



# ZOO\*4920 Lab Studies in Ornithology

Fall 2022

Section(s): 01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 1.00 - September 02, 2022

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## 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-Requisites:**

14.00 credits including ZOO\*2090

**Restrictions:**

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!

### 1.3 Timetable

\*Our first scheduled Lab will take place Thursday, September 8\*

**Labs: Thursdays 8:30 - 11:20 AM in SSC 2304**

All labs will take place in-person in either the lab or field (pending COVID-19 restrictions for F22).

Please refer to the course timeline for more details.

Please note that the above plan is based on current public health directives, and this is subject to change according to public health conditions at the time that the course is offered. Specifically, in-person lab activities may be converted to synchronous, remote sessions if needed.

## 1.4 Final Exam

There is no final exam for this course. Please refer to assessments for course mark breakdown.

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## 2 Instructional Support

### 2.1 Instructional Support Team

<b>Instructor:</b>	Shaylah Tuttle-Raycraft
<b>Email:</b>	stuttle@uoguelph.ca
<b>Telephone:</b>	+1-519-824-4120 x 58096
<b>Office:</b>	SSC 2502
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>Virtual Office Hours:</b> By Appointment on Zoom

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## 3 Learning Resources

### 3.1 Required Resources

#### Course Manual (Other)

ZOO\*4920 – Lab Studies in Ornithology Course Manual (Digital Copy provided to all students on Courselink)

#### CourseLink (Website)

<https://courselink.uoguelph.ca>

This course will make use of the University of Guelph's course website on D2L (via Courselink). Consequently, you are responsible for all information posted on the CourseLink page for ZOO\*4920. Please check it regularly. Course notes, announcements, and ancillary material will also be posted here.

#### Zoom (Software)

<https://zoom.us>

Students registered in the course must register for a free basic Zoom account in order to attend virtual office hours/ one-on-one meetings with instructor and help sessions.

Please visit <https://zoom.us> to register for a free basic Zoom account using your University of Guelph email address (Gryphmail).

#### Spreadsheet and Word Processing Software (Microsoft Office) (Software)

Students are required to have access to spreadsheet and word processing software that are compatible with Microsoft Word and Excel. It is highly recommended that students have access to the Microsoft Office software suite in order to easily complete course assignments.

- These programs are available to download for free from the Computing and Communication Services (CCS) website.
- If students use other similar software, please ensure that you save your files in the required file format according to the assignment instructions.

## 3.2 Recommended Resources

### **Binoculars (Equipment)**

A pair of any quality will be sufficient for this course, no need to go out and buy 'top-of-the-line' equipment!

### **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.

### **The Sibley Guide to Birds (Textbook)**

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

## 3.3 Additional Resources

### **Ornithology (Textbook)**

Gill, F.B. 2019. Ornithology, Fourth Edition. W.H. Freeman and Company. New York.

### **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 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. Infer the niche or aspects of natural history from morphological observations.
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## 5 Teaching and Learning Activities

Please note that the course schedule is subject to change depending, in part, on availability of guest lecturers.

See CourseLink for updates.

### 5.1 Lab

#### Week 1

##### Topics:

##### **Lab 1 (September 8, 2022)**

Introduction to Field Ornithology, Identification and Bird Songs

*Location: SSC 2304*

#### Week 2

##### Topics:

##### **Lab 2 (September 15, 2022)**

A walk with the Birds in the University of Guelph Arboretum

*Location: Kiosk (University of Guelph Arboretum)*

OR

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 1)\*\*

*Location: SSC 2304\*\**

\*\*If the weather is too poor that morning, we will shift to our "Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 1)" lesson for the day and re-schedule the Arboretum activity to Sept. 22

### **Week 3**

**Topics:**

#### **Lab 3 (September 22, 2022)**

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 1)\*\*

*Location: SSC 2304\*\**

OR

A walk with the Birds in the University of Guelph Arboretum

*Location: Kiosk (University of Guelph Arboretum)*

\*\*If the weather was too poor Sept 15th, we will meet in the Arboretum for Lab 2. If this is the 2nd bad weather date, lab will be cancelled.

### **Week 4**

**Topics:**

#### **Lab 4 (September 29, 2022)**

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 2)

*Location: SSC 2304*

### **Week 5**

**Topics:**

#### **Lab 5 (October 6, 2021)**

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 3)

*Location: SSC 2304*

**Week 6**

**Topics: NO LAB (October 13, 2021)**

Thanksgiving week

**Week 7**

**Topics: Lab 6 (October 20, 2021)**

Conservation of Ontario's Birds with Wild Ontario

*Location: SSC 2304*

**Week 8**

**Topics: Lab 7 (October 27, 2021)**

Introduction to Ornithology Research Project

*Location: SSC 2304*

**Week 9**

**Topics: Open Lab (November 3, 2021)**

Proposal Writing Help Session (Group Research Project Work Period)

*Location: Virtual Help via Zoom*

### **Week 10**

**Topics:** **Open Lab (November 10, 2021)**

Proposal Writing Help Session (Group Research Project Work Period)

*Location: Virtual Help via Zoom*

### **Week 11**

**Topics:** **Open Lab (November 17, 2021)**

Poster Creation Help Session (Group Research Project Work Period)

*Location: Virtual Help via Zoom*

### **Week 12**

**Topics:** **Open Lab (November 24, 2021)**

Poster Creation Help Session (Group Research Project Work Period)

