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Heerman's



Kelp



Great Black-backed



Lesser Black-backed



Yellow-footed



Western

27 1st Winter Gulls

All paintings by David A. Sibley



Laughing



Black-tailed



Franklin's



Sabine's



Slaty-backed



Red-legged Kittiwake



Yellow-legged



Black-legged Kittiwake



Short-billed



Little



California



Bonaparte's



Iceland (*kumlieni*)



Iceland (*thayeri*)



Glaucous-winged



Ring-billed



Herring



Black-headed



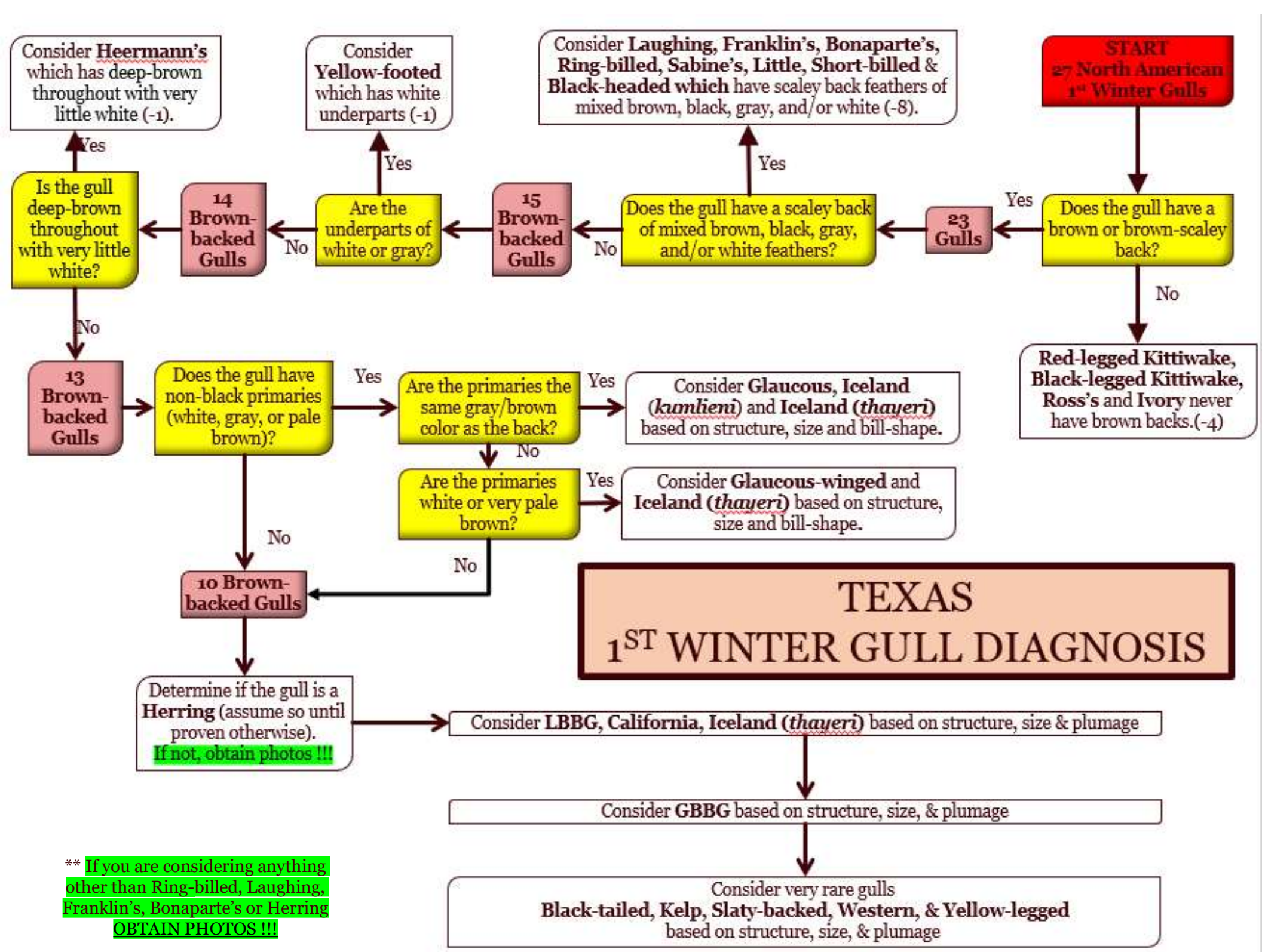
Ross's



Glaucous



Ivory


START
27 North American 1st Winter Gulls
Does the gull have a brown or brown-scaley back?
Yes
No
23 Gulls
Red-legged Kittiwake, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ross's and Ivory never have brown backs.(-4)
Does the gull have a scaley back of mixed brown, black, gray, and/or white feathers?
Yes
No
Consider Laughing, Franklin's, Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, Sabine's, Little, Short-billed & Black-headed which have scaley back feathers of mixed brown, black, gray, and/or white (-8).
15 Brown-backed Gulls
Are the underparts of white or gray?
Yes
No
Consider Yellow-footed which has white underparts (-1)
14 Brown-backed Gulls
Is the gull deep-brown throughout with very little white?
Yes
No
Consider Heermann's which has deep-brown throughout with very little white (-1).
13 Brown-backed Gulls
Does the gull have non-black primaries (white, gray, or pale brown)?
Yes
No
Are the primaries the same gray/brown color as the back?
Yes
No
Consider Glaucous, Iceland (kumlieni) and Iceland (thayeri) based on structure, size and bill-shape.
Are the primaries white or very pale brown?
Yes
No
Consider Glaucous-winged and Iceland (thayeri) based on structure, size and bill-shape.
10 Brown-backed Gulls
TEXAS
1ST WINTER GULL DIAGNOSIS
Determine if the gull is a Herring (assume so until proven otherwise).
If not, obtain photos !!!
Consider LBBG, California, Iceland (thayeri) based on structure, size & plumage
Consider GBBG based on structure, size, & plumage
Consider very rare gulls
Black-tailed, Kelp, Slaty-backed, Western, & Yellow-legged
based on structure, size, & plumage
** If you are considering anything other than Ring-billed, Laughing, Franklin's, Bonaparte's or Herring OBTAIN PHOTOS !!!