

## Syllabus for Avian Biology (ZOO4472) SPRING 2023

Lectures: Tu (12:50-2:45) Th (12:50-1:40) Bartram 211; Labs Tuesday or Thursday (8:30-12:35)  
120 Carr

Instructor: Scott Robinson ([srobinson@flmnh.ufl.edu](mailto:srobinson@flmnh.ufl.edu)) 253-273-1965, 307 Dickinson Hall  
TAs: Wenyi Zhou and Daniel Montalvo, 305 Dickinson

Text: Ornithology, Fourth Edition (Gill and Prum)

Office Hours: Each Wed. 1-3 or by appointment.

Date Lecture topic (Chapter in Text)

*Section 1: Evolution, flight, senses, and physiology*

Jan. 10 Introduction (Preface)

12 Origin and Diversity (1)

17 Evolutionary History (2)

24 Phylogenetics and Systematics; speciation (3, 19) **Feathers/flight**

26 Feathers and the evolution of flight (4,5)

31 Flight, continued **Phylogenetics**

Feb. 2 Physiology (6)

7 Senses (7)

9 **Review for Exam 1 (Exam in evening at 7:00PM)**

*Section 2: Behavior*

14 Cognition (7)

16 Vocalizations (8)

21 Annual cycles (9)

23 Migration and orientation (10)

28 Guest lecture on Intratropical migration

March 2 Social behavior (11); bird sex (12)

7 Reproduction (12)

9 Sexual selection (13)

21 Mating systems (14)

23 **Review for Exam 2 (Exam in evening at 7:00PM)**

*Section 3: Life Histories, Population and Community Ecology, and Conservation*

28 Brood parasitism (14)

30 Cooperative breeding (14)

April 4 Nests and incubation (15)

6 Life histories (17)

11 Population Biology (18)

- 13 Speciation (19)
- 18 Community ecology (20)
- 20 Conservation (21)
- 25 **Review for Exam 3 (Exam in evening at 7:00 PM)**

### **Laboratory**

Meets weekly in the mornings when we go over avian anatomy, learn the families of birds of the world, and learn how to identify birds by sight and sound.

There will be 4 Saturday field trips, including one to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge

### **Grading:**

3 hourly exams, each worth 100 points=300 points. Exams held in the evenings from 7-10; class on the day of the exam will be a review session.

Lab: 170 points

No cumulative final

### **Total: 470 points**

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: [catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/)

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

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 [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/). 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 [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/](https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/).