

ORNITHOLOGY

11:704:323

Spring 2011

Instructor: Blake Mathys, Ph.D. mathys@rci.rutgers.edu Office hours by appointment
TA: Robbie Robinson (251) 401-3784 robinoj@eden.rutgers.edu Office hours by appointment

Required Textbook: *Ornithology* by Frank B. Gill, 3rd edition; 2006

Recommended Field Guide: *Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America* by D.A. Sibley; 2003

Course Overview: Students will learn about birds through lecture, laboratory examination, and field observation. Special emphasis will be placed on the diversity of birds and the adaptations that have allowed birds to become geographically, numerically, and ecologically successful. Students will learn to identify birds in the field, in order to gain a better appreciation of the biodiversity present in the United States and New Jersey in particular.

Classroom Conduct: Please be on time for class. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of the period; if you are late, no extra time will be given. If you are so late as to completely miss the quiz, no make-up quiz will be possible. If you must be late to lecture, please strive to enter quietly. During lectures, I ask that you refrain from distracting other students with electronic devices. If I notice such distractions, I may ask you to cease using the device. If you need to have your cell phone on for some exceptional circumstance (e.g., family emergency), please just inform me and it will not be a problem.

Field Trips: Field trip attendance is mandatory. The trips will **leave at 7 a.m.** from the ENR parking lot (Lot 98B). Please be on time. All students must ride in the vans for the field trips. We will return by the end of the lab period. Wear appropriate clothing (i.e., outdoor shoes/boots, warm clothes, etc.). It is often colder at the shore (e.g., Sandy Hook) than it is on campus, so be sure to bring extra layers so you can endure being outside for a few hours. Active participation (e.g., paying attention, looking for birds, and asking questions) will positively influence your grade, and will make the course more enjoyable for everyone. **One full day trip is required;** you will be able to sign up for April 30 or May 1.

Academic Honesty: I take academic integrity very seriously. I will make every effort to limit opportunities for dishonesty; however I am well aware that it is not possible to exclude all possibility for cheating. If I detect cheating I will pursue it; please be sure to read Rutgers' "Academic Integrity" document: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>

Laboratory: The laboratory portion is a time for you to become familiar with identification of New Jersey birds and learn about their phylogenetic relationships. There will be a lab practical requiring you to identify bird specimens and/or pictures, and know their taxonomy (Family and Orders). This is a very important part of the course, and thus I have made it worth 20% of your final grade.

Grading

Quizzes (4 x 5% each)	20%
Midterm	25%
Lab Practical	20%
Final Exam	25%
Participation	10%

Refers to field trips and labs

A = 90-100%	
B+ = 88-90%	B = 80-88%
C+ = 78-80%	C = 70-78%
D = 60-70%	
F < 60%	

Month	Day	Activity	Lecture Topic	Location
Jan	19-Wed	Lecture	Introduction	LOR115
	24-Mon	Lecture	Ch2: History	LOR115
	26-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch2: History	LOR115/BT012
	28-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	31-Mon	Lecture	Ch3: Systematics	LOR115
Feb	2-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch4: Feathers	LOR115/BT012
	4-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	7-Mon	Lecture	Ch4: Feathers	LOR115
	9-Wed	Lecture/Field Trip	Ch4: Molt	LOR115/ENR-PL
	11-Fri	Field Trip - Shark River		ENR-PL
	14-Mon	Lecture	Quiz 1/ Ch5: Flight	LOR115
	16-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch5: Flight	LOR115/BT012
	18-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	21-Mon	Lecture	Ch6: Physiology	LOR115
	23-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch6: Physiology	LOR115/BT012
	25-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	28-Mon	Lecture	Quiz 2/ Ch7: Senses	LOR115
Mar	2-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch7: Senses	LOR115/BT012
	4-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	7-Mon	MIDTERM EXAM		LOR115
	9-Wed	Lecture/Field Trip	Mathys PhD Talk	LOR115/ENR-PL
	11-Fri	Field Trip - Great Swamp		ENR-PL
	14,16,18	Spring Break		
	21-Mon	Lecture	Ch8: Vocalizations	LOR115
	23-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch8: Vocalizations	LOR115/BT012
	25-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	28-Mon	Lecture	Ch10: Migration	LOR115
	30-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch10: Migration	LOR115/BT012
Apr	1-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	4-Mon	Lecture	Quiz 3/ Ch12: Mates	LOR115
	6-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch13: Breeding	LOR115/BT012
	8-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	11-Mon	Lecture	Ch13: Breeding	LOR115
	13-Wed	Lecture/Field Trip	Ch15: Nests	LOR115/ENR-PL
	15-Fri	Field Trip - Sandy Hook		ENR-PL
	18-Mon	Lecture	Ch15: Nests	LOR115
	20-Wed	Lecture/Lab01	Ch19: Species	LOR115/BT012
	22-Fri	Lab02		BT012
	25-Mon	Lecture	Quiz 4/ Ch19: Species	LOR115
	27-Wed	Section1LabFinal		BT012
	29-Fri	Section2LabFinal		BT012
	30-Sat	All Day Field Trip - Barnegat/Brigantine		ENR-PL
May	1-Sun	All Day Field Trip - Barnegat/Brigantine		ENR-PL
	2-Mon	Lecture	Ch21: Conservation	LOR115
	10-Tue	Final Exam: 12:00-3:00		LOR115

LOR= Loree; ENR-PL = Environmental and Natural Resource Building Parking Lot; BT = Bartlett Hall