Winters mostly S & W of breeding range.

**Ross’s Gull**

*Rhodostethia rosea* [MacGillivray 1824, Melville Peninsula, Canada].

Taymyr peninsula E to R Kolyma (NE Siberia) and Peary Land & Disko Bay (W Greenland), Spitsbergen (Svalbard, Arctic Ocean) and Cheyne Islands, Prince Charles Island & islands in Penny Strait (Nunavut Territory, Canada) & Churchill (Manitoba, Canada). Winters mainly in the Arctic at the edge of the pack ice with some birds moving further S. Treated by some as *Hydrocoloeus rosea*

Other name: Rosy Gull.

Rear-Admiral Sir James Clark Ross (1802-1862), British arctic explorer who collected the type specimen at Igloolik Island, NW Territories, Canada.

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**References**


Dolphin Gull
*Leucophaeus scoresbii* [Traill 1823, South Shetland Islands].
SC Chile & SC Argentina S to Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands. Winters along the coast to N of breeding areas.
Treated by some as *Gабianus scoresbii*.
Other names: Scoresby's Gull, Magellan Gull.
William Scoresby (1789-1857), English arctic explorer, whaler and scientist who published over 60 papers on a wide range of subjects and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.


Lava Gull
*Leucophaeus fuliginosus* [Gould 1841, Santiago (James) Island, Galapágos].
Galapágos Islands.
Other name: Dusky Gull.


Laughing Gull
*Leucophaeus atricilla* [Linnaeus 1758, Bahamas].
[L.a. atricilla] West Indies S to Trinidad and islands off Venezuela. Winters S to N Brazil.
[L.a. megalopterus] SE California S to W Mexico and Nova Scotia S to Florida & Texas and locally thru E Central America. Winters S to S Peru.
1st WP Record: 29 June 1877. Le Crotay, Baie de Somme, France. Killed (Dubois et al 2008).


Franklin's Gull

*Leucophaeus pipixcan* [Wagler 1831, Mexico].

British Columbia to Alberta and Montana to Minnesota (continental North America). Winters off W South America coast S to Chile and Galápagos Islands.

Rear Admiral Sir John Franklin RN (1786-1847), British explorer, who perished while attempting to chart and navigate a section of the Northwest Passage in the Canadian Arctic.


Grey Gull

Leucophaeus modestus [Tshudi 1843, Lurin, south of Lima, Peru].

Atacama and other inland deserts of N Chile and (probably) S Peru. Winters along the coast from Ecuador S to SC Chile.


Relict Gull

Ichthyaetus relictus [Lönnberg 1931, Tsondol, Inner Mongolia, China].

L Alakol’ (NE Kazakhstan), L Barun-Torey (Chita, S Transbaikalia), Tatsain Tsagaan Nuur (on the edge of Edsin Gol, C Mongolia), N Gansu (NC China) & Taolimiao-Alashan Nur (C Ordos Highlands, Inner Mongolia). Winters (probably) Vietnam and (perhaps) South Korea.

Type specimen collected in 1929 at Tsondol, Inner Mongolia, China was initially considered a race of Mediterranean Gull until the second specimen was collected in 1969 at a breeding colony in Kazakhstan.

Other name: Central Asian Gull.


**Audouin’s Gull**

*Ichthyaetus audouinii* [Payraudeau 1826, Sardinia and Corsica]. Mediterranean coasts primarily on the Ebro Delta (NE Spain) & Chafarinas Islands (off NE Morocco) with scattered colonies E to Tunisia, Aegean Sea, S Turkey & Cyprus. Winters S to Senegambia region.

Jean Victoire Audouin (1797-1841), French naturalist, entomologist, malacologist, ornithologist and member of the French Academy of Sciences.


Mediterranean Gull

Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus [Temminck 1820, coasts of the Adriatic Sea].

Mainly on Black sea coasts of Ukraine, with recent spread to N Caucasian Plains & Baku archipelago (Azerbaijan) with scattered populations thru Europe and large numbers recently in Holland, Camargue (S France), Italy, Greece & Turkey and smaller numbers in Ireland, S England, Belgium, NE Germany, NE Spain & C Europe. Winters Mediterranean, Black Sea, NW Europe & NW Africa.


**Great Black-headed Gull**

*Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus* [Pallas 1773, Caspian Sea].

