

The Life of a Red-billed gull

Larus novaehollandiae / Tarāpunga



BREEDING

Red-billed gulls breed between October and December in large densely packed colonies at Pukekura "Taiaroa Head" which is also the second-largest colony in the South Island.

OCTOBER

Adults are now incubating their eggs - Red Billed Gulls can lay on average 2 eggs. Incubation takes 21-25 days.



NOVEMBER

Chicks are hatching - they will be guarded by one of its parents while its other parent is searching for food.



DECEMBER

Chicks are growing quickly and food demand is high. Chicks are beginning to grow their adult plumage.



JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Chicks have grown a lot and are now the size of an adult. They will begin to fly around 35 days of age. Most adults and chicks have left the colony and will spend time up and down the NZ coast.



FUN FACTS

1. They are an threatened species.
2. Can live up to 30 years
3. Weight 240 - 320 grams
4. Favorite food - Krill
5. Lay on average 2 eggs every year

