



Like most gulls, the Western Gull is an opportunistic feeder, capturing its own live prey, scavenging refuse, or stealing food from seals and other gulls. It is known to steal milk from lactating female seals while they lie on their backs sleeping on the beach.

# Western Gull

*Larus occidentalis*

## World range

Breeds on rocky offshore islands along Pacific Coast from southern Washington to Baja California. Winters along Pacific Coast from southern British Columbia southward to the southern tip of Baja California.

## Where to see it on Alcatraz

Very territorial; nests everywhere around Alcatraz. Over 1,000 pairs nest every year on the island.

## Common disturbances while nesting

Easily scared from nests by approaching humans or boats. Vulnerable throughout breeding season, especially during its early stages.

