



**Course Text:**

1. **Required:** ONE of the following [read this whole section before ordering a book]:

- \* The Sibley Guide to the Birds of Eastern North America by David Allen Sibley
- or
- \* The Sibley Guide to Birds David Allen Sibley (includes eastern and western species)
- or
- \* Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America by Roger Tory Peterson
- or
- \* National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America by Dunn and Alderfer. The review of field guides on this website (listed below) may be helpful as you decide which field guide to purchase:  
<http://www.wildlifesouth.com/Birding/BirdingFieldGuideReviews.html>

2. **Required:** National Geographic Birding Essentials by J. Alderfer and J.L. Dunn. 2007.

3. **Optional:** Sibley's Birding Basics. If you are new to birdwatching, this slim volume will provide practical knowledge and insights that will help you avoid common pitfalls. Even if you have considerable experience identifying birds, your skills will likely improve as a result of reading this book.

4. **Optional:** If you want to purchase a CD of bird songs, we recommend these:

- \* Bird Song Ear Training Guide: Who Cooks for Poor Sam Peabody? (John Feith)
- \* A Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region\_(Stokes).
- \* Birding by Ear: Eastern/Central \*the benefit of this cd is that it helps you to distinguish, through guided compare-and-contrast discussion, the vocalizations of similar sounding species.

Please note that as part of the class, downloadable bird vocalizations will be made available. However, having multiple sources (not listening to only one recording of one bird) can be helpful, because just as humans' voices have a variety of qualities/tones/textures/dialects, bird's do as well.

**Course Website:** Learn@UW'. Access by logging in to 'My UW' with your UW netid and password. Click on the D2L zoology521 icon.

**Work expected outside of regularly scheduled meeting times:**

This three credit course will require six or more hours of self-study outside of class.

\*Each week you will be assigned a set of bird vocalizations to prepare you to recognize species in the field. It takes time to learn to recognize vocalizations, as most of us are not nearly as accustomed to tuning in to sounds and habitat cues, as we are to reading. If you have never identified birds by vocalization, you should plan to spend 20-30 minutes, 4-5 times a week learning to recognize birds from provided sound recordings. Reading and journal writing assignments are also required. You are also expected to practice visually identifying birds in the field on your own, in addition to time spent in guided observation in class.

## COURSE GRADE

The following is a summary of the point allocation:

<b>Maximum points:</b>	<b>for:</b>
20	field journal
50	weekly quizzes
10	field quizzes
70	field exams
50	discussion exams
20	appropriate participation
(-10)	for each missed lab
(-20)	for each missed weekend trip below the two required
(-5)	for each "no show" on a field trip for which you are signed up
<b>220</b>	<b>Total possible points</b>

### Explanation of categories:

**Field Journal:** In a bound book labeled with your name, keep a record of each birding outing, and notes on birds seen. Notes could include any/all of the following- Habitat, behavior, interactions, vocalizations. Sketches of key field i.d. characteristics encouraged. **More information on requirements for field journals will be given in the second week of class.**

**Weekly quizzes:** 5 points each. You will be tested by sight and sound on birds assigned for previous week. Eleven quizzes will be given and your lowest score will be dropped.

**Field quizzes:** 5 points each. These will be given during scheduled lab outings, before each of the two field exams.

**Field exams:** (midterm 30 points, final 40 points). Identification of birds by sight and/or sound in the field.

**Discussion exams** (midterm 20, final 30): Identification of birds from slides, video, recorded songs, or specimens. Questions on taxonomic names, field marks, field techniques, and or concepts presented in indoor and outdoor labs.

### Participation:

- A. 20 points total. Appropriate participation points are given for behavior that is conducive to learning about birds whenever you are in class, even (*in fact, especially*) when you are in the great outdoors on field trips. When birding in a group it can happen that socializing interferes with bird detection and identification. Quiet alert observation results in more birds detected than talking/jesting/jovial behavior that focus attention on humans in the group. These points are given for being an active on-task participant, for restricting your conversation with your TA

and classmates to bird-related topics at hand, and otherwise being quiet, both in how you move and in refraining from conversation while birding in the field.

- B. A major expectation of this course is that you participate in your assigned laboratory and discussion section. There is not space to accommodate all students who would like to take the course. Therefore, each missed morning lab will result in **loss of 10 points** from your total course score. Excusable absences are always agreed on between you and your TA in advance of your laboratory/discussion section, and involve providing a doctor's note. Similarly, excused absence for graduate school interviews requires providing proof of the interview. Because we want to provide an equal ratio of student to TA for all sections, there is no opportunity to attend a different lab or discussion section.
- C. Weekend field trips. You are required to attend two weekend field trips during the semester. These are offered on selected Saturdays and Sundays, and last the entire day (6 or 7 am until 5 or 6 pm, or potentially later. Each missed field trip below the two required will result in the **loss of 20 points** from your total course score.

### Grading Scale

Total possible Points = 220		
Letter Grade	Percent of points earned	Raw number of points
A	>90%	≥ 198
AB	85% - 89%	187 ≥ points ≥ 197.9
B	80% - 84%	176 ≥ points ≥ 186.9
BC	75% - 79%	165 ≥ points ≥ 175.9
C	68% - 74%	149 ≥ points ≥ 164.9
D	58% - 67%	127 ≥ points ≥ 148.9
F	Below 58%	Below 126.9

### Religious conflict and Special Needs:

if you have a religious conflict please notify me and your TA in writing (email is fine) as soon as possible. If you have special needs, with regard to how content is provided, or testing situations, also let your TA and I know as soon as possible so that we can work to accommodate you as best I can.

### Academic misconduct

Violations of standards of academic honesty will not be tolerated. Punishment may include a lowering of the grade, no credit for dishonest work, expulsion from the course, a notation on your academic record, and others, deemed appropriate by the instructor or deans. PLEASE NOTE THAT AS PER UNIVERSITY POLICY, ALMOST ANY PENALTY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A LETTER, WHICH WILL BE DEPOSITED IN YOUR STUDENT FILE.

For more information, please see: <http://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/>