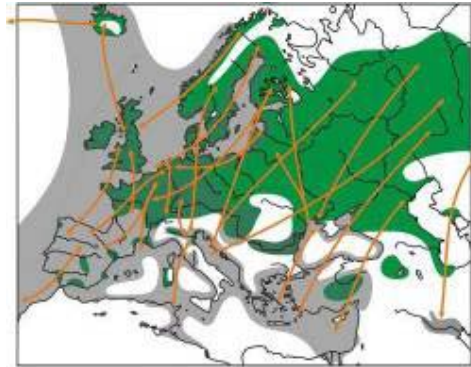


## Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) movements

This species breeds in a large area of the Palearctic, from Iceland in the west to Kamchatka Peninsula in the east and north to about 65°N. The Black-headed Gull is largely migratory, but winters within the breeding range of western Europe. The wintering range also covers the Mediterranean, the area of the Black Sea and Caspian Sea and coastal areas of southwestern Asia and northeast Africa. The species also winters in coastal areas of eastern Asia and regularly in Newfoundland and southeast Greenland.



Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*  
Distribution Map: Bauer, Bezzel & Fiedler 2006, AULA-Verlag

The Black-headed Gull has been widely ringed in Europe and large numbers of recoveries are available from several countries, among them Britain, the Netherlands, Finland, Denmark, Sweden and Belgium. A large part of western and southern Europe is covered by recoveries during the period December to February. The area includes Denmark and southern Sweden and the area of the Black Sea. Winter recoveries are also found along the coast in North Africa and in the Middle East. The return migration starts already in February and in March recoveries are spread northward. In April recoveries are spread out around the Baltic and also further east in Russia. During breeding season (May – June) large numbers of recoveries are found in western, central and northern Europe, most of them west of 45°E. In July – August, an increasing number of recoveries are found in southern Russia and Ukraine and at the same time recoveries are also increasing in southwestern Europe. In November, most Black-headed Gulls have left Finland and Russia, but in the east recoveries are still reported in Ukraine. Birds breeding in Iceland are partial migrants, moving to western Europe or to Greenland and northeastern United States, where two recoveries were found. Birds breeding in northern Europe and northwestern Russia winter in western Europe and south to North Africa. Western European birds and birds breeding in central Europe are mainly sedentary or move south. Some Black-headed Gulls breeding in Germany and Switzerland move south to the Adriatic Sea. Birds from breeding areas in Russia winter in eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea area, while birds from southwest Siberia move south to the area of the Black and Caspian Seas as well as Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan and India.

**Figure 1:** Map depicting the movements of Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

From:

Delany, S., Veen, J. & Clark, J.A. (eds) 2006. *Urgent preliminary assessment of ornithological data relevant to the spread of Avian Influenza in Europe*. Report to the European Commission. Study contract: 07010401/2005/425926/MAR/B4. Authors: Atkinson, P.W., Clark, J.A., Delany, S., Diagona, C.H., du Feu, C., Fiedler, W., Fransson, T., Gauthier-Clerc, M., Grantham, M.J., Gschweg, M., Hagemeyer, W., Helmink, T., Johnson, A., Khomenko, S., Martakis, G., Overdijk, O., Robinson, R.A., Solokha, A., Spina, F., Sylla, S.I., Veen, J. & Visser, D.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature\\_conservation/focus\\_wild\\_birds/avian\\_influenza/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/nature_conservation/focus_wild_birds/avian_influenza/index_en.htm)

**Table 1:** Summary of the movements of Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) from the literature based on published information and ring recoveries in the EURING Data Bank.

