

BIO. 459/559 - SUMMER 2012

Course Requirements

Attendance:

1. The best method for learning to identify birds is constant repetition and consultation with expert sources (individuals and/or field guides). This is especially true when you are trying to learn songs. Since this course only meets for 4 weeks, it is important that you not miss any class meetings. Each day will provide different opportunities and classes cannot be made-up.
2. I also expect everyone to be present for the discussion sessions. It is at these sessions where additional information will be presented and quizzes will be given. I will not redo the slide or lecture presentations given at these times.

Exams:

1. During each Monday afternoon session, a quiz on identification will be given. These will not count toward your grade, they are strictly to help me know what your level of birding knowledge is when you start this course and how you are progressing.
2. Field Exam - An exam of field recognition skills will be given during the last Thursday of class (July 15). You may use your field guide but you may not use other notes to talk to each other.
3. Final Exam – A single written exam will be given on the last afternoon of the class (July 19). This will cover information from the daily trips, information presented during the discussion sessions or given in handouts, and information from the text.

Paper:

A paper will be required of each person enrolled in this course. This will be primarily a literature review of a topic in ornithology that is of interest to you. This is not simply a “life history” but a discussion and comparison of journal articles relating to the topic of your choice. At least 7 of your references should be from primary sources; i.e.; journal articles, not general books or other edited material. These other sources may certainly be used in addition to your primary sources.

By Thursday of the 2nd week (July 5) you will need to turn in your proposed topic and all references that you have thus far found. You may not need to use all of these sources in your paper and you may still change topic at this point if you wish. I simply wish to be sure that you are meeting course expectations before the end of the class.

All sources must be cited in the back (please, no footnotes at the bottom of the pages). This is not a bibliography but a literature citation. That is, all references listed must be cited in the text using a standard format for scientific papers (Author, year).

The final draft of this paper is due no later than Thursday, July 19 (last day of class).

Papers without sources or without sources properly cited and papers with many spelling and/or grammatical errors are not acceptable and may not be graded.

Example of cited reference:

Within text:

(Andersson, et al., 1998)

In citations list at end of paper:

Andersson, Staffan, Jonas Örnberg and Malte Andersson. 1998. Ultraviolet sexual dimorphism and assortative mating in blue tits. Proc. R. Soc. Lond., B 264: 445–450.

Grading:

Grades will be based on the following formula:

Paper (80 pts) + Field exam (50 pts) + Final exam (150 pts) + subjective (20)=300 pts.

Bi 459/559 – Field Ornithology Summer, 2012

Schedule

(subject to change)

Week 1

Monday, June 25	Alton Baker Park Introduction; Color
Tuesday, June 26	Fern Ridge Reservoir – Royal Avenue
Wednesday, June 27	Skinner’s Butte Feathers & Flight
Thursday, June 28	Howard Buford Recreation Area (Mt. Pisgah) – Arboretum

Week 2

Monday, July 2	Delta Ponds - river trail Senses
Tuesday, July 3	Fern Ridge Reservoir - Royal Avenue
Wednesday, July 4	Holiday—not class
Thursday, July 5	Howard Buford Recreation Area – eastside trail

Week 3

Monday, July 9	Howard Buford Recreation Area – summit trail Avian physiology
Tuesday, July 10	Fern Ridge Reservoir – Fisher Butte Management Unit
Wednesday, July 11	Meadowlark Prairie – Terry St. entrance Reproduction; Eggs; Brood parasitism
Thursday, July 12	Fern Ridge Reservoir - Zumwalt Park

Week 4

Monday, July 16	Alton Baker Park Mating patterns; Song
Tuesday, July 17	Fern Ridge Reservoir – Kirk Pond
Wednesday, July 18	No trip; Final written exam (during normal lecture time)
Thursday, July 19	Field Exam