



## Those Amazing Gulls

Most people, if they think about gulls at all, consider these birds a nuisance. However, gulls are fascinating, if underappreciated, animals. Not only do they keep harbors and beaches free of marine debris, but if you've ever really watched these nimble acrobats in flight, you can't help but be struck by their strength, agility and grace.

The California gull is a coastal bird that nests on islands in inland areas. You may spot the pink legs and black wingtips of herring gulls on coastal cliffs, although they also like inland reservoirs. Ring-billed gulls enjoy the ambiance of zoos and marinas. The glaucous-winged gull prefers the salt or brackish water and mud flats along coastlines. The western gull stays on coastal waterways and beaches year round.

So the next time you spot a group of gulls, don't simply dismiss them. Instead stop and watch their soaring antics, if only for the sheer joy of it.

