

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Black-headed Gull - *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Kingdom: Animals
Phylum: Chordates
Class: Birds
Order: Charadriiformes
Family: Laridae
Genus: *Chroicocephalus*
Species: Black-headed Gull


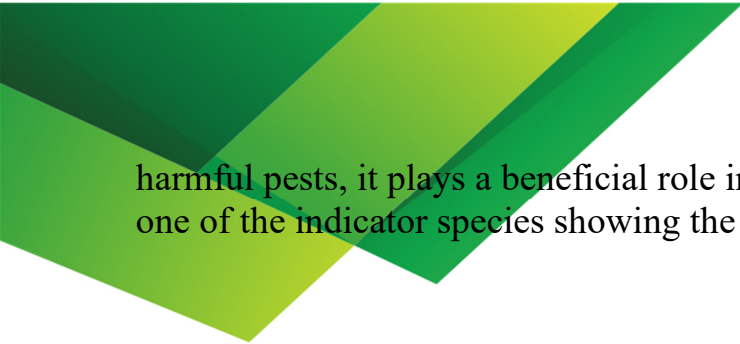
This bird is a medium-sized water bird and is considered one of the most widespread gull species. During the breeding season in spring and summer, its head becomes dark brown, while in winter the head is mostly white with only dark spots near the ears. Its body is white and the wings are gray. The beak and legs are reddish in color. This bird mainly lives near lakes, rivers, marshes, sea coasts, and other wetlands. In Azerbaijan, it is especially observed along the shores of the Caspian Sea and in various marshy areas. It can be found both as a migratory and wintering bird.



The common black-headed gull is an omnivorous bird. It feeds on fish, aquatic insects, small invertebrates, frogs, and various waste materials. Sometimes it also feeds on insects and worms in agricultural fields. It catches prey by swimming on the water surface or by making quick dives from the air. This species is considered a very noisy bird. Since they live in colonies,

their calls can be heard from long distances. Their flight is light and agile, and they often circle above the water surface.

They usually build their nests in marshes, reed beds, and small islands. They often breed in large colonies. The female bird usually lays 2–4 eggs. Both parents participate in protecting and feeding the chicks. The black-headed gull is an important part of aquatic ecosystems. By reducing the number of insects and some



harmful pests, it plays a beneficial role in nature. At the same time, it is considered one of the indicator species showing the condition of water bodies.