Crimea E to L Balkhash with scattered populations NE to NW Mongolia. Winters E Mediterranean, Red Sea, S Caspian Sea and N Indian Ocean E to Myanmar and S to SC Ethiopia.

Other name: Pallas's Gull.

Peter Simon Pallas (1741-1811), German zoologist and one of the greatest 18th century naturalists.


White-eyed Gull
Ichthyaetus leucophthalmus [Temminck 1825, Red Sea coasts].

Red Sea & Gulf of Aden.


**Sooty Gull**

*Ichthyaetus hemprichii* [Bruch 1853, Red Sea].
Red Sea & Gulf of Aden and Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman E to S Pakistan and S to N Kenya.
Treated by some as *Adelarus hemprichii*.
Other names: Hemprich's Gull, Aden Gull.
William Fredrich Hemprich (1796-1825), German natural scientist, zoologist, physician, traveller and collector.


**Pacific Gull**

*Larus pacificus* [Latham 1801, New South Wales, Australia].
Treated by some as *Gabianus pacificus*.
Other names: Large-billed Gull, Australian Gull.


**Belcher’s Gull**

*Larus belcheri* [Vigors 1829 Vigors, no locality, presumably Peru].
N Peru to N Chile (area of the Humboldt Current). Winters N to N Ecuador and S to C Chile.
Other names: Simeon's Gull, Simeon Gull, Band-tailed Gull.
Simeon's is probably a transcription error rather than a person and is most likely a region where the gull is found.
Admiral Sir Edward Belcher (1799-1877), British explorer who was in command of the failed Arctic expedition to locate Sir John Franklin in 1852.

**Olrog's Gull**

*Larus atlanticus* [Olrog 1958, Mar del Plata, Argentina].
Coast of Argentina S of 11°S. Winters Atlantic coast of S Brazil, Uruguay & N Argentina.
Treated by some as a race of Belcher’s Gull.
Claes Christian Olrog (1912-1985), Swedish ornithologist domiciled in Argentina.


**Black-tailed Gull**

*Larus crassirostris* [Vieillot 1818, Nagasaki, Japan]

S Kuril Islands, Sakhalin, Popov Island, Moneron Island & Peter the Great Bay (SE Far East Russia), Japan, Korea & E China. Winters S to N East China Sea & Taiwan Straits.

Other names: Temminck's Gull, Japanese Gull.

Coenraad Jacob Temminck (1778-1858), Dutch ornithologist, illustrator & collector.


**Heermann’s Gull**

*Larus heermanni* [Cassin 1852, San Diego, California],

Gulf of California S to Nayarit & Baja California (W Mexico). Winters N to C California.

Dr. Adolph Lewis Heermann (1827-1865), American army physician & naturalist.


**Common Gull**

*Larus canus* [Linnaeus 1758, Sweden],


[L.c. heinei] The Kanin peninsula & area around Moscow E to NC Siberia (Russia). Winters SE Europe, Black & Caspian Seas.
Other names: Mew Gull, Russian Common Gull (heinei), Kamchatka Gull (kamtschatschensis).


Short-billed Gull

*Larus brachyrhynchos* [Richardson 1831, Northwest Territories, Canada].
Treated by del Hoyo et al 1996 as a race of Common Gull.
Other name: Mew Gull.


Ring-billed Gull

*Larus delawarensis* [Ord 1815, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania].
N California, E Washington & British Colombia E to the Great Lakes & St Lawrence River. Winters S of breeding range and further S to US Gulf, C America & Greater Antilles w ith some to Britain & Ireland.


**California Gull**

*Larus californicus* [Lawrence 1854, Stockton, California].


[L.c. *albertaensis*] Great Slave Lake (NW Territories), Alberta & W Manitoba to S Dakota. Winters SW Canada S to SW Mexico.
Great Black-backed Gull

*Larus marinus* [Linnaeus 1758, Gotland, Sweden].

Great Lakes, E Canada & coastal E USA S to N Carolina and S Greenland, Iceland, Britain, Ireland, NW France & Scandinavia E to White Sea. Winters S to W Indies and Iberia & extreme NW Africa.


**Kelp Gull**

*Larus dominicanus* [Lichtenstein 1823, coasts of Brazil].


[L.d. judithae] Kerguelen & the Crozet Islands (Indian Ocean).


[L.d. austinus] Antarctica.

Treated by del Hoyo *et al* 1996 as monotypic.