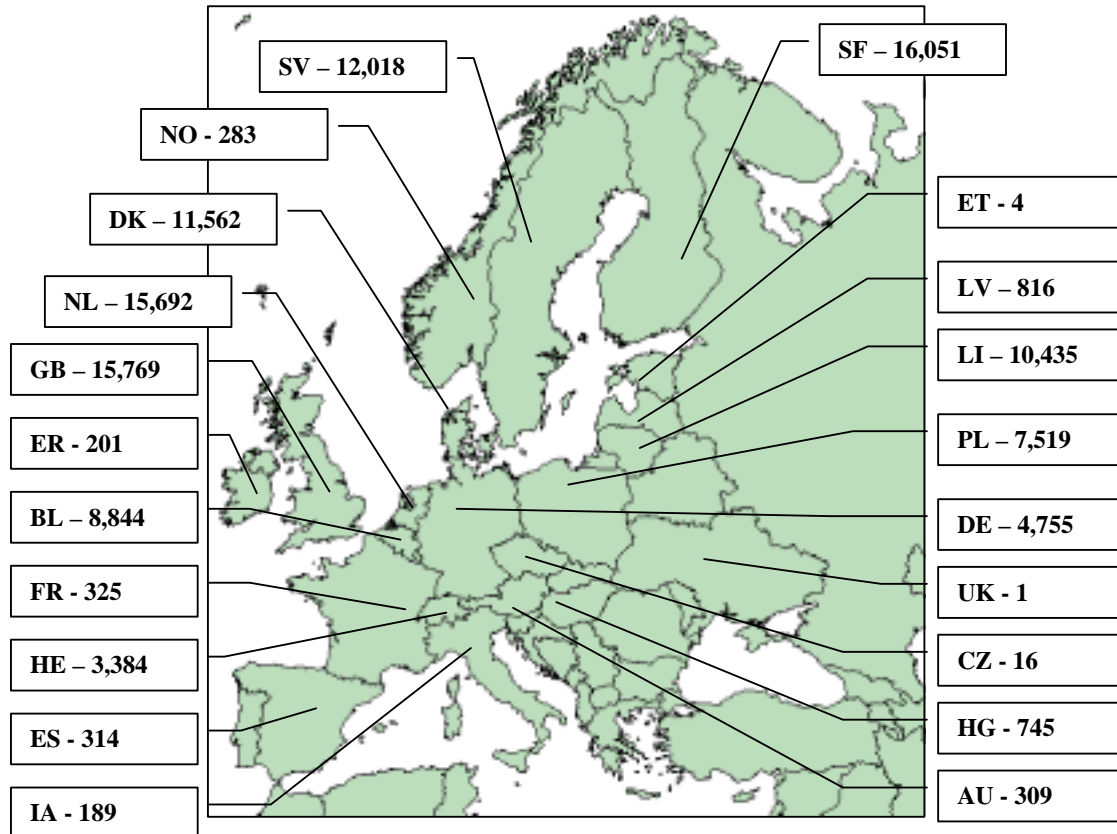
**Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***

**Distribution:** NW- to S-Europe as far as E-Siberia and Kamchatka

Population (or part of population)	Autumn Migration		Wintering / Non-breeding Grounds		Spring Migration		References
	direction / via	during	location	during	direction / via	during	
Iceland			(partially migratory); Great Britain, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, SW-Greenland, Newfoundland				1
Ireland, Great Britain			(mainly sedentary); inland, few as far as France, Spain, Portugal, N-Africa				1, 3
Russia	SW		Eastern Mediterranean, Italy, Black Sea, Transcaucasia				3, 12
SW-Siberia	SW		Caspian region, Black Sea, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Pakistan, India				11
Fennoscandia	along North Sea shore or Atlantic coast or inland		Denmark, as far as Mediterranean, Italy				1, 2, 5, 12
Norway		Aug	mainly North Sea and Great Britain, Denmark, Netherlands, few to France, Spain	Oct-Dec/Jan		Apr	1, 2, 3, 5
Finland	via Baltic Sea		to North Sea and to France, Spain; overland to Central Europe as far as S-France, former Yugoslavia, Algerian, as far as N-Africa, Black Sea region				1, 2, 3, 6
Denmark	SW		from Denmark, Netherlands, N-Germany, W-SW-Europe to NW-Africa				1, 2, 3, 5
Baltic countries	via Denmark, Netherlands	June-Aug	Western European shores, Mediterranean, Italy, as far as N-Africa				1, 2, 3, 5, 12
Belgium, Netherlands			(partly sedentary); Central Europe to SW-Europe, some NW-Africa				1, 2, 3, 12
Germany, Switzerland	Partially S-SW, along rivers, some cross N-Italy, along Po-Valley	end June-Aug	(mainly sedentary) Adriatic	Oct-Dec/Jan		Feb-Mar	1, 3
other Central European countries	SW, WSW, along rivers		to North Sea region				1
S-France, Spain			(mainly sedentary)				1
Central to E-France			Mediterranean coasts, as far as NW-Africa				1, 3

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**Figure 2.** Country of ringing and numbers of recoveries of birds featured in maps of finding locations - Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*).