



## Western Waterfowl Workshop – 2021

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, and for future use.
- We will setup a private Slack site where we can share comments, ask questions, upload photos for discussion, and maybe even share some “wins” as your waterfowl identification skills grow.
- We will cover western North American Ducks, Geese and Swans. Although the focus is on the West, most waterfowl species in the continent can be found in the West, so this class will definitely appeal to someone in the East or Mid-continent.
- More detail will be given to the identification of more difficult groups, such as female dabblers, Geese forms, swans, goldeneye, scoters, scaup etc.
- We will also concern ourselves with understanding a bit about waterfowl migration, plumage changes (Eclipse), display, habitat and ecology among other topics we will touch on.

### **Workshop - Western Waterfowl Identification and biology**

Four one-hour classes. \$125.

Dates: Tue. Nov. 9; Thu. Nov. 11; Tue. Nov. 16; Thu. Nov. 18, 2021. 6 pm Pacific time.

This workshop will be a basis to understand a bit about the identification, biology, evolutionary history, migration and behavior of our western waterfowl. However, the focus will be on field identification, with more time given to species groups that are trickier. Apart from the classic field guide, “field mark” approach to identification we will try to short-cut to wholistic ways to identify waterfowl by looking at the entire bird, shapes, impression, and facial expression to aid in the identifications. We are lucky to have a really varied set of ducks, geese and swans in North America, and that they peak in diversity during the winter.

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Topics we will cover include:

1. General aspects of identification and how it pertains to waterfowl in particular.
2. Habitat as a key to aiding in duck identification.
3. Evolution and taxonomy with attention to the dabbling ducks, geese, and taxonomic changes that have occurred recently.
4. Migration and wintering biology.
5. Waterfowl displays.
6. Structure, shapes and an appreciation of field impressions.
7. Species covered.
  - Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, with a nod to the Mute Swan.
  - Canada and Cackling geese – including various forms.
  - Brant and its varieties.
  - Greater White-fronted Goose, and what is a “Tule” Goose; domestic goose.
  - Snow and Ross’s Goose
  - Wood Duck (Mandarin females)
  - Mallard, Gadwall and Pintail. Domestic.
  - The Wigeons
  - Northern Shoveler, Blue and Cinnamon teals.
  - Green-winged Teal, and “Common” Teal
  - Canvasback and Redhead
  - Scaup, plus Ring-necked and Tufted ducks.
  - Harlequin and Long-tailed ducks.
  - The Scoters
  - Goldeneye and Bufflehead
  - The Mergansers
  - Ruddy Duck