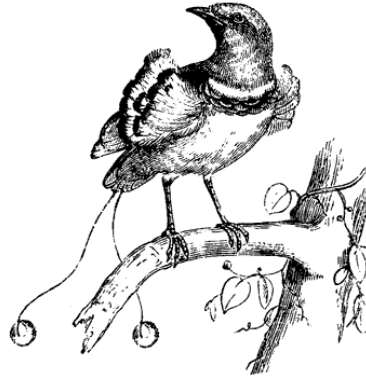


Course: AnSci/Zoo 520 Ornithology

Time: MWF, 12:05-12:55
168 Noland Hall

Instructor: Dr. Mark E. Berres
Animal Sciences Building, room 542
meberres@wisc.edu
Phone: 890-1086
Office hour: 9:00 – 9:50 am Thursdays and by appointment



TAs:	Name	Office hour	Location
	Andrew Cassini	TIME: 11:00 – 12:00 WEDNESDAY	314 NOLAND HALL
	Matt Hayes	TIME: 10:30 – 11:30 MONDAY	532 ANIMAL SCIENCES
	Dan Marschalek	TIME: 11:00 – 12:00 TUESDAY	532 ANIMAL SCIENCES
	April Sansom	TIME: 10:00 – 11:00 THURSDAY	314 NOLAND HALL

Recommended course text: Ornithology, 3rd edition by Frank Gill. This book is on reserve at both Steenbock and Biology libraries. The primary source of information will be lectures (see below). Supplementary instructional materials will be available to you on the course website.

Course website: <http://ornithology.wisc.edu/520>

Course grading: Your performance in AnSci/Zoo 520 will be assessed with two evening exams (always given on a Tuesday), two take-home portions of the exam (always distributed during the exam and due in class the following Friday), and one final exam scheduled by the registrar. These examinations are essay in style, requiring you to construct thoughtful and concise answers to questions posed under particular scenarios. Your score is based on a percentage of 100% of which 70% and 30% is allocated to exams and the two take-home portions, respectively. Letter grades are assigned within percentage intervals using a class-wide curve of all scores. Missed exams will not be re-administered unless an excusable absence can be demonstrated (*a rare occurrence and always known in advance by Dr. Berres*).

Student conduct statements: <http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html>

Student disability statements: <http://www.wisc.edu/adac/uw.html>

Perspective: Ornithology is an abstract subject that draws upon many diverse areas of knowledge. Employ your experiences to supplement facts and ideas presented in class and in any assigned readings. ***This course stresses contextual problem solving, not only rote memorization.*** Academically, it is very important that you attend all lectures and review any assigned readings. Since the instructional materials are wholly integrated, lecture attendance is obligatory, but nevertheless not monitored. If you opt to read the passages from the [recommended] textbook – or other sources – do so *before* attending class as it will reinforce concepts discussed during lecture. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, ask questions. Like any biological entity, birds are extremely complex organisms and despite intensive study, still remain for the most part, highly enigmatic and poorly understood. The act of questioning what we do and do not know should humble us at times, but it positively embodies the essence of scientific inquiry.

DATE (DAY)	TOPIC	READINGS
23 Jan	Introduction; What is a bird? Feathers	Ch 1, 4
25, 27 Jan	Feather evolution, structure	Ch. 4
30 Jan, 01, 03 Feb	Feather molt, growth, coloration	handout
06, 08, 10 Feb	Avian anatomy and physiology Ch. 5 (pp.131-140); Ch. 6 (pp. 141-148; 164-171)	Ch. 5*, 6*
13, 15, 17 Feb	Evolutionary origins of birds and avian flight	Ch.2; handout
Exam I	[Tuesday, 21 Feb 2012, 7:15-9:15 pm, 212 Animal Sciences; Covers material from 23 Jan – 17 Feb 2012; Take-home portion due in class on Friday 24 Feb 2012]	
20, 22, 24 Feb	Aerodynamics of flight Ch. 5 (pp. 115-131)	Ch. 5* handout
27, 29 Feb, 02 Mar	Avian flight	handout
05, 07, 09 Mar	Avian flight continued Review Ch. 5 (pp.131-140)	
12, 14, 16 Mar	Avian migration, orientation, and navigation	Ch. 10
19, 21, 23 Mar	Avian behavior	Ch. 11
Exam II	[Tuesday, 27 Mar 2012, 7:15-9:15 pm, 212 Animal Sciences; Covers material from 20 Feb – 23 Mar 2012; Take-home portion due in class on Friday 30 Mar 2012]	
26, 28, 30 Mar	Visual and vocal communication in birds	Ch. 7, 8
02, 04, 06 Apr	<i>Spring recess (no regularly scheduled classes)</i>	
09, 11, 13 Apr	Breeding biology of birds	Ch. 12
16, 18, 20 Apr	Avian mating systems	Ch. 13, 14
23, 25, 27 Apr	Nests, parental care in birds	Ch. 15, 16
30 Apr, 02, 04 May	Reproductive effort	Ch. 17
07, 09, 11 May	Avian conservation (including Montserrat case study)	
Final exam	[Monday, 14 May 2012, 7:25-9:25 pm; location by registrar; Covers all material presented in the course with emphasis on the most recent material (26 Mar – 11 May 2012)]	

Note: While every effort is made to adhere to this schedule, the specific dates and topics may change at any time to accommodate particular circumstances. An asterisk (*) indicates chapters with specific page ranges. All handouts are available on the course website.