



3 • A flying Ross's Gull (here 18 November 2006) shows a distinctly different shape than Little Gull: the body and wings are longer (with longer "hand"), and the angle at the carpal joint usually appears sharper. The longer, wedge-shaped tail, which can be difficult to see under some field conditions, adds to the appearance of a more elongate bird than Little. Note that the white trailing edge of the wing does not extend to the outermost primaries, unlike in Little Gull. *Photograph by Henry Detwiler.*

4 • The Salton Sea Ross's Gull (here 18 November 2006) was wonderfully well photographed. This image shows several subtle features: the rich pink wash of the underparts; the grayish wash on the upper breast and crown; the dusky patch on the ear coverts; and the extent of gray plumage around the eye. *Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.*

5 • An adult Ross's Gull in breeding plumage would differ from the Salton Sea bird in having a black ring around the neck, more intensely pink underparts, pure white head and upper breast, and brighter reddish legs. This bird (here 18 November 2006) is in definitive basic plumage; the bird's molt into this plumage was probably complete by early October. *Photograph by Kenneth Z. Kurland.*

6 • Guy McCaskie (left) spreads the word about his remarkable find at the Salton Sea on 17 November 2006. *Photograph by Bob Miller.*

1 • The underwing pattern of adult Ross's Gull (here 18 November 2006) is distinctive: white axillaries (and adjacent marginal coverts), medium gray marginal, lesser, and median covert, darker gray greater coverts and primaries, and a trailing edge of white in the remiges that extends from the tertials to the inner primaries. In this fine photograph, the whitish shaft of the outermost primary is also visible. From a distance, this underwing pattern could resemble that of adult or second-cycle Little Gull, especially one with a more muted underwing pattern than normal. *Photograph by Brad Schram.*

2 • The tiny bill, large dark eye, and rounded head impart to Ross's Gull a gentle, dove-like appearance matched by no other species. In strong light, the pink bluish to the underparts can be difficult to see, and from a distance, adults look rather pallid, small headed, slender but heavy-bellied, and long-winged. Under optimal conditions, the black outer web of the outermost primary can be seen (as here, 18 November 2006). *Photograph by Peter Weber.*