

THE MONTCLAIR BIRD CLUB

QUIZ 195

July 2, 2023

How many birds do you recognize are in this picture?
What species, and how old are they?



Link to ponder: Greedy gulls make [dining decisions](#).

THE ANSWER IS ON THE NEXT PAGE

The Mediterranean gull is one of the loveliest members of the family Laridae, identifiable at any age by its stocky shape and thick bill—characters it shares with the closely related Pallas gull. That latter species has occurred in Alaska, but so far, the Mediterranean gull has not been recorded in the US or Canada. That should change any day, given the explosive expansion of this species' range in western Europe and the propensity of larids to wander.

Our photo, taken in Provence in May, shows two Mediterranean gulls perched side by side, with greater flamingos and many more Mediterraneans in the blurry background. The bird in front is an adult, distinguished by its entirely white wing tips. The bird behind shows numerous small patches and bars of blackish on the primaries, identifying it as a second-cycle individual, that is to say, one hatched the summer before this photo was taken. Mediterranean gulls can breed in this plumage, or wait until they have attained fully adult dress.



Ornithological Quiz Master: **Rick Wright**
Assistant & Photographer: **Sandy Sorkin**



Southwest Wings

