

235 Yellow-legged Gull

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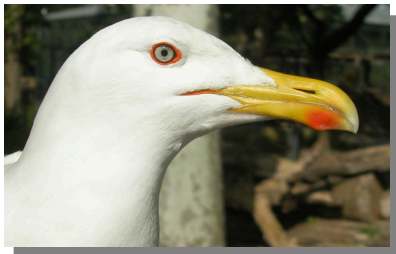


Yellow-legged Gull. Adult (26-IV).

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*Larus michahellis*)

IDENTIFICATION

58-66 cm. **Adults** with grey upperparts; white underparts; grey wing with black tip spotted white; white tail; yellow legs; yellow bill with a red spot on the tip. **Juveniles** brown, dark streaked; dark barred tail; dark bill; pinkish legs.



Yellow-legged Gull. Pattern of head and wing.



SIMILAR SPECIES

Unmistakable since it is the bigger **Gull** in Aragon.

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike; size can be helpful with extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 475 mm; bill longer than 65 mm, tarsus longer than 75 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 425 mm; bill shorter than 51 mm, tarsus shorter than 60 mm (**CAUTION**: measurements valid only for subspecies *michaellis*).

AGEING

5 age groups can be recognized:

Juvenile with pink legs; dark bill; brown iris; head grey streaked; upperparts and wing coverts with grey-brown feathers pale edged; underparts mottled grey-brown; primaries and secondaries dark, with similar pattern; primary coverts dark brown; white tail with broad dark terminal band.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with pinkish legs; dark bill in **winter**, in **spring** with pinkish or greenish base; white head but very dark around the eyes; scapulars and upperparts with brown **juvenile** feathers admixed with some grey feathers of **adult** type; white underparts since December but with some dark marks on breast and flanks; greater coverts worn; tail with terminal dark band.

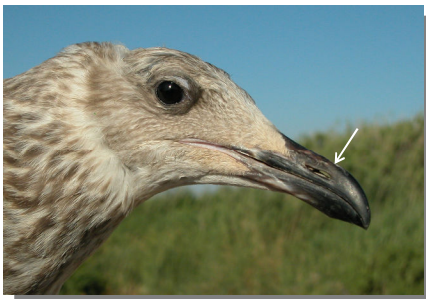
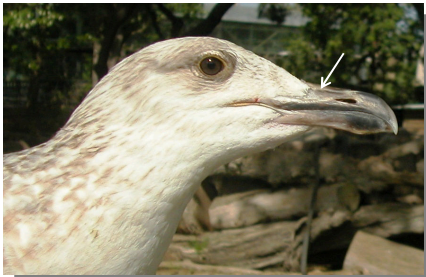
2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with pale yellow legs; bill with yellow base and dark tip, usually with a red spot on tip; pale iris; white head; upperparts with admixed grey and brown feathers; white underparts; flight feathers with **juvenile** pattern; wing coverts with mix of brown feathers with **juvenile** pattern and grey feathers of **adult** type; tail with terminal dark band.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring similar to **adult**, but primary coverts and alula, and sometimes tail, with feathers with **juvenile** pattern.

Adult with yellow legs; yellow bill with a red spot on tip; pale iris; head finely streaked in **winter** and all white in **summer**; grey upperparts; white underparts; grey secondaries with white patches on tip; outer primaries black with white tips; all wing coverts uniform grey; white tail.

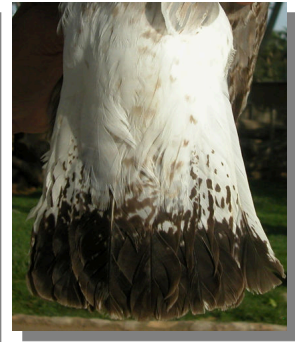
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Yellow-legged Gull. Ageing. Pattern of head and bill. From top to bottom: adult; 3rd year spring; 2nd year spring; juvenile.

Yellow-legged Gull. Ageing. Pattern of legs: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Yellow-legged Gull. Ageing. Pattern of tail: left adult; right juvenile.



Yellow-legged Gull. Ageing. Pattern of wing. From top to bottom: adult; 4th year spring; 3rd year spring; 2nd year spring; juvenile.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, usually finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult, finished in October, including most of body feathers and usually some inner wing coverts; the first complete moult takes place in **2nd summer**. Both age classes have a partial **prebreeding** moult, between December and April, involving only body feathers.

PHENOLOGY

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

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident, breeding scarcely; more abundant in winter and on passage.



Yellow-legged Gull. 2nd year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 3rd year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top adult (26-IV); bottom 4th year spring (26-IV).

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Yellow-legged Gull. Breast pattern: left adult (26-IV); right 4th year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Breast pattern: top left 3rd year spring (26-IV); top right 2nd year spring (26-IV); left juvenile (17-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Upperparts pattern: left adult (26-IV); right 4th year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Upperparts pattern: top left 3rd year spring (26-IV); top right 2nd year spring (26-IV); left juvenile (17-VII).

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Yellow-legged Gull. Legs pattern: top adult (26-IV); bottom 4th year spring (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Tail pattern: left adult (26-IV); right 4th year spring (26-IV).



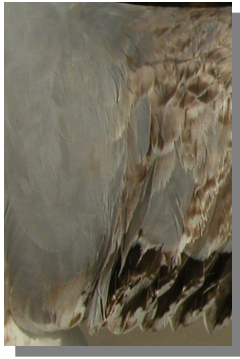
Yellow-legged Gull. Tail pattern: top left 3rd year spring (26-IV); top right 2nd year spring (26-IV); left juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. Pattern of tertials: left adult (26-IV); right 4th year spring (26-IV).

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Yellow-legged Gull. Pattern of tertials: top left 3rd year spring (26-IV); top right 2nd year spring (26-IV); left juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. Adult: pattern of primary coverts (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring: pattern of primary coverts (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 3rd year spring: pattern of primary coverts (26-IV);



Yellow-legged Gull. 2nd year spring: pattern of primary coverts (26-IV);



Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile: pattern of primary coverts (17-VII);



Yellow-legged Gull. Adult: pattern of primaries (26-IV)

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Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring: pattern of primaries (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Adult: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 3rd year spring: pattern of primaries (26-IV);



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 2nd year spring: pattern of primaries (26-IV);



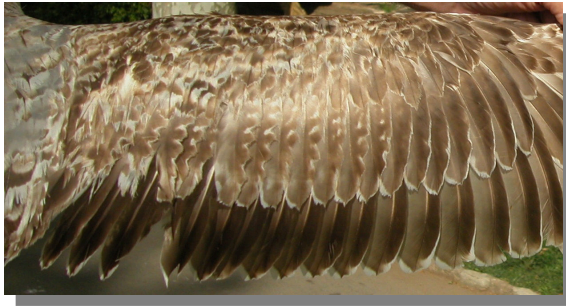
Yellow-legged Gull. 3rd year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (26-IV);



Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile: pattern of primaries (17-VII).

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Yellow-legged Gull. 2nd year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (26-IV);



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring: pattern of wing (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. 3rd year spring: pattern of wing (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. Adult: pattern of wing (26-IV).



Yellow-legged Gull. 2nd year spring: pattern of wing (26-IV).



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Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile: pattern of wing (17-VII).