



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult (21-IV).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL**  
(*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)

**IDENTIFICATION**

34-43 cm. **Adult** in **breeding** plumage with brown head; underparts, base of neck and tail white; grey upperparts; grey wings with black tips; red bill and legs. In **winter** plumage lacks brown on head, only some spots near the eye; yellow-orange legs. **Juve-**



Black-headed Gull. Pattern of head in summer and winter; wing and legs.

**SIMILAR SPECIES**

This is the only **Gull** breeding in Aragon with brown head and red bill and legs. In **winter** unmistakable by white wings with black tips.

**SEXING**

Plumage of both sexes alike.

**AGEING**

3 types of age can be safely recognized:

**Juvenile** with head, upperparts and edge of wing coverts tinged buff; tail with a dark subterminal band; buff-pinkish legs and bill.

**1st year autumn/2nd year spring** with tail with dark subterminal band; scapulars, tertials and median wing coverts with edged brown; secondaries, outer primary coverts and alula with dark marks.

**Adult** with red legs and bill; feathers of alula and primary coverts white; white tail feathers; scapulars, tertials, median coverts, secondaries and inner primaries grey.

**CAUTION:** have been described as **2nd year autumn / 3rd year spring** some specimens that have dark patches in the alula, outer coverts, tertials or outer primaries, although some **adult** birds have been described as well as those feathers with similar dark patches.



Black-headed Gull. Summer. Ageing. Pattern of head: top adult; bottom juvenile.



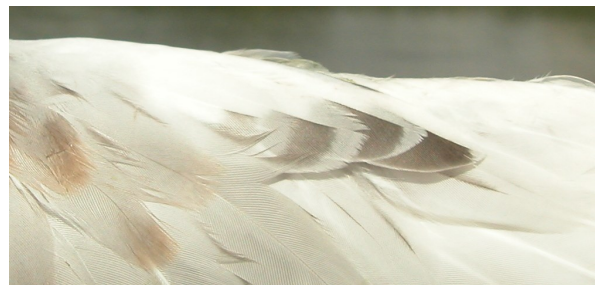
Black-headed Gull. Ageing. Pattern of tail: left adult; right juvenile.



Black-headed Gull. Ageing. Pattern of wing coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Black-headed Gull. Ageing. Pattern of legs: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Black-headed Gull. Ageing. Pattern of alula: top adult without grey patch; middle adult with grey patch; bottom juvenile.

### MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in October; the brown colour on head lost in August-September. Partial **postjuvenile** moult involving body feathers and some wing coverts and tertials; usually finished in December; the first complete moult takes place in **2nd summer**. Both age classes have a **prebreeding** moult in **spring** including head and body feathers acquiring breeding plumage.

### PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

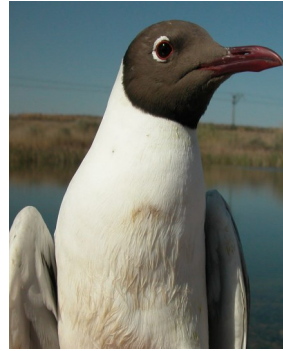
- Summer visitor
- Resident
- Wintering
- On passage



**05820 Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Breast pattern: top left adult (21-IV); top right 2nd year (21-IV); left juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Head pattern and bill colour: top adult (2<sup>o</sup>-IV); middle 2nd year (21-IV); bottom juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Upperparts pattern: top left adult (21-IV); top right 2nd year (21-IV); left juvenile (09-VII).



**05820 Black-headed Gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*)



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Pattern of legs: top adult (2<sup>o</sup>-IV); middle 2nd year (21-IV); bottom juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Tail pattern: top left adult (21-IV); top right 2nd year (21-IV); left juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of alula (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of alula (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of alula (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of alula (09-VII).





Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primary coverts (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Pattern of tertials: top left adult (21-IV); top right 2nd year (21-IV); left juvenile (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of primaries (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of primaries (21-IV).





Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of secondaries (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of secondaries (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries (09-VII).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Adult: pattern of wing (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. 2nd year: pattern of wing (21-IV).



Black-headed Gull. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of wing (09-VII).





Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult (11-XI).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Head pattern and bill colour: top adult (11-XI); bottom 1st year (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Breast pattern: left adult (11-XI); right 1st year (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Upperparts pattern: left adult (11-XI); right 1st year (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Pattern of legs: top adult (11-XI); bottom 1st year (28-XII).





Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Tail pattern: left adult (11-XI); right 1st year (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (12-X).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult: pattern of alula (12-X).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primary coverts (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of alula (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult: pattern of primaries (12-X).





Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of primaries (28-XII).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult: pattern of secondaries (12-X).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of secondaries (12-X).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Pattern of tertials: left adult



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. Adult: pattern of wing (12-X).



Black-headed Gull. Autumn. 1st year: pattern of wing (28-XII).