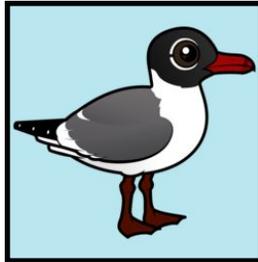


Guide to Common Coastal Birds of Long Island

Despite common usage of the term, there's actually no bird named a "seagull." The term is used to refer to a variety of species of gulls, terns and other birds commonly (but not only) found around coastal areas. Here's some help to identify six of them ...

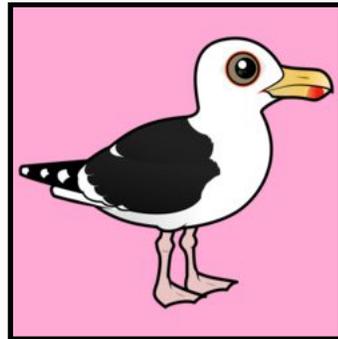
Step 1 – Forget about the brown & white gulls (they're immature birds and they even give experts a hard time!).

Step 2 – Does the bird have an all-black head? Then it's probably a **Laughing Gull**. (Listen carefully and you'll learn where it gets its name!)

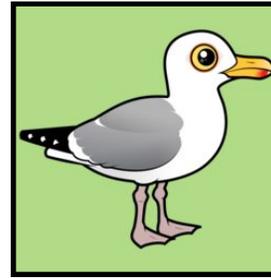
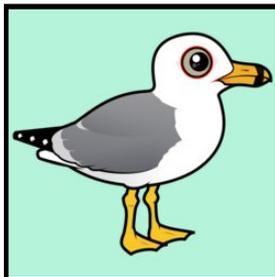


Step 3 – Does it have an all-white head? Then it's probably one of the following three birds:

A – Is it a really BIG with bird black wings? Then it's a **Great Black-backed Gull**.



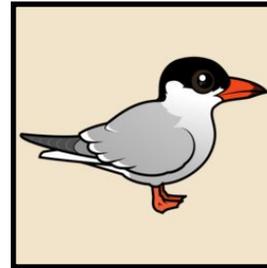
B – Does it have gray wings and a black ring around the end of its bill? Then it's a **Ring-billed Gull**.



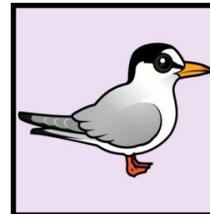
C – Does it have gray wings and no ring around its bill (but sometimes a red spot)? Then it's likely a **Herring Gull** - the classic "seagull."

Step 4 - Is it a small, graceful & acrobatic flier that sometimes dives into the water? Then it's probably one of the following:

A - Does it have an all-black head and orange bill? Then it's a **Common Tern**.



B - Does it have a white forehead patch and yellow bill? And is it considerably smaller than the Common Tern? Then it's a **Least Tern** (psst - it's the bird that graces Seatuck's logo!).



That's it - if you follow these simple steps, you can learn the six most common coastal birds of Long Island!

But remember ...

***There's no such
bird as a seagull!***