

Black Headed Gull

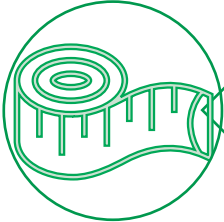
Habitat Hero



Common Name: Black headed gull
Irish Name: Sléibhín
Scientific Name: *Larus ridibundus*

Seen in Ireland:

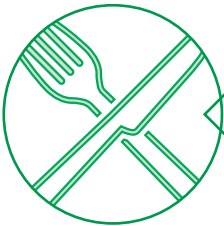
Year-round



Black headed gulls are one of the smaller members of the gull family. This gull is 37–44 cm long with a 94–110 cm wingspan and weighs 190–400 g.



Black headed gulls are one of the most common species of gull in Ireland. They are found inland as well as in coastal regions. They will spend time on inland lakes. They are attracted to places which often have food lying around such as urban environments and school yards after lunch!

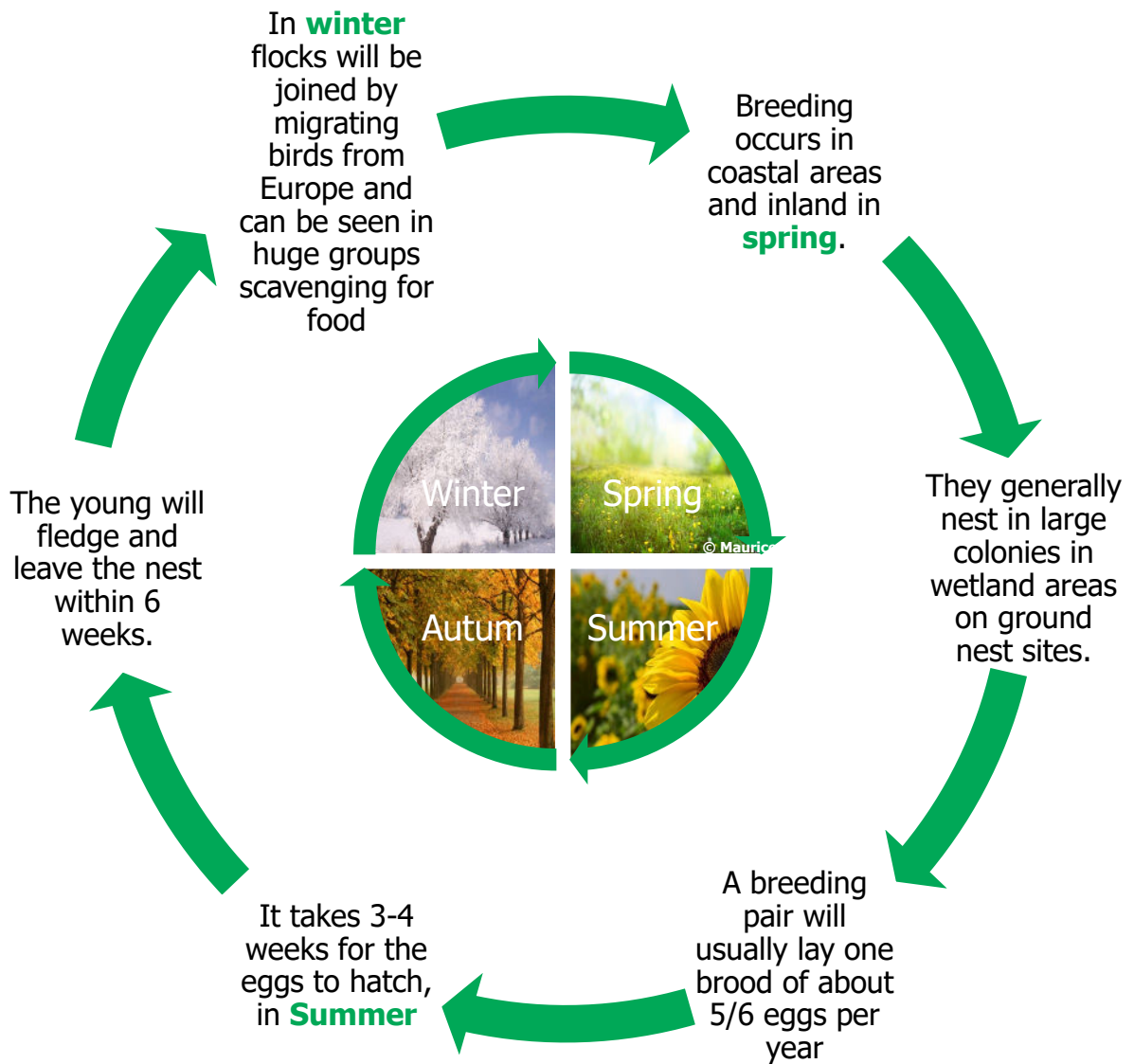


Black headed gulls mainly feed on insects and worms in fields but will also scavenge for food in urban areas, around fisheries etc. They will eat a large variety of food they find from fish to leftover sandwiches.



Usually, Black Headed Gulls live to about 11 years, but gulls are long-lived birds, with a maximum age of this gull at least 32.9 years recorded in the wild.

Black Headed Gull Life Cycle



Black Headed Gull

Some more Facts:

- Seagull is a nickname often given to many different species of gulls including the black headed gull but there is no specific bird whose real name is seagull.
- Black headed gulls are one of the smaller members of the gull family.
- They are slightly confusingly named as the head is white with just a black dot on the side most of the year.
- In summer, their head is actually dark brown.
- They have red, webbed feet and a red beak.
- Their body is mostly white and grey. They have black tips on the end of their wings.
- The gull's life cycle can be divided into the juvenile and adult stages
- Juveniles are birds in their first year of leaving the nest
- Juveniles will have darker plumage than adults. When they are one year old, they will get their adult plumage
- Black headed gulls can make a lot of noise, especially in flocks.
- They have several calls which are harsh sounding variations on a screech of "kreee- aaa"
- The numbers of black headed gulls have been falling in recent years.
- Changes in their habitats is a big reason why. Another cause is the arrival of the American mink, an invasive species who preys on the eggs and chicks at nest sites.
- The main danger from predators comes during nesting season. Since black headed gulls are ground nesting birds, they are vulnerable to attack from mammals as well as other large birds such as crows.

