

# Chroicocephalus ridibundus.

## Common name

Black-headed gull

## Description

The black-headed gull has a brown head during breeding. There are breeding adults and non-breeding adults.

Breeding adults have a dark brown head, a thin bill, white arcs around the eye and white wings, with dark feathers at the end. Non-breeding adults have a white head with dark spots behind the eye, a red bill, white wings and some dark feathers. Juvenile gulls are brown, grey and have a dark tale. Black-headed gulls are around 43 cm long.

## Migratory?

Most of the population of black-headed gulls is migratory, the gulls go further south in the winter. Some birds stay in the milder westernmost areas of Europe, and some live in the north of America.

## Place of habitat

There are many black-headed gulls in Europe, and they live along lakes, rivers, swamps, coastal marshes,...

## Estimated population in Europe

The Population of these gulls is estimated at 1,5 to 2,2 millions pairs.

## Population in the Drôme

Not found

## Place of the observation

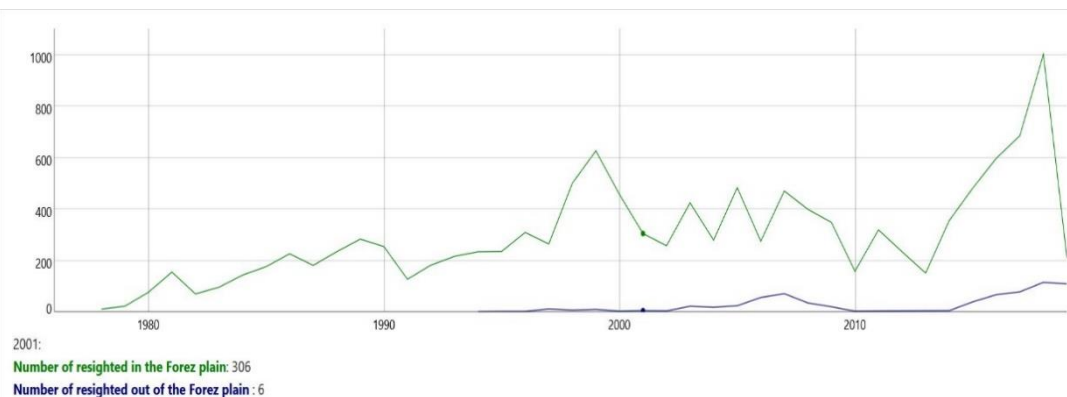
In Montélimar, in the Roubion and next to the roubion.

## Other facts :

Black-headed gulls have a life expectancy of 32 years. They live together, in groups. They are very good hunters and their flying is active and prompt.



## Graph about population evolution (I have chosen a graph about the population in the Loire because I couldn't find any other graph)



### Graph analyze :

This graph shows the evolution of the population of black-headed gulls according to the number of gulls observed in the Forez plain, in the Loire and outside of the plain. These observations were made from 1980 to 2019.

What you can see is that, in the Forez plain, the number of resighted gulls has increased going practically from 10 to 280 birds in 1989. Another observation is that from 1989 to 1991 the number decreased going down to 100 birds. The curve is then rising and reaches a number of 600 birds. Generally, the number of observed birds declined from 1998 to 2012 going down to 190 birds. But during this period, the amount of resighted birds fluctuated a lot. In 2012, until 2018, the curve peaked, reaching a maximum of 1000 birds. An important point is that the number of observed birds plunged until 2019 going from 1000 to 200 birds.

Outside of the Forez Plain, the graph shows us black-headed gulls were observed starting only in 1994. Overall, we can analyze that only a few gulls were seen over the years, and the numbers are way smaller than the numbers from the Forez Plain. But looking at the graph, we can observe that the amount of birds is going up a bit in 2008. The scenario repeats itself in 2014, reaching a number of 160 birds, and until 2019, the curve seems to be stable.

To conclude, we can say that many black-headed gulls lived in the Forez plain, which we can explain with the fact that there are a lot of ponds in the plain (the birds live near to the water). The decrease can be explained by the presence of more and more pollution, that damages the biodiversity.



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