

Biology 458, Spring 2015

Ornithology

Required text: Gill, F. B. 2007. Ornithology. 3rd Edition. W. H. Freeman and Co., New York.

Lab text: Sibley, D. A. 2003. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you should be able to...

- 1) Describe the evolution of birds from reptiles and demonstrate knowledge of the current taxonomy of birds.
- 2) Explain the structure and physiology of birds, especially as they relate to flight.
- 3) Describe and evaluate current avian conservation issues.
- 4) Summarize two external lectures on birds.
- 5) Identify by sight and sound the representative birds of Iowa.

Grading: Your grade will be determined on your performance in these areas:

For A Ecl/Biol 458 (lecture): Your grade will be determined from your performance on two mid-term exams (75 points each), a final exam (100 points), and two written summaries of bird-related seminars or other talks (25 points each). Total lecture points = 300.

- 1) The writing assignment involves visiting two external bird-related talks during the semester and summarizing what you learned. These can be departmental seminars, other talks on campus, local Audubon Society talks, or others as approved beforehand. Your summary should be thorough, well organized, and use proper grammar. It must be typed in 12 point font, double-spaced, and cannot exceed two pages.
- 2) The final exam is cumulative.

For A Ecl/Biol 458L (lab): Your grade will be determined from your performance on two lab exams (75 points each), an anatomy quiz (20 points), six field quizzes (5 points each), and an independent research project (50 points). The second lab exam will include 20 vocalizations. Total lab points = 250. For the research project students will be graded on the thoroughness of their reports, writing skills, demonstrated knowledge of the topic, and thoroughness of the literature review. Report guidelines are:

- 1) Must be typed, 12 point font, double-spaced, and should not exceed 6 pages total (including literature cited, tables, figures, etc.).
- 2) Must include introduction, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and a minimum of 1 table and 1 figure.
- 3) Minimum of 8 references (excluding textbooks or on-line resources).

Although it is unlikely, it is possible that exam dates noted in the lecture outline could be changed slightly. Be sure to attend class for the latest information. Lecture exams will cover material from lectures and assigned readings up to and including dates announced in lecture. Lab quizzes may be unannounced. The instructor reserves the right to exempt students from taking the final exam if they are earning an A grade in the class.

Academic Dishonesty: The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

<http://www.dso.iastate.edu/ja/academic/misconduct.html>

Disability Accommodation: Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact (instructor name) to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with (instructor name), you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room

1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Dead Week: This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week guidelines as outlined in <http://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/#deadweek>

Harassment and Discrimination: Iowa State University strives to maintain our campus as a place of work and study for faculty, staff, and students that is free of all forms of prohibited discrimination and harassment based upon race, ethnicity, sex (including sexual assault), pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, or status as a U.S. veteran. Any student who has concerns about such behavior should contact his/her instructor, [Student Assistance](#) at 515-294-1020 or email dso-sas@iastate.edu, or the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Compliance](#) at 515-294-7612.

Contact Information: If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email academicissues@iastate.edu.

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Class Schedule

Date	Lecture (458)	Lab (458L)	Reading
12-14 Jan	Diversity/History	I.d. basics/anatomy	Chapters 1&2
19 Jan	Holiday – no class		
20-21 Jan	Systematics	Identification	Chapter 3
26-28 Jan	Feathers/Structure	Field trip	Chapter 4
2-4 Feb	Flight	Identification/Anatomy quiz	Chapter 5
9-11 Feb	Physiology/Behavior	Identification	Chapters 6&7
16 Feb	Exam 1		
17-18 Feb	Vocalizations	Field trip	Chapter 8
23-25 Feb	Behavior	Exam 1	Chapter 9
2-4 Mar	Migration/Navigation	Molt	Chapter 10
9-11 Mar	Social behavior/Mates	Field trip	Chapters 11&12
16-20 Mar	No class – SPRING BREAK		
23-25 Mar	Mating systems	Field trip	Chapter 13
30 Mar	Exam 2		
31 Mar-1 Apr	Reproduction/Nests	Field trip (Capture/markings)	Chapters 14&15
6-8 Apr	Parents, offspring, success	Survey methods	Chapters 16&17
13-15 Apr	Population biology	Field trip	Chapter 18
20-22 Apr	Species/Communities	Final exam	Chapters 19&20
27-29 Apr	Conservation of birds	Field trip	Chapter 21
5 May	Final exam – Tuesday, 9:45-11:45 a.m.		