

EEB 3898: Field Methods in Ornithology
Intensive Summer Session 1, June 6th - 24th, 2011
Weekdays, 7:30 to 11:30 am, TLS 371

http://hydrodictyon.eeb.uconn.edu/eebedia/index.php/Field_Ornithology

INSTRUCTOR

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Acquire bird identification skills
- Learn how to take field notes
- Learn and apply basic field research techniques, study design, and data analysis
- Develop an individual project

GRADING

Grading is going to be done on a straight percentage-of-points basis, i.e., to obtain an A, you need to earn 90% or more of the available points. The grades will **not** be "curved", and there will be **no** opportunities for "make-up" or "extra-credit" points. Attendance on the field trips is **required**. If you miss a field trip (this category includes also birding exercises), you lose 5 points. If you miss a test, you will receive a score of zero. If you have a legitimate reason to miss a field trip or test, you may be excused **IF AND ONLY IF** you provide written documentation within one week of missing the class or test. In cases where you have a legitimate excuse, there still will be no make-ups administered: you will be graded only on the basis of the points contained in the field trips and tests you did complete. **NOTE** that this method reduces the number of points you can afford to lose and still do well in the course.

SICK? First, do your level best to let us know before the field trip/class exercise/test. Second, if you are sick, believe us when we say that we don't want to see you in lab. Please be responsible, and don't spread germs by coming to class with a fever, or hacking and coughing. For illnesses, we pro-rate your grade on the basis of the point-bearing exercises you didn't miss. If you are sick for the final **YOU MUST INFORM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES** in order to be allowed to take a make-up after final exam week is over. **The final exam is the only point-bearing exercise for which a make-up is possible.**

Grading scale: A = 100-90%, B = 89-80%, C = 79-70%, D = 69-60%, F = 59-0%.

Plus/minus system will be used for the final grade.

Exams:	June 15 th (MIDTERM)	50 points
	June 24 th (FINAL)	50 points
Individual Project Paper:	June 14 th (Intro and Methods)	30 points
	June 23 rd (Final)	50 points
Individual Project Presentations:	June 14 th (Intro and Methods)	20 points
	June 22 nd (Final)	25 points
Field Notebook Submissions:	June 13 th (First)	20 points
	June 21 st (Final)	25 points
Field trips (5 points each):	June 9 th , 10 th , 13 th , 20 th , 21 st , 23 rd	30 points
Total:		300 points

REQUIRED TEXT: Sibley Guide to Birds (Eastern guide is OK) by D.A. Sibley

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Topic
Mon	6	Course introduction and timeline; Bird identification (Optics, Guides and Notes)
Tues	7	Topography and Field Marks; Feet, Beaks and Body Form; Field exercises
Wed	8	Field research techniques, study design, and data analysis; Discussion (papers)
Thurs	9	Survey of local birds (Mansfield Hollow), Individual project guidelines and selection
Fri	10	Capture/banding demonstration
Weekend		Bird on your own!
Mon	14	Bird families (Taxonomy) - Local birding; Field notebooks (First Submission)
Tues	15	Individual project presentations; Paper submission (Introduction and Methods)
Wed	16	MIDTERM EXAM; birding after
Thurs	17	Individual project data collection I (Methods adjustment)
Fri	18	Individual project data collection II (Final)
Weekend		Bird on your own!
Mon	21	Survey of coastal birds
Tues	22	Capture/banding demonstration; Field notebooks (Final Submission)
Wed	23	Individual project presentations and assisted work on the paper
Thurs	24	HEEP site field activity (use of eBird); PAPER SUBMISSION (FINAL)
Fri	25	FINAL EXAM; Instructor evaluations

NOTE THAT BECAUSE SO MUCH OF WHAT WE DO DEPENDS ON THE WEATHER, THE SCHEDULE IS VERY SUBJECT TO CHANGE!