

Information About Golden Gate Bird Alliance Adult Education Classes

Golden Gate Bird Alliance offers classes in Fall, Winter, and Spring with the most offerings in Fall. Classes are generally 4-6 weeks with a 1-2 hour weeknight presentation and 3-4 hour weekend field trip each week. Most weeknight class presentations are through Zoom. Exact timing and dates of classes, in-person or Zoom presentation modality, presentation recording, and the locations of presentations and field trips vary by class, but will be posted in the class offerings during the enrollment periods. Class levels vary from entry level beginning birding to more advanced topics. See below for the list of possible 2024 class offerings.

In addition to the seasonal short-classes, Golden Gate Bird Alliance in partnership with the California Academy of Sciences offers the year-long [Master Birder Program](#). Enrollment for Master Birder begins in late 2023 and the program begins in February, meeting twice monthly through December. The program is taught by Jack Dumbacher, Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy at the California Academy of Sciences, Bruce Mast, and Eddie Bartley. More information about the program requirements and description can be found on the [Cal Academy website](#).

Questions about our class offerings? Contact Maureen Lahiff, Adult Education Committee Chair, mlahiff@goldengatebirds.org

Possible Class offerings for 2024

This list is based on previous year's offerings. Class availability and timing may vary.

Beginning Birding Classes: (no previous birding experience necessary)

- **Birding for Fledglings:** 6 weeks, beginning early February
Instructors: Dawn Lemoine and Yvette MacDonald
- **Bird City (beginning birding in San Francisco):** 6 weeks, beginning mid-February
Instructors: Whitney Grover and Keith Maley
- **Spring into Birding, a beginning birding class:** 4 weeks beginning April
Instructors: Jeff Manker and Amy Richey
- **Beginning Birding:** 4 weeks beginning September
Instructor: Anne Hoff
- **Birding for Fledglings:** 6 weeks beginning mid-October
Instructors: Dawn Lemoine and Yvette MacDonald
- **Fall into Birding:** 4 weeks beginning mid-October
Instructors: Jeff Manker and Amy Richey

Skill Building Classes: (no previous birding experience necessary)

- **Nature Journaling at Lake Merritt:** 3 monthly meetings in-person at the Rotary Nature Center at Lake Merritt. Offered in Spring and Winter.
Instructor: Clay Anderson
- **Writing about Birds:** 5 weekly Zoom meetings only. Offered in January and October.
Instructor: Eric Schroeder
- **eBird and Other Tools:** 5 weeks beginning August
Instructor: Derek Heins

Intermediate and Advanced Classes:

- **A Deep Dive into Diving Birds:** 3 weeks beginning January
Instructor: Megan Prelinger
- **Gull ID Camp:** 5 weeks beginning January
Instructors: Robert Raffel and John Toldi
- **Sparrows in Winter:** 3 weeks beginning late February
Instructor: Steve Hunter
- **Introduction to Avian Anatomy and Physiology:** 6 weeks beginning mid-February
Zoom presentations only, no field trips
Instructor: Maureen Lahiff
- **On the Wing Now, advanced beginning birding:** 4 weeks starting mid-March
Instructor: Steve Hunter
- **Birding by Ear:** 4-6 weeks. Offered in March and October
Instructor: Denise Wight
- (In the works, TBD) **Bird Sounds in San Francisco:** 4 weeks beginning Spring
- **Birding your Patch:** 7 weeks beginning September
Instructor: Kimberlie Moutoux
- **Magic and Mystery of Migration:** 4 weeks beginning September
Zoom or In-person presentations with optional add-on field trips
Instructor: Bruce Mast
- **Migrants and Vagrants at Outer Point Reyes:** 1 week in late September
Instructor: Daniel Edelstein
- **Raptors in a Day:** 1 week in late September, field trip on Hawk Hill in Marin
Instructor: Anne Ardillo
- **Waterbirds and Shorebirds in Winter:** 5 weeks beginning mid-October
Instructor: Maureen Lahiff
- **Raptors in Winter:** 3 weeks beginning first week of November
Instructor: Maureen Lahiff