



RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY | NEWARK

Biology 328 Q1 Ecology of Birds Fall 2022 (3 credits)

WELCOME!

Lectures or Fieldtrip: Tuesday: 8:30am – 11:20am-3:50pm, Lectures at Engelhard 303

Pre-requisite Undergraduate evolution, plant ecology, or ecology. The class is open to a limited number of graduate students (see instructor)

Final exam: Tuesday, