

Instructors:

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Teaching Assistant
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Lab schedule:

08.30-11.30: Thursday, SCIE 2313

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

Course Description

What is a bird? It is only when you try to answer this question that you will realise 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. Credit = 0.25. Prerequisites: 14 credits including ZOO*2090.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course each student 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.

Resources

Textbooks:

ZOO*4920 – Lab Studies in Ornithology Course Manual.

Suggested Field Guides:

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

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

Other Resources:

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

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

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

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

Week		Date*	Topics / Activities
1	SCIE 2313	Sept. 7	08.30-10.00: Introduction to field ornithology; Introduction to field identification 10.00-11.30: Introduction to vocalizations
	Long Point	Sept. 9	Departure from the alley along the North side of the Science complex: 06.00 sharp. If you need binoculars: 05.45. Assignment 1 due by end of trip
2	Arboretum	Sept. 14	Group 1: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
3		Sept. 21	Group 2: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
4		Sept. 28	Group 3: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
5		Oct. 5	Group 4: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum Assignment 2 due by 5pm
6		Oct. 12	Group 5: Mist-nesting and banding in Arboretum
7	2313	Oct. 19	Lab 3: Families of North American Birds In lab Assignment 3 due at end of lab
8		Oct. 26	Lab 4: Avian Anatomy
9	2313	Nov. 2	Lab 5: Eggs, nest, feathers and flight
10	2313	Nov. 9	Review Lab
11	2313	Nov. 16	Final Exam
12	-----	Nov. 23	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.

Methods of Evaluation and Important Dates

Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Learning Outcome
Assignment 1	20%	September 9	1,6,7
Assignment 2	20%	October 5	3,4
Assignment 3	5%	October 19	6,7
Lab Exam	35%	November 16	5,6,7
Assignment 4	20%	November 23	2,3,4

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%.

Absence and Illness

If you are absent from classes during the semester, you will be expected to make up for missed material on your own. If you do not complete assignments for medical or other authorized reasons, contact the instructors as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Departmental policies, resources, rules:

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. See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible.

For more information, contact Accessibility Services at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or see the website: <https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>

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 intendeds 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:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

E-mail Communication

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

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is the 40th class day. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar: <http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

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.

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.

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:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index>

Campus Resources

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

Make an appointment with a program counsellor in your degree program.

<http://www.bsc.uoguelph.ca/index.shtml> or

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/uaic/programcounsellors>

If you are struggling to succeed academically:

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. <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>

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.

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/counselling/>

Student Health Services is located on campus and is available to provide medical attention.

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/studenthealthservices/clinic>

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. <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~ksomers/>

If you have a documented disability or think you may have a disability:

Accessibility Services can provide services and support for students with a documented learning or physical disability. They can also provide information about how to be tested for a learning disability. For more information, including how to register with the service please see:

<https://wellness.uoguelph.ca/accessibility/>