

235 Yellow-legged Gull



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring (29-VII).

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL (*Larus cachinnans*)

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 tip. **Juveniles** brown, dark streaked; dark barred tail; dark legs and bill.

SIMILAR SPECIES

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

SEXING

Plumage of both sexes alike, but size can be helpful with extreme birds: **male** with wing longer than 465 mm; bill longer than 62 mm, tarsus longer than 75 mm; **female** with wing shorter than 440 mm; bill shorter than 54 mm, tarsus shorter than 64 mm

MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, finished in November. Partial **postjuvenile** moult including only head feathers and some body feathers, usually finished in December; the first complete moult takes place in the **2nd summer**. Both type of age have a **prebreeding** moult, between December and April, including head and body feathers.

AGEING

5 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with pinkish legs; dark bill; brown iris; head grey streaked; upperparts with grey-brown feathers pale edged; underparts grey-brown streaked; grey scapulars with two lateral bands; primaries and secondaries with similar pattern; greater coverts barred and no blackish; grey-brown tail, with broad terminal band.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with pinkish legs; dark bill in winter, in summer with pinkish or greenish base; white head, but very dark around the eyes; upperparts with juvenile feathers admixed with fresh ones with brown-yellow edged; white underparts since December but with some dark patches on breast and flanks with streaks; scapulars with a subterminal double bar; outer greater coverts darker than inner; tail with terminal dark band.

2nd year autumn/3rd year spring with pinkish legs; bill with yellow base and dark tip, sometimes with a red spot on tip; yellow-brown iris; whitish head, with streaked ear-coverts; upperparts with admixed grey and streaked brown feathers; white underparts with grey marks on sides of breast and flanks; dark brown secondaries; inner primaries grey, outer dark; outer greater coverts barred, inner grey; tail with narrow terminal band.

3rd year autumn/4th year spring with yellow legs; yellow bill with small red spot on tip; head similar to **adult**, with dark areas near the eye in winter and all white in spring; pale grey upperparts; white underparts; dark brown secondaries; outer primaries black with white spots; greater coverts brown and barred; some brown feathers on wing coverts; tail with terminal band.

Adult with yellow legs; yellow bill with red spot on tip; yellow iris; head finely streaked in winter and all white in summer; grey upperparts; white underparts; dark brown secondaries; outer primaries black, all with white tips; white tail.

PHENOLOGY

| I | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII | IX | X | XI | XII |
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STATUS IN ARAGON

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



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



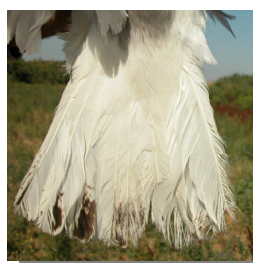
Yellow-legged Gull. Head pattern and bill colour: top 4th year spring (29-VII); bottom juvenile (17-VII).



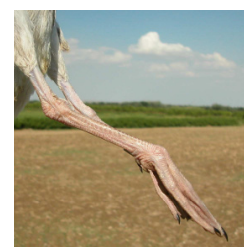
Yellow-legged Gull. Breast pattern: top 4th year spring (29-VII); bottom juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. Upperpart pattern: left 4th year spring (29-VII); right juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. Tail pattern: left 4th year spring (29-VII); right juvenile (17-VII).

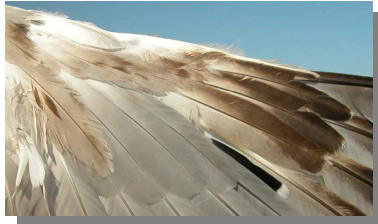


Yellow-legged Gull. Legs colour: left 4th year spring (29-VII); right juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. Pattern of scapulars: left 4th year spring (29-VII); right juvenile (17-VII).

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Yellow-legged Gull. Pattern of primary coverts: top 4th year spring (29-VII); bottom juvenile (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring: pattern of primaries (29-VII).



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



Yellow-legged Gull. Juvenile. Pattern of wing: upper and underpart (17-VII).



Yellow-legged Full. 4th year spring: pattern of secondaries and wing coverts (29-VII).



Yellow-legged Gull. 4th year spring. Pattern of wing: upper and underpart (29-VII).



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