

# AUDOUIN'S GULL

## Scientific Name:

*Larus audouinii*

## Key Information

The Audouin's Gull is a rare and elegant seabird that lives along the Mediterranean coast. It has a slim white body, light grey wings, and a bright red beak with a black tip — perfect for spotting in the wild! Unlike more common gulls, it is quite quiet and shy, and it prefers wild, peaceful coasts over noisy city beaches. It's named after Jean Victoire Audouin, a French naturalist.

## Food

These gulls are fish lovers! They mostly eat small fish, especially ones that swim near the surface. What's interesting is that they hunt for fish at night, using their excellent eyesight to spot prey when it's dark. They sometimes follow fishing boats too, picking up discarded fish.

## Curoisities

Did you know? For a long time, people thought the Audouin's Gull was just a rare version of the Yellow-legged Gull. But in 1837, scientists finally realized it was a unique species. Today, it's still considered one of the rarest gulls in Europe — but thanks to conservation efforts, its numbers are slowly increasing!



*Audouin's gull*

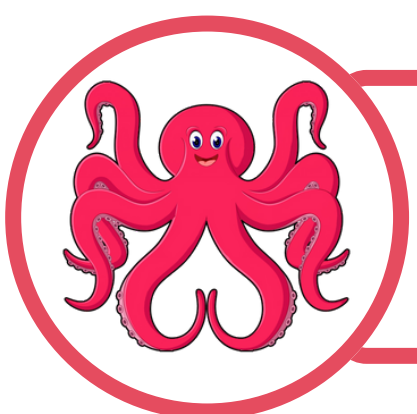
*Photo by Meet the Sea*

## Behavior

Audouin's Gulls are calm and careful birds. They don't like big crowds and often nest in small colonies on quiet islands or coastal dunes. They are good parents, taking turns keeping the eggs warm and feeding the chicks once they hatch. During the breeding season, they become very loyal to their nesting sites and return to the same area year after year.

## Habitat

The Audouin's Gull lives mainly along the Mediterranean coastline, and sometimes along parts of the Atlantic coast near southern Spain and northern Africa. It likes rocky shores, salt lagoons, islands, and sandy beaches that are far from human activity. In winter, it may migrate short distances along the coast but usually stays near warm waters.



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