



Red-billed gull. Adult resting on the beach.



**BIRDS**  
NEW ZEALAND  
*Te Kāhui Mātai Manu o Aotearoa*

## Red-billed gull

*Larus novaehollandiae* (Stephens, 1826)

Length: 37 cm

Weight: 240-320 g

New Zealand status: Native

Conservation status: Nationally Vulnerable

A medium-sized white gull with pale grey mantle, back and wing coverts, black main flight feathers with white tips, white iris, and bright red bill, eyelids and legs. Immatures are similar to adults but with brown patches on the mantle, brownish primaries, and dark brown iris, bill and legs.

Recently the largest colonies in different parts of New Zealand have exhibited a marked decline in numbers (i.e. Kaikoura, Three Kings and Mokohinau Island). The bird tends to nest at the same locality from one season to the next, and offspring mostly return to their natal colony to breed.

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