



Gull Workshops – 2020

What to expect?

- The workshops will be given live via Zoom but will be recorded and you will have access to the recordings if you miss the live class.
- Before each class you will be sent a pdf with some additional details or imagery to look at in order to build a stronger baseline for what we will talk about in class.
- We will setup a private Facebook site where we can share comments, ask questions, upload photos for discussion, and maybe even share some “wins” as your gull identification skills grow.

Workshop 1 - Gull Identification – The Starting Point

4 one-hour classes. \$125.

Mon and Thurs for two weeks.

Dates: Mon Nov 30, Thurs Dec 3; Mon Dec 7, Thus Dec 10. 6 pm Pacific time.

This first workshop will setup a foundation for gull identification. There are overarching patterns that simplify how to think about gull identification, and particularly how not to get caught in confusing aspect of what seems like a soup of field marks. Alvaro will attempt to simplify this and put a bit of order in your thought process to make this easier, and to be able to let your field time with gulls put you closer to the goal of identifying many or even most of them. We will try not to get hung up on the details and look at the big picture. Have no fear, the aim here is to make this fun and to move forward, we will keep it light and informative.

Topics we will cover include:

1. General aspects of identification and gull ID in particular.
2. Context and comparison – what is common in the gull flock and how to use this?
3. Learn the adults first – our focus will be on adults at the start of this workshop.
4. Ages relate to size and lifespan. The gull life cycle as a way to simplify ageing.
5. Gull ages simplified – most of the time it is not that hard!
6. Migration of adults vs young – home bodies vs wanderers.
7. Structure, shapes and an appreciation of field impressions.
8. Molt – what this tells you and when is it useful.

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9. Understanding the wing pattern, and what it tells you.
10. Starting thoughts about frequent hybrids. More details in workshop 2.
11. Species covered – we will look at adults first, young later. Focus will be on the species in bold.
 - **Bonaparte's Gull**
 - **Laughing Gull**
 - Franklin's Gull
 - Mew Gull
 - **Ring-billed Gull**
 - **California Gull**
 - **Herring Gull**
 - Glaucous Gull
 - Begin with Thayer's Iceland. Not in depth.
 - Glaucous-winged Gull
 - **Western Gull**
 - **Lesser Black-backed Gull**
 - **Great Black-backed Gull**
 - Heermann's Gull
 - Sabine's Gull – and a bit about Black-legged Kittiwake

Workshop 2 - Gull Identification – The Next Step.

4 one-hour classes. \$125.

Mondays for four weeks.

Dates: Mon Dec 14, Mon Dec 21, Mon Dec 28, Mon Jan 4. 6 pm Pacific time.

This is the more advanced workshop, where we will deal with rarer species and more troubling identifications, including that of hybrids. A few of the species we worked on in the first workshop will now be given more detail, such as variation in Herring Gull, and a more in-depth look at Iceland – Thayer's complex, as well as rarer species from Asia and Europe and how to identify them. As in the first workshop, the idea will be to simplify the identification and understanding of these gulls, to deal with what is expected and common tendencies rather than veer off into tangents of unusual individuals. Most gulls are identifiable, they are not as difficult as many would think.

Topics we will cover include:

1. Knowing your baseline common gulls where you live is key.

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2. Geographic Variation – Herring Gull in particular.
3. Changes in appearance during the first year of life.
4. Summary of some of the main identification challenges in the continent of our regularly occurring species. Some of this is a review of workshop 1, but with a bit more detail.
5. Species covered in this workshop.
 - Little Gull
 - Ross's Gull
 - Black-headed Gull
 - Thayer's – Iceland
 - Slaty-backed Gull
 - Vega Gull
 - Variation in Herring Gull
 - Yellow-footed Gull
 - Kelp Gull
 - Yellow-legged Gull
 - Lesser Black-backed Gull in more detail, including "Taimyr Gull"
 - Hybrid types – "Nelson's," "Olympic," "Cook Inlet" "Great Lakes" and "Seward" gulls. All recurring hybrid mixes that show up, most in the West.
 - Black-tailed Gull
 - Mew – Kamchatka and Common gulls
 - Black-legged Kittiwake
 - Red-legged Kittiwake
 - Ivory Gull
 - Swallow-tailed Gull/Grey-hooded/Pallas's/Belcher's – perhaps in lesser detail as these are so unlikely.

