



ZOO*4920 Lab Studies in Ornithology

Fall 2020

Section(s): 01

Department of Integrative Biology

Credit Weight: 0.25

Version 2.00 - September 09, 2020

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!

This course will be a remote offering of our usual in-lab course. This course will provide an introduction to the biology of birds, including the unique aspects of avian form, function, acoustics and taxonomy through weekly video lectures. Students will also be expected to take part in a variety of self-guided field activities to complete some in course assignments.

1.3 Timetable

Our first scheduled Lab will take place Thursday, September 10

Labs: Thursdays 8:30 - 11:20 AM on Zoom

Live lab talks will take place during our scheduled lab time; recordings of these lab talks will be posted on Courselink at the end of each week, but students are encouraged to attend the live sessions to get the most out of our course materials. Please refer to the course timeline for more details.

1.4 Final Exam

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

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Sarah Schorno
Email:	sschorno@uoguelph.ca
Telephone:	+1-519-824-4120 x 52949
Office:	SSC 3510
Office Hours:	Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment

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)

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. 2007. Ornithology, Third 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

5.1 Lab

Week 1

Topics:

Lab 1 (September 10, 2020)

Introduction to Field Ornithology, Identification and Bird Songs

Week 2

Topics: Lab 2 (September 17, 2020)

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 1)

Week 3

Topics: Lab 3 (September 24, 2020)

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 2)

Week 4

Topics: Lab 4 (October 1, 2020)

Families of Ontario's Birds (Part 3)

Week 5

Topics: Lab 5 (October 8, 2020)

Virtual Bird Banding and Mist-Netting with the University of Guelph Arboretum

Week 6

Topics: NO LAB (Week of October 12, 2020)

Thanksgiving week

Week 7

Topics: Lab 6 (October 22, 2020)

Conservation of Ontario's Birds with Wild Ontario

Week 8

Topics: Lab 7 (October 29, 2020)

Accessing and Utilizing Citizen Science Data with Birds Canada / Nature Counts

Week 9**Topics: Open Lab (November 5, 2020)**

Proposal Writing Help Session (Research Project Work Period)

Week 10**Topics: Open Lab (November 12, 2020)**

R-User Help Session (Research Project Work Period)

Week 11**Topics: Open Lab (November 19, 2020)**

Poster Creation Help Session (Research Project Work Period)

Week 12**Topics: Open Lab (November 26, 2020)**

Poster Creation Help Session (Research Project Work Period)

6 Assessments

6.1 Assessment Details

Module 1 (20%)**Due:** Fri, Sep 25, 5:00 PM**Learning Outcome:** 1, 5, 6**Field Notebook** - Observations of Ontario Birds on Self-Guided Field Trips**Module 2 (20%)****Due:** Fri, Oct 2, 5:00 PM**Learning Outcome:** 3, 4**Point Count Data Assignment** - Practice your Bird Song ID on Self-Guided Field Trips**Module 3 (20%)****Due:** Fri, Oct 16, 5:00 PM

Learning Outcome: 2, 3, 4

Bird Banding Assignment - Complete a 'virtual' bird banding exercise with the University of Guelph Arboretum

Module 4 (20%)

Due: Fri, Oct 30, 5:00 PM

Learning Outcome: 3, 4, 5, 6

Bird Conservation Program Proposal - Create a proposal for a hypothetical research program to address conservation efforts for a species at risk in Ontario

Ornithology Research Project (20%)

Due: (See breakdown below)

Learning Outcome: 1, 3, 4, 6

Create a self-guided research project using open-access citizen science data from Nature Counts / Birds Canada.

Project Proposal (2.5%) - due Friday, November 6 @ 5PM

Project Poster Presentation (15%) - due Friday, November 27 @ 5PM

Project Reflection Essay (2.5%) - due Friday, December 4 @ 5PM

6.2 Weekly Challenges Bonus Marks

Weekly "Challenges" will be posted along with lab lectures each week. These are meant to increase interactions among students and engagement with course materials through our Courselink discussion boards. These challenges are completely optional, but students who complete a challenge may be awarded 0.5% bonus marks each (6 challenges, 3% bonus marks total).

6.3 Lab Manual Bonus Marks

A fillable PDF version of our lab manual will be provided to all students on Courselink at the beginning of our semester. Many of the labs have fill-in-the-blank activities for students to complete based on readings/research outside of lab in their own time.

Students who submit a complete lab manual by the end of the semester (Thursday, December 3, 2020 at the latest) will be eligible to receive 2% bonus marks for the semester.

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. These will be provided to students on 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 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.

7.3 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%.

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>)

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 book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

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 and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. 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

The University will not normally require verification of illness (doctor's notes) for fall 2020 or

winter 2021 semester courses. However, requests for Academic Consideration may still require medical documentation as appropriate.
