

Avian Biology ZOO4472

Lectures: Tu (12:50-2:45) and Th (12:50-1:40)

Labs: Tu (section A) or Th (section B) (8:30-12:35)

Instructors:

Glaucia Del-Rio (g.delrio@ufl.edu); phone: 352-273-1968; 320 Dickinson Hall

Scott Robinson (srobinson@flmnh.ufl.edu); phone: 352-273-1965; 307 Dickinson Hall

Teaching Assistants:

Wenyi Zhou (wenyi.zhou@ufl.edu); phone: 206-593-0986; 305 Dickinson Hall

Shelby Palmer (shelbypalmer@ufl.edu); phone: 660-864-4222; 520A Bartram Hall

Office hours:

Glaucia Del-Rio, Mondays 1-3 pm

Wenyi Zhou, Tuesday 2-4 pm

Course objectives and goals:

By the end of the course, students will have developed essential skills in ornithological fieldwork and museum collection research techniques.

Students will be capable of identifying Florida's bird species and will gain a thorough understanding of avian biology. This includes comprehensive knowledge of bird evolution, systematics, anatomy, physiology, behavior, and ecology.

Course schedule and critical dates:

Month	weekday	Day	Lecture	Book chapter	Lab (Tuesdays or Thursdays depending on section)	Lab assignment	Lab section
January	Tu	14	Why study birds?	Chapter 1	Field trip - bird ID basics		A
	Th	16	Origins and evolutionary history	Chapter 2 (section 2.4)	Field trip - bird ID basics		B
	Tu	21	Origins and Avian Anatomy 1	Chapter 6 (6.1-6.3)	Dissection-Anatomy/ Bird ID skins (Ducks, large water birds)		A
	Th	23	Avian Anatomy 2	Chapter 6 (6.4-6.8)	Dissection-Anatomy/ Bird ID skins (Ducks, large water birds)		B
	Tu	28	Feathers and Plumage	Chapter 4	Field trip (ducks, water birds)		A
	Th	30	Avian Flight	Chapter 5	Field trip (ducks, water birds)		B
February	Tu	4	Diversity and Classification - collections	Chapter 2 (2.1-2.2)	Dissection-Taxidermy, microscopy feathers/ Bird ID skins (+water birds and shore birds)	quiz - Bird ID + anatomy	A
	Th	6	Bird Speciation	Chapter 3	Dissection-Taxidermy, microscopy feathers/ Bird ID skins (+water birds and shore birds)	quiz - Bird ID + anatomy	B
	Tu	11	Diversity and Biogeography	Chapter 2 (2.3)	Field trip (water birds, shore birds)	small project - dissection catalog	A

	Th	13	Avian research - macroevolution		Field trip (water birds, shore birds)	small project - dissection catalog	B
	Tu	18	Avian physiology	Chapter 7	Work in collections/ Bird ID skins (raptors, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers)	quiz - Bird ID + collections	A
	Th	20	TBA		Work in collections/ Bird ID skins (raptors, owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers)	quiz - Bird ID + collections	B
	Tu	25	Exam 1				
	Th	27	Collections in ecology and conservation studies				
March	Tu	4	Avian food and foraging	Chapter 8	Field trip (suburbs, open area)		A
	Th	6	Avian mating and social behavior	Chapter 9	Field trip (suburbs, open area)		B
	Tu	11	Avian vocal behavior	Chapter 10	Predictive morphology/ Bird ID skins (Passeriformes 1)	quiz - Bird ID	A
	Th	13	A deeper look into avian molt		Predictive morphology/ Bird ID skins (Passeriformes 1)	quiz - Bird ID	B
	Tu	25	Breeding biology	Chapter 11	Field trip - Capturing/banding NATL	small project - species account	A
	Th	27	Avian Migration and Dispersal	Chapter 12	Field trip - Capturing/banding NATL	small project - species account	B
April	Tu	1	Population ecology	Chapter 13	Using eBird data, sound recording/ Bird ID skins (Passeriformes 2)	quiz - Bird ID + predictive morphology	A
	Th	3	Community ecology	Chapter 14	Using eBird data, sound recording/ Bird ID skins (Passeriformes 2)	quiz - Bird ID + predictive morphology	B
	Tu	8	Conservation	Chapter 15	Field trip - Capturing/banding NATL	small project - banding notes	A
	Th	10	Citizen science platforms		Field trip - Capturing/banding NATL	small project - banding notes	B
	Tu	15	TBA		Field trip - field notes, behavior	small project - eBird data	A
	Th	17	TBA		Field trip - field notes, behavior	small project - eBird data	B
	Tu	22	Exam 2				

Grading:

4 small assignments submitted online: 25 points each → 100 points

4 lab quizzes: 25 points each → 100 points

2 hourly exams each worth 100 points, no cumulative final → 200

Total: 400 points

Textbook:

Handbook of Bird Biology, third edition, Lovette and Fitzpatrick

Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern and Central North America, seventh edition, and/or Cornell Lab Merlin App

Students with difficulties acquiring or borrowing textbooks should contact Glauca Del-Rio (g.delrio@ufl.edu) ASAP.

Class attendance and make-up exams:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See [UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies](#). Make-up exams will be arranged on a case-by-case system after discussion with Glaucia Del-Rio.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “[Get Started With the DRC](#)” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Grading policies:

Please refer to [UF Grades and Grading policies](#).

Course evaluation:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at “[Providing Constructive Feedback](#)”. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and **can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals**, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Policies:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the [UF Conduct Code](#) website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-Class Recording policies:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal education use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by an instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentation such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class.

section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- *University Police Department:* Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources:

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center:* Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support:* Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- *Teaching Center:* 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio:* Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Academic Complaints:* Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- *Enrollment Management Complaints* (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.