



ZOO*4920 Lab Studies in Ornithology

Fall 2018
Section(s): C01

Department of Integrative Biology
Credit Weight: 0.25
Version 1.00 - September 11, 2018

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This course provides a practical experience in the study of Ornithology. Using University collections of prepared and preserved specimens and field observations where possible, students will develop and apply skills in identification and sampling, explore relations between species diversity and habitat, and investigate, through guided study, the extent of anatomical, skeletal, reproductive and morphological variation and its functional and evolutionary causes.

Pre-Requisite(s): 14.00 credits including ZOO*2090
Restriction(s): This is a Priority Access Course. Enrolment may be restricted to particular programs, specializations or semester levels during certain periods. Please see the departmental website for more information. Instructor consent required.

1.2 Course Description

What is a bird? It is only when you try to answer this question that you will realize just how fascinating this group really is. You will learn that all of their adaptations have evolved in the context of flight and that, by studying the birds, we can gain valuable insight into the natural world of things that fly!

This field and lab-based ornithology course will provide a practical introduction to the biology of birds. The lab material and exercises will expose students to unique aspects of avian form, function, and taxonomy. Students will also be exposed to a wide variety of avifauna through two field activities: one to Long Point Provincial Park to conduct field observations of North American migratory birds and the second to the Arboretum to practice handling and banding birds.

Because this is a rather unique course with all sorts of activities to coordinate, all students are required to obtain instructor consent and sign an agreement to attend all scheduled activities in order to register for this course.

1.3 Timetable

08.30-11.30: Thursday, SCIE 2313

*Note: there will be one Saturday where your attendance is required

1.4 Final Exam

Exam time and location is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructor(s)

Dr. Van La

Email: vla@uoguelph.ca

Office: SCIE 2443

Office Hours: By appointment

2.2 Teaching Assistant(s)

Teaching Assistant: Nikole Freeman

Email: nfreeman@uoguelph.ca

Office Hours: By appointment

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resource(s)

Course Manual (Other)

ZOO*4920 – Lab Studies in Ornithology Course Manual.

3.2 Recommended Resource(s)

The Sibley Guide to Birds (Textbook)

Sibley, D.A. 2001. The Sibley Guide to Birds. National Audubon Society. Knopf.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America (Textbook)

Peterson, V.M. and Peterson, R.T. 2002. A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

3.3 Additional Resource(s)

Ornithology (Textbook)

Gill, F.B. 2007. Ornithology, Third Edition. W.H. Freeman and Company. New York.

Avibase (Website)

<http://www.bsc-eoc.org/avibase/avibase.jsp>

Birdnet (Website)

<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/>

All About Birds (Website)

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Take relevant and detailed field notations of regional species that allow identification to species.
 2. Appreciate and practice the handling of birds and specimens for scientific research purposes.
 3. Effectively analyse, present, and interpret data.
 4. Justify the importance of research and place it within a relevant scientific context.
 5. Recognise and discuss the diversity of mechanisms that have evolved various traits (i.e. feathers, communication, feeding, mating).
 6. Identify distinctions between avian anatomy and other vertebrates and use them to distinguish among species.
 7. Infer the niche or aspects of natural history from morphological observations.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Course Content

Week	Date*	Topics / Activities
		08.30-10.00: Introduction to field ornithology; Introduction to field identification
SCIE2313	Sept. 6	10.00-11.30: Introduction to vocalizations
1		Departure from the alley along the North side of the Science complex:
Long Point	Sept. 8	06.00 sharp. If you need binoculars: 05.45.
Assignment 1 due by end of trip		
2	Arboretum Sept. 13	Group 1: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
3	Sept. 20	Group 2: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
4	Sept. 27	Group 3: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
		Group 4: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
5	Oct. 4	Assignment 2 due by 5pm

6		Oct. 11	Group 5: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
			Lab 3: Families of North American Birds
7	2313	Oct. 18	In lab Assignment 3 due at end of lab
8	2313	Oct. 25	Lab 4: Avian Anatomy
9	2313	Nov. 1	Lab 5: Eggs, nest, feathers and flight
10	2313	Nov. 8	Review Lab
11	2313	Nov. 15	Final Exam
12	-----	Nov. 22	Assignment 4 due by 5pm

***Please note: due to the awesomeness of this course, and all the activities that we will be doing, the dates could shift around. Please monitor the newsfeed on the courselink site and check your email regularly.**

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessments

Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Learning Outcome
Assignment 1	20%	September 8	1,6,7
Assignment 2	20%	October 4	3,4
Assignment 3	5%	October 18	6,7
Final Exam	35%	November 15	5,6,7
Assignment 4	20%	November 22	2,3,4

7 Course Statements

7.1 Late Penalty on Assignments

The assignments will have a late penalty of 10% per day.

Thus, assignments that are **TEN (10) DAYS** late will receive 0%.

7.2 Absence and Illness

If you are absent from classes during the semester, you will be expected to make up for missed material.

8 Department of Integrative Biology Statements

8.1 Academic Advisors

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic program:

- Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program. [B.Sc. Academic Advising](#) or [Program Counsellors](#)

8.2 Academic Support

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

- Learning Commons: There are numerous academic resources offered by the [Learning Commons](#) including, Supported Learning Groups for a variety of courses, workshops related to time management, taking multiple choice exams, and general study skills. You can also set up individualized appointments with a learning specialist.
- Science Commons: Located in the library, the Science Commons provides support for physics, mathematic/statistics, and chemistry. Details on their hours of operations can be found at: [Chemistry & Physics Help](#) and [Math & Stats Help](#)

8.3 Wellness

If you are struggling with personal or health issues:

- [Counselling Services](#) offers individualized appointments to help students work through personal struggles that may be impacting their academic performance.
- [Student Health Services](#) is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention.
- For support related to stress and anxiety, besides Health Services and Counselling Services, Kathy Somers runs training workshops and one-on-one sessions related to [stress management and high performance situations](#).

9 University Statements

9.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

9.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a

teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](#) are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

9.3 Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

9.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

9.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

9.6 Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.

9.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate

or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

9.8 Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.
