BIRDS OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN ZOO/F&WE 521

SPRING 2017

When and Where:

Noland Hall 321

One section meets each day M, T, W, Th, F

Lab (outside beginning Jan 31)

7:45-9:40 am until March 17 7:00-9:40 am after spring break

Discussion (indoors)

9:45-10:40 am each week

Instructor:

Anna Pidgeon, apidgeon@wisc.edu

A143 Russell Labs

Office hours: please email for appointment

Teaching Assistants: Tuesday Lab: Elena West

office hour Wednesday 1-2, Russell Labs A229

Email: elena.west@wisc.edu

Weds Lab: James Burnham

office hour Tues 11-noon, Noland 314

Email: burnham@wisc.edu

Thursday Lab: Kristin Brunk

office hour: Thursday 1-2 pm, Noland 314

Email: kbrunk@wisc.edu

Friday Lab: Maia Persche

office hour: Friday 11-noon, Noland 314

Email: persche@wisc.edu

Prerequisites:

Biology/Zoology 101 and 102 OR Biology/Botany/Zoology 152 OR Biocore 381

and 382 OR Graduate Student Standing or Consent of Instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

Birds of Southern Wisconsin is a field-intensive course. Active exploration, using as many senses as possible, is a key to success. By the end of this course, students will be able to identify by sight and sound 250 species, which is the majority of birds found in Southern Wisconsin. Students will be able to articulate which species are typical in several different habitat types (e.g., wetlands, grasslands, oak woodlands, conifer forest, riparian). Students will be able to compare and contrast life history strategies (i.e. foraging guild, migratory guild, nesting guild) of birds of southern Wisconsin.

Binoculars:

Binoculars are a key tool for success in this class. We do have some Departmental binoculars for loan, but not enough for everyone. Small pocket binoculars are not sufficient for most people. Binoculars that are 7-10 power (magnification) with a 35 – 50 mm objective (which determines your field of view and the amount of transmitted light) are best. The trade-off is that the greater these two numbers are, the heavier the binoculars are, making them harder to hold steady for some. If you are considering purchasing binoculars, Eagle Optics, located locally in Middleton, has a great selection great information here: http://www.eagleoptics.com

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 lcon.

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:

Maximum points:	for:
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

Explanation of categories:

220 Total possible points

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			
	total posterior	Raw number of points	
Letter Grade	Percent of points earned	≥ 198	
Δ	>90%	187-≥points ≥ 197.9	
AP	85% - 89%	176 ≥ points ≥ 186.9	
AB	80% - 84%	165 ≥ points ≥ 175.9	
В	75% - 79%	165 2 points 2 175.5	
BC	68% - 74%	149 ≥ points ≥ 164.9	
C		127 ≥ points ≥ 148.9	
D	58% - 67%	Below 126.9	
- C	Below 58%		

if you have a religious conflict please notify me and your TA in writing (email is fine) as soon as possible. Religious conflict and Special Needs: 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/