

**ENR 2360 (2 semester credits)
Lecture & Field Lab**

**Ecology and Conservation of Birds
Summer 2025**

Introduction to principles and methods of ornithology. We will discuss topics including behavioral ecology, population biology, field methods, conservation, and species ID.

Instructor:

Dr. Elizabeth Ames
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Meeting Time and Location: Summer Session (2 Jun – 8 Jun 2025)
One-week course, Sunday–Saturday, daily (8am-8pm).
Course held at Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, Ohio

Course Description: In this class, we will seek to answer the following questions: 1) what are birds, 2) how do birds work, and 3) how do we manage and conserve bird populations? After completion of the course we will achieve the following goals and objectives:

Course Goals	Learning Objectives
1) Have an appreciation for what makes birds unique (from other animals and from one another)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be able to identify most common eastern N American species and families• Have the skills to learn taxonomy of species/Families/Orders not covered in this class
2) Develop an understanding of the diverse ways birds complete their life cycles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be able to define the various life history strategies of NA birds.• Be able to explain how bird life histories are shaped by their environment and evolution.• Be able to describe how birds are unique from other vertebrates, and how they are similar (both organismally and ecologically).
3) Grasp the fundamental principles behind conserving and managing bird populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be able to explain different forms of population limitation in birds.• Be able to describe the decision process for applying management actions for bird conservation.• Be able to articulate the challenges of bird conservation, particularly of migratory and endangered species.• Be able to evaluate a management plan
4) Appreciate the role birds play in different types of ecosystems and in society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be able to describe different types of ecological roles birds can play, and ecosystem services they can provide.• Be able to explain the laws that regulate how birds are managed and conserved in NA.

Required Text: Sibley Guide to Birds of Eastern North America (OSU-Marion Bookstore with online order option)

Course Schedule:

Day	Morning (8am – 12pm)	Afternoon (1-4pm)	Evening (6:15-8pm)
Monday	Arrival	Orientation	Lecture: <i>Course Intro, What are Birds?</i>
Tuesday	Stone Lab <i>Bird Banding/ Morphometrics</i>	Lecture: <i>Avian Life Histories, Breeding Physiology</i>	Lab: <i>Birds of Lake Erie Region, Using eBird</i>
Wednesday	Field Trip: Ottawa NWR <i>Wetland and Lake Birds</i>	Field Trip: Ottawa NWR	ID Review
Thursday	Field Trip: Oak Openings Metropark <i>Grassland & Forest Birds</i>	Field Trip: Oak Openings; ID QUIZ 1	Stone Lab Lecture; open study
Friday	Field Trip: South Bass Island <i>Estimating abundance/tracking</i>	Lecture: <i>Annual Cycles</i> (Migration, Stationary Non-breeding)	ID Review + Movie Night: <i>Life of Birds!</i>
Saturday	Stone Lab <i>Bird Banding/ Morphometrics</i>	Lecture: <i>Annual Cycles ctd.</i> ; ID QUIZ 2 ; Lecture: <i>Management and Conservation</i>	Open Study for Final Exam
Sunday	8am-10am: Final Exam		

Course Grading:

Participation	20 points
eBird Summary	20 points
Identification quizzes	20 points
Final exam	<u>40 points</u>
Total	100 points

Grading Scale:

A	93-100%	B-	80-82%	D+	67-69%
A-	90-92%	C+	77-79%	D	60-66%
B+	87-89%	C	73-76%	E	<60%
B	83-86%	C-	70-72%		

Field Trips: All field trips are required and participation expected. Unexcused absences for a field trip will result in a letter grade deduction (e.g., A to B).

eBird Summary: You will be asked to submit an eBird account, submit checklists for all outings, and submit a summary compiled on eBird on the final day of class.

Identification Quizzes: Quizzes will take place in the field and/or lab depending on time/weather conditions

Final Exam: The final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer.

Academic Misconduct: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT TO INVESTIGATE OR ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF ALL REPORTED CASES OF STUDENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT. THE TERM "ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT" INCLUDES ALL FORMS OF

STUDENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT WHEREVER COMMITTED; ILLUSTRATED BY, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CASES OF PLAGIARISM AND DISHONEST PRACTICES IN CONNECTION WITH EXAMINATIONS. INSTRUCTORS SHALL REPORT ALL INSTANCES OF ALLEGED ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT TO THE COMMITTEE (FACULTY RULE 3335-5-487). FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEE THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AT [HTTP://STUDENTLIFE.OSU.EDU/CSC/](http://STUDENTLIFE.OSU.EDU/CSC/).

Special Needs: *Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.*