

# Pacific Gull

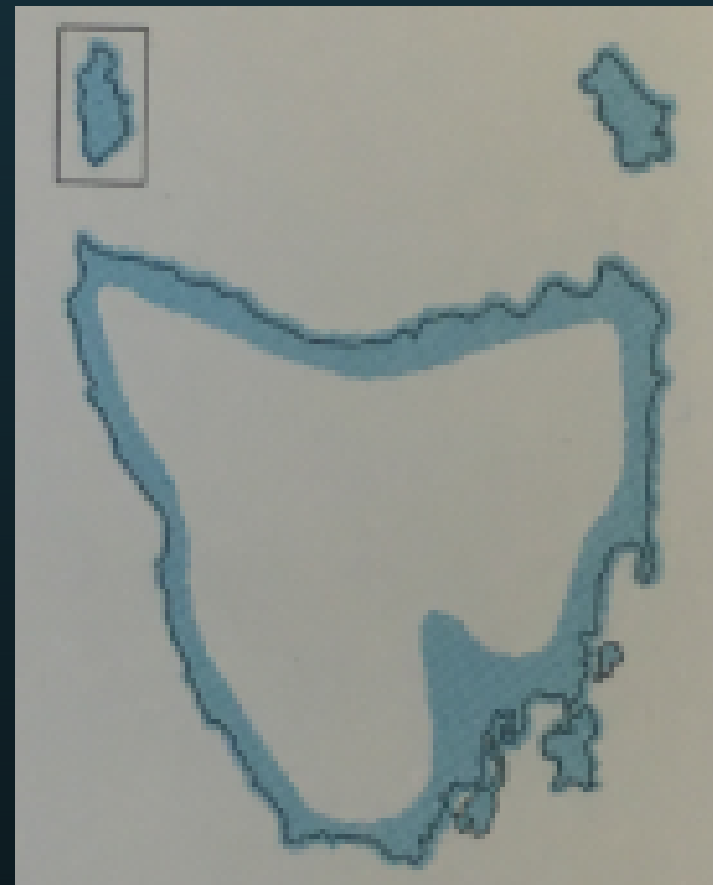
*Larus pacificus pacificus*

## Feeding

Molluscs, fish and marine animals

## Habitat

Found on beaches, rocky coasts and offshore islands. They can also be seen in high numbers in tips and near wharves and jetties. They live all around Tasmania. If you would like to see one, just buy a bag and chips and they will come to you!



## Description

650mm in length, adults are white with black wings and back. Their legs are yellow to orange. Babies are dark brown with black tipped yellow to pink bill. Adults have a red tipped yellow bill.

## One confusing mistake

Some people mistake the kelp gull with the pacific gull as they look very much the same.

The difference between the kelp gull and the pacific gull is that the kelp gulls legs are greener then the pacific gull, the kelp gulls beak is not as broad and the red spot is only on the bottom of the bill.





Adults breed in scattered pairs or small colonies



2-3 eggs are laid and the incubation is done by the female



A juveniles feathers change gradually and take about 4 years before they look like an adult



## Breeding

Breeds from October to December in single pairs or colonies on islands, cliffs and headlands. The nest is made of sticks, grasses or seaweed on the ground. 2-3 eggs are laid. The male guards and forages for food. The female does most of the incubation.

## The invasion

Kelp gulls are becoming a threat as the kelp gull breeds very quickly. This occurred in New Zealand, which led to over population and then a lack of food. Once this occurred, the kelp gulls moved straight to Tasmania.

The kelp gulls came in their thousands and arrived, over populating the pacific gull which started great competition between the 2 species.

## Threats

The main threat to these birds is discarded fishing line and nets.

# Conservation Status

**Pacific gull**



*Larus pacificus pacificus* Adventure Bay, Tasmania, Australia

**Conservation status**

Extinct | Threatened | Least Concern

EX EW CR EN VU NT LC

Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)<sup>[1]</sup>

# Links

If you would like to learn  
some more information  
about Pacific Gulls...



click here----->



or here----->

