

Red-billed gull - ages and stages



A few days old

2-3 weeks



CHICK

- Eggs hatch after 3-4 weeks incubation by parents
- Newly hatched chicks covered in light brown down with dark markings.
- Chicks fledge the nest at 5 weeks old



FLEDGLING

- Recently fledged gulls have brown patches on back (mantle)
- The brown patches remain for a 1-2 months after they leave the nest
- Bill, feet, eye are dark brown



JUVENILE (Immature)

- Bill, eyes feet are dark brown in colour
- May have the odd brown patch on feathers
- 1st year of life



Photo credit: Laura Findlay

ADULT

- Bill, eyes, feet are red in colour
- No brown patches on feathers
- Males slightly larger with longer and thicker bill
- 2nd year of life
- Live up to 30 years