Other names: Southern Black-backed Gull, Black-backed Gull, Dominican Gull, Cape Gull (*vetula*), Chandelour Gull (hybrid Kelp x American Herring Gull).


1st WP Record (L.d. vetula): January 1995. Jardin des Plantes Zoo, Paris, France. Remained until the following month. Record originally assigned to category D, later elevated to category A by the CAF (Jiguet *et al* 2004).


Glaucous-winged Gull

*Larus glaucescens* [J.F. Naumann 1840, North America].

Commander Island E thru Aleutian Islands to S Alaska and SE to N Oregon. Winters Bering Sea to N Japan and S to Baja California.

Other names: Olympic Gull (hybrid Glaucous-winged x Western Gull), Puget Sound Gull (hybrid Glaucous-winged x Western Gull).


Western Gull

*Larus occidentalis* [Audubon 1839, Cape Disappointment, Washington].

[L.o. occidentalis] NW Washington to C California.

[L.o. wymani] C California to C Baja California.

Other name: Wyman’s Gull (*wymani*), Olympic Gull (hybrid Glaucous-winged x Western Gull), Puget Sound Gull (hybrid Glaucous-winged x Western Gull).


**Yellow-footed Gull**

*Larus livens* [Dwight 1919, San José Island, Baja California].
Gulf of California (NW Mexico).
Treated as a race of Western Gull by some.


**Glaucous Gull**

*Larus hyperboreus* [Gunnerus 1767, N Norway].
[L.h. hyperboreus] Jan Mayen & Spitsbergen E to Taymyr peninsula. Winters S to CW Europe.
[L.h. pallidissimus] Taymyr peninsula E to the Bering Sea. Winters S to Japan.
[L.h. barrovianus] Alaska to W Canada. Winters S to CW USA.
[L.h. leuceretes] E Mackenzie R region E thru N Canadian archipelago to Greenland & Iceland. Winters S to CE USA.
Other names: Point Barrow Gull (*barrovianus*), Nelson's Gull (hybrid Glaucous x American Herring Gull), Viking Gull (hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull).
Edward William Nelson (1855-1934), American ornithologist and founding President of the American Ornithologists’ Union who collected the first specimen of the hybrid form named after him.

Larus hyperboreus


Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides [B. Meyer 1822, Iceland]


[L.g. kumlieni] Baffin Island & Southampton Island (Canadian Territory of Nunavut) and in the vicinity of Ungava Bay (NW Quebec). Winters Gulf of Saint Lawrence & Newfoundland S to Virginia and Great Lakes region W to Minnesota with some to Britain & Ireland.

Kumljen's Gull is probably best regarded as a stable hybrid population of Iceland x Thayer's Gulls (Weir et al. 2000).

Other name: Kumljen's Gull (kumlieni).

Thure Ludwig Theodor Kumlien (1853-1902), Swedish-American ornithologist, naturalist and taxidermist who contributed much to the knowledge of the natural history of Wisconsin and its birds and/or his son, Ludwig Kumlien (1853-1902), American ornithologist of Swedish decent who spent two years collecting in the Arctic including the type specimen of this gull.


Thayer’s Gull

*Larus thayeri* [W.S. Brooks 1915, Banks Island, NW Territories, Canada].

Banks Island E to Hudson Bay & N Baffin Island and N thru Ellesmere Island to W Greenland. Winters Pacific coast from British Columbia S to Baja California.

Col. John Eliot Thayer (1862-1933), American ornithologist, collector and banker who used his considerable wealth to fund natural history expeditions, including the one which collected the type specimen of this gull.


**Howell, S. & King, J.** 1997. Letters (Glib style, a half truth seen?). *Birding World* 10(7): 270-274.


Herring Gull
Larus argentatus [Pontoppidan 1763, Denmark].
[L.a. argenteus] Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland & W France E to W Germany. Winters S to N Iberia.
Other name: Viking Gull (hybrid Glaucous x Herring Gull).


American Herring Gull

*Larus smithsonianus* [Coues 1862, North America]

North America. Winters S to C America.

Treated by Collinson et al 2008 to include forms *vegae* and *mongolicus*.

Other names: Smithsonian Gull, Nelson's Gull (hybrid Glaucous x American Herring Gull), Chandeleur Gull (hybrid Kelp x American Herring Gull).

