

Valdosta State University
Department of Biology
BIOL 4000: Special Topics Field Methods in Ornithology
Course Syllabus, Summer I 2024

Instructor: Dr. Erin Grabarczyk

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Office drop-in hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 3-4PM, BlazeView TEAMS.

Lab: M-F: 8:00-11:50AM

Lecture: M-F: 12:00-12:50PM

Required materials: National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, by Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan Alderfer or other identification guide. A field notebook.

If needed, binoculars will be supplied to all students.

Course overview: The purpose of this course is to explore methods in field ornithology used to ask questions of avian biology, ecology, and behavior. Students will learn various techniques such as how to identify birds by sight and sound. This course is designed for students who are interested in the study of birds and their behavior. The course will cover a wide range of topics including bird anatomy, behavior, and conservation. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in field research and to learn about the latest techniques in field ornithology. The course is designed to be both informative and fun, and to provide students with a solid foundation in the field of ornithology. The course is designed to be both informative and fun, and to provide students with a solid foundation in the field of ornithology.

Cheating: You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://valdosta.edu> under Student Code of Conduct.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test. All forms of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to collusion, fabrication, cheating and plagiarism are worthy of punishment according to the policy set forth by Valdosta State University. This includes doing your own work on lab assignments. While you are allowed to brainstorm with each other, it is expected that your answers are your own. **I will not tolerate any form of cheating.**

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in University Center Room 4136 Entrance 5. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit [VSU's Access Office](#) or email: access@valdosta.edu

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May 9	1	Lab: Mist nest management Lecture: Introduction to mist netting, banding, safe handling of birds	
May 10	1	Lab: Bird extraction, safe handling, binoculars. Lecture: Introduce bird list 1. Assign species for presentations	Bird list 1
May 13	2	Lab: Mist netting @ field station. Lecture: How to measure behavior. Anti-predator behavior. Introduce bird list 2	Bird list 2
May 14	2	Lab: Mist netting @ field station Lecture: Census techniques	
May 15	2	Lab: ID color-banded birds on campus, territory mapping Lecture: Territory intrusions	
May 16	2	Lab: Mist netting, check-in for independent projects Lecture: Conservation challenges facing birds today –	