*Location: Virtual Help via Zoom*

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## **6 Assessments**

### **6.1 Assessment Details**

#### **Module 1: Lab and Field Notebook (17.5%)**

**Due:** Fri, Sep 30, 4:30 PM

**Learning Outcome:** 1, 5, 6

Make observations of Ontario Birds in Lab and on self-guided field trips

\*Individual assignment\*

**Module 2: Point Count Data Assignment (17.5%)**

**Due:** Fri, Oct 7, 4:30 PM

**Learning Outcome:** 3, 4

Practice your Bird Song ID on Self-Guided Field Trips

\*Individual assignment\*

**Module 3: Bird Banding Assignment (17.5%)**

**Due:** Fri, Oct 21, 4:30 PM

**Learning Outcome:** 2, 3, 4

Complete a 'virtual' bird banding exercise in conjunction with your visit to the University of Guelph Arboretum

\*Individual assignment\*

**Module 4: Bird Conservation Program Proposal (17.5%)**

**Due:** Fri, Nov 4, 4:30 PM

**Learning Outcome:** 3, 4, 5, 6

Create a proposal for a hypothetical research program to address conservation efforts for a species at risk in Ontario

\*Individual assignment\*

**Ornithology Group Research Project (30%)**

**Due:** (See breakdown below)

**Learning Outcome:** 1, 3, 4, 6

Create a self-guided research project on a topic of interest in Ornithology.

**Project Proposal (5%)** - due Friday, November 11 @ 4:30 PM (\*Group Grade)

**Project Poster Presentation (20%)** - due Friday, November 25 @ 4:30 PM (\*Group Grade)

**Project Reflection Essay (5%)** - due Friday, December 2 @ 4:30 PM (\*Individual Grade)

## 7 Course Statements

### 7.1 Field Activities and Field Safety

Students will be expected to complete/sign a field safety waiver to conduct self-guided field trips. This will be provided to students before the first day of classes.



If students cannot access the field for any reason, they may contact the instructor to determine an alternative means of completing assignments where in-field components are mandatory.

## 7.2 Use of Animals

This course uses preserved specimens for work in lab, and utilizes live animals for bird banding activities in the Arboretum. The University is committed to principles of conducting research and teaching in accord with the highest ethical standards. Given that the use of animals, in research and teaching, is a critical aspect of the work of the University of Guelph, the Department of Integrative Biology is committed to minimizing the use, pain, and suffering of animals used for teaching and to ensuring that animals which are used will receive care and treatment that meets or exceeds the standards outlined by provincial guidelines and statutes, and by the Guidelines of the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

For more information:

[http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/assets/acs/docs/university\\_animal\\_care\\_policy\\_and\\_procedures.pdf](http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/assets/acs/docs/university_animal_care_policy_and_procedures.pdf)

## 7.3 Absence and Illness

If you cannot complete assignments for medical or other authorized reasons, please contact the instructor in advance of an assignment deadline to discuss the situation.

No medical documentation will be required but clear communication with the instructor well ahead of the deadline is expected.

## 7.4 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%.

The CourseLink Dropbox time stamp will be the sole determinant for receipt of assignments.

## 7.5 Extension Policy

Extensions requests must be made by email at least 24 hours ahead of the deadline. Requests made without sufficient notice will be denied.

Please note that extensions are not guaranteed, and grading timelines will be taken into consideration when addressing requests.

## 7.6 Regrading Policy

All requests for re-grading **MUST** be made by email to the course instructor within one week of the return of the assignment.

In order for a re-grading request to be considered, the student must provide a justification for why the grade should be changed based on the assessment criteria found in the grading rubric.

Be aware that the entire document will be re-graded, which could result in an increase, decrease, or no change to your mark.

## 7.7 Plagiarism Detection Software

Students should be aware that faculty have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University can be imposed.

Electronically submitted student assignments may be automatically compared to other electronic documents (including online and student papers) by Turnitin™ for degree of similarity.

## 7.8 Online Behaviour (Netiquette)

**Inappropriate online behaviour will not be tolerated. Examples of inappropriate online behaviour include:**

- Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students
- Using obscene or offensive language online
- Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own
- Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references
- Buying or selling term papers or assignments
- Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites
- Having someone else complete your quiz or completing a quiz for/with another student
- Stating false claims about lost quiz answers or other assignment submissions
- Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online
- Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs
- Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services
- Attempting to compromise the security or functionality of the learning management system
- Sharing your user name and password
- Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor

## 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. <http://www.learningcommons.uoguelph.ca/>
- 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: <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/chemistry-physics-help> and <http://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/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. <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.selfregulationskills.ca/>

### 8.4 Personal information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964),

and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) <http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/index.html>. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes.

For more information regarding the Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information policies please see the Undergraduate Calendar.  
(<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/intro/index.shtml>)

## 8.5 Course Offering Information Disclaimer

Please note that course delivery format (face-to-face vs online) is subject to change up to the first-class day depending on requirements placed on the University and its employees by public health bodies, and local, provincial and federal governments. Any changes to course format prior to the first class will be posted on WebAdvisor/Student Planning as they become available.

# 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 grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions  
<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

## 9.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

## 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 make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

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

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

## 9.6 Academic Integrity

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 encourages academic integrity. 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.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

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

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

## 9.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, 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 that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

## 9.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

## 9.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

## 9.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.

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