

Welcome to a GULL'S NEST



Ross's Gull
Rhodostethia rosea



Bonaparte's Gull
Chroicocephalus philadelphia

Well Grounded

Most gulls nest in colonies on the ground in coastal areas or on islands that offer protection from predators, typically choosing sites in soft soil, sand, or short vegetation.

Treetop Specialist

Unlike other gulls, Bonaparte's Gull regularly nests in loose colonies in forests near water, catching aerial insects above their treetop homes!

The Long Call

Gulls make a series of loud, repeated calls, accompanied by species-specific head motions. These "long calls," are used to threaten other birds and defend their territory.



Western Gull
Larus occidentalis

Super Parents

Gulls are fierce protectors of their young, with both parents taking alternating shifts to ensure that they almost never leave the nest unguarded.



American Herring Gull
Larus smithsonianus

Nesting Together

There is safety in numbers! Gulls nest in colonies for better predator detection and group defense against threats.

Hiding in Plain Sight

The speckled, brown-toned plumage of gull chicks acts as fantastic camouflage on a sandy beach.



Precocious Chicks

Gull chicks are born semi-precocial—almost as soon as they've hatched, they open their eyes and can walk. They still stick close to their nest to be fed and protected by their parents until they're older.

Feed me!

That red dot on the bill has a purpose! By pecking the spot, chicks let the parent know it's mealtime.



California Gull
Larus californicus

