



Classic summer plumage of adult Laughing Gulls: charcoal hood, white neck and breast, dark gray back and wings, deep red bill and legs.

Cape May, New Jersey

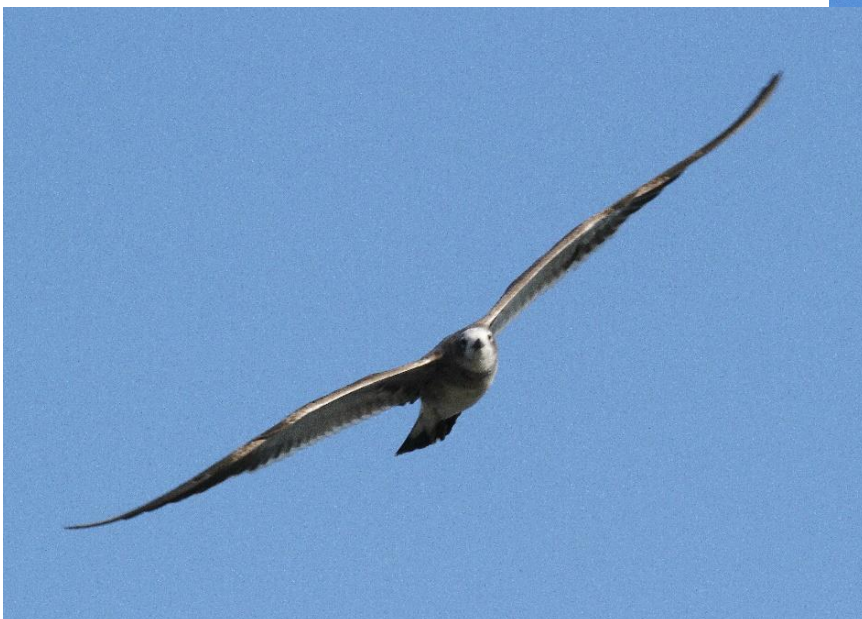
A breeding adult in flight shows off its white undersides and tail. The wings end in black primaries with white spots as seen on the right wing in the back.

Petit Manan Island, Maine



As this first cycle gull soars overhead, it demonstrates the long wings of the Laughing Gull.

Greenwich, Connecticut





A pair of juvenile Laughing Gulls show off their brown feathers edged in white giving them a scaly appearance. Note the white crescents around their eyes.

Glen Cove, New York

A first year Laughing Gull in September shows the black tail band. Gray has appeared on its back, but the wing feathers still show a scaly pattern. White is showing on the face.

Greenwich, Connecticut



This older first year bird in November is losing its immature brown feathers as more gray covers its back and wings. Its head is much whiter now, and the gray wash is present on its neck.

South Padre Island, Texas

The gull in the back is well into its second cycle as noted by the gray wash on its neck and the sides of its breast along with the lack of any brown immature feathers – very near adult plumage.

Glen Cove, New York



A second winter Laughing Gull has much of the basic coloring of an adult; however, it lacks the white “windows” on its folded primaries.

Greenwich, Connecticut

An adult Laughing Gull (in basic plumage) sports the mature white “windows” on its folded primaries.

South Padre Island, Texas



For size comparison, a smaller Laughing Gull stands near a larger Ring-billed Gull on the beach in spring.

Note darker gray coloring of the Laughing Gull.

Lewes Beach, Delaware



However, next to a little Sanderling the Laughing Gull looks gigantic.

South Padre Island, Texas

Laughing Gulls have a tendency to follow ships or ferries, perhaps in hopes of snagging a handout.

Cape May – Lewes Ferry





They do not breed there, but Laughing Gulls often make the 3,000 mile trip to Hawaii to overwinter like this adult.

Kaua'i Lagoons, Kauai, Hawaii

A first cycle Laughing Gull also made it to Kauai to overwinter.

Kaua'i Lagoons, Kauai, Hawaii



This basic plumage adult made it to the Big Island of Hawaii.

Aimakapa Fish Pond, Hawaii

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