

Golden Gate Bird Alliance Adult Education Classes

Golden Gate Bird Alliance offers classes each season in fall, winter, spring, and summer with the most offerings in fall. Classes are generally 4-6 weeks. The structures vary but most are a 1-2 hour weeknight presentation paired with a 3-4 hour weekend field trip each week. Most weeknight class presentations are through Zoom. Exact dates of classes, presentation modality, recording availability, and the locations of field trips vary by class, but these details 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 class offerings.

	Classes Starting in	Classes Announced	Enrollment Begins
Fall	Sept - Nov	Last Wed July	1st Wed Aug
Winter	Jan - Feb	Last Wed Nov	1st Wed Dec
Spring	Mar - May	Last Wed Jan	1st Wed Feb
Summer	June - Aug	Last Wed Apr	1st Wed May

In addition to the seasonal short-classes, Golden Gate Bird Alliance, in partnership with the California Academy of Sciences, usually offers the year-long [Master Birder Program](#). When offered, enrollment for Master Birder begins in winter 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 [California Academy of Sciences website](#).

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

Possible Class Offerings

This list is based on past 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 or mid-October
Instructors: Dawn Lemoine and Yvette MacDonald
- **Bird City: Beginning Birding in San Francisco:** 6 weeks, beginning spring
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
- **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
- **Decolonizing Birding:** 5 weeks beginning in September.
Instructors: Joe Joseph and Rachel Katz
- **San Francisco Habitats and Their Birds:** 4 weeks in spring
Instructor: Jeanette Pettibone

Intermediate and Advanced Birding 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
- **Bird Sounds in San Francisco:** 4 weeks beginning Spring
Instructors: Rich Chambers and Daniel Scali
- **Birding your Patch:** 7 weeks beginning September
Instructor: Kimberlie Moutoux
- **Bird Cities: Intermediate Birding Across the Bay:** 4 weeks beginning in fall
Instructors: Keith Maley and Whitney Grover
- **Magic and Mystery of Migration:** 4 weeks beginning September
Zoom or In-person presentations with optional add-on field trips
Instructor: Bruce Mast
- **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