

## Ivory Gull

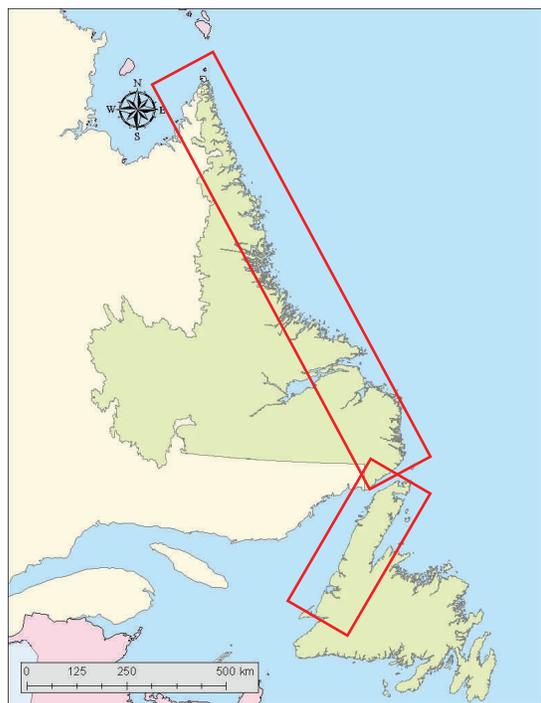
(*Pagophila eburnea*)

- The Ivory Gull is a small seabird with black legs and dark eyes. It has a slate blue bill that becomes pale yellow to dark orange at the tip.
- It is the only gull with pure white plumage as an adult.
- Immature birds have a dusky face, and black spots on the breast, flanks, tail, and outer wings.
- Ivory Gull lay 1 to 2 eggs per nest.



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### Provincial Distribution



### Habitat/ Range

Ivory Gulls breed in the High Arctic and winter in the Arctic seas and along the Atlantic coast, including the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. They are found most often among the pack ice of the Davis Strait, Labrador Sea, Strait of Belle Isle, and northern Gulf of St. Lawrence. They are more rarely seen on the coast of the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland and ashore.

### Population Trends

Breeding colony surveys suggest that Ivory Gulls have declined by 85% in Canada since the 1980s. A 2004 survey on the pack ice off the coast of this Province observed 0.02 Ivory Gulls/10 min watch, a decline from 0.69 Ivory Gulls/10 min watch observed in 1978.

### Limiting Factors and Threats

Ivory Gull populations are limited by disturbance on the breeding ground, illegal hunting, climate change, and oil spills and toxic pollutants in wintering areas.

### Special Significance

In Newfoundland and Labrador they are often referred to as the “ice partridge” and have been hunted for food. Harvest of Ivory Gulls was likely opportunistic and they were not a major food source.

### You can help protect the Ivory Gull:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Be careful not to pollute our oceans.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

## Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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