

HERRING GULL



There are about twenty kinds of Gull in the United States. Most are shore birds that live along the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts. Some live inland around the Great Lakes. The Herring Gull is one of the largest and most common Gulls. It is found along the northern coasts all around the world - in America, Europe, and Asia.

Herring Gulls feed mainly on fish. They also eat insects and shellfish, such as clams; sometimes they come inland to feast on ripe blueberries. A Herring Gull will carry a clam aloft for fifty or a hundred feet and drop it on a rock or a road to break it. Then it will swoop down and eat it.

Herring Gulls live together in colonies. Their nests, built on the ground, are of seaweed, shells, wood chips, and a few feathers. The female lays three or four gray or brownish eggs. The young are dark grayish-brown at first. As they grow older their feathers become lighter.