



FACTSHEET

# Seagull

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**Common Name:** Silver Gull / Seagull

**Scientific Name:**

*Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*

**Conservation Status:** Least concern

**Habitat:** Coast

**Body length:** 42cm

**Weight:** 260-350 grams

**Incubation period:** 19-26 days

**Number of young:** 2 (1-3 eggs)

**Description:**

The Silver Gull is mostly a vivid white which extends over its head, tail and underparts. It has a light grey back and wings that are black-tipped. The legs and eye-ring of adult birds are bright orange-red. Juvenile Silver Gulls have a mottled brown and grey upper and do not have the distinct eye and bill colour of adult Silver Gulls.

**Diet:**

Worms, fish, insects and crustaceans.

**In the Wild:**

The Silver Gull is common throughout Australia, found virtually at any watered habitat that is close to land. Birds flock in high numbers when there is a food sources, mostly seen around departing and arriving fishing boats, but they seldom venture far out to sea.

Like many other gull species, the Silver Gull has become a successful scavenger, stealing from unattended food containers, open bins or tips. They can also become quite aggressive when scavenging and often pester humans for scraps.

Breeding occurs late winter through to spring (August - November). Eggs are laid in shallow nests made of grass and seaweed. Both birds incubate the eggs and feed the chicks. With greater access to a wide range of food, the Silver Gull has been able to increase its population in areas of human activity. Available nesting grounds appear to be the only limiting factor to population increases.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The wingspan of a Silver Gull nears 1m, measuring approximately 91-96cm.