Edward William Nelson (1855-1934), American ornithologist and founding President of the American Ornithologists' Union who collected the first specimen of the form named after him, which is now regarded as a hybrid.

1st WP Record: [2nd winter] November 1937. Captured at sea in the North Atlantic 480km from Spain. It had been ringed as a chick on Kent Island, New Brunswick, Canada during August 1936 (Gross 1940).


**Vega Gull**

*Larus vegae* [Palmén 1887, NE Siberia].


[L.v. mongolicus] Mongolia & neighbouring parts of far eastern Russia, NE China and possibly South Korea. Winters S & E China, Korea & Japan.


Other names: East Siberian Gull, Mongolian Gull (mongolicus), Birula's Gull (L.v. birula) treated by some to be a form of vegae (or perhaps a hybrid) found in the NW part of its range.

Aleksei Andreevich Byalyntisky-Birula (1864-1937), Russian arachnologist and ornithologist who was the author of several books on the taxonomy of scorpions.


Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans [Pallas 1811, Caspian Sea]

Black Sea E to Caspian Sea & E Kazakhstan and spreading to C Europe more recently. Winters mainly Black Sea, Middle East & Arabian Gulf and possibly NE Africa. Treated by Olsen & Larsson 2004 to include forms barabensis and mongolicus. Other name: Pontic Gull.


53
Yellow-legged Gull

*Larus michahellis* [J.F. Naumann 1840, coast of Dalmatia, Adriatic Sea].

*[L.m. michahellis]* W & S Europe and NW Africa E thru Mediterranean to Black Sea.

*[L.m. atlantis]* Azores, Madeira & Canary Islands.

Form *lusitanius* treated by Olsen & Larsson 2004 to be a race of Yellow-legged Gull found in N & NW Iberia.

Other name: Atlantic Gull (*atlantis*).


Some extracted text from the document is as follows:


McGeehan, A. 1998. Birding from the Hip (Spicing the stew - To whoever is in charge out there). Birdwatch 70: 15.


Armenian Gull

*Larus armenicus* [Buturlin 1934, Lake Sevan, Armenia].

Armenia to E Turkey & NW Iran. Winters SE Black Sea, E Mediterranean & N Red Sea.

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Slaty-backed Gull

*Larus schistisagus* [Stejneger 1884, Bering Island, Kamchatka, Russia]. Cape Navarin & Kamchatka (NE Siberia) to Hokkaido, NE Honshu & Vladivostok. Winters S to Taiwan.


Lesser Black-backed Gull

*Larus fuscus* [Linnaeus 1758, Sweden].


[L.f. *graellsi*] Iceland, Faeroes, Britain, Ireland, France & Iberia. Winters SW Europe to W Africa.

[L.f. *intermedius*] Holland, Denmark & S Norway. Winters W Europe & W Africa. Treated by Collinson *et al* 2008 to include forms *heuglini* and *barabensis*. Other name: Baltic Gull (*fuscus*).

Mariano de la Paz Graells (1809-1898), Spanish naturalist, who Brehm called the father of Spanish natural history.


Irish Birds
**Heuglin’s Gull**

*Larus heuglini* [Bree 1876, North Siberia].

[L.h. *heuglini*] Kola peninsula, W Taimyr & Yamal peninsula. Winters Black Sea & Indian Ocean S to E Africa and W to S India.

[L.h. *taimyrensis*] SW Taimyr & Yenisei to SE Yamal peninsula. Winter range poorly understood, apparently E. Asia.

[L.h. *barabensis*] C Asian steppes. Winters Persian Gulf, Oman, Arabian Peninsula S to S Red Sea, Socotra & Indian Ocean coasts to W India.

Form *taimyrensis* treated by some as a hybrid-type, i.e. *heuglini* x *vegae*.

Form *taimyrensis* treated as full species by van Dijk *et al* 2011.

Form *barabensis* treated as full species by van den Berg 2011.

Both *heuglini* and *barabensis* treated by Collinson *et al* 2008 as forms of Lesser Black-backed Gull. Form *barabensis* treated as a race of Caspian Gull by Olsen & Larsson 2004.

Other names: Siberian Gull, West Siberian Gull, Taimyr Gull (*taimyrensis*), Baraba Gull (*barabensis*), Steppe Gull (*barabensis*).

Theodor von Heuglin (1824-1876), German ornithologist, explorer & mining engineer.

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**Citations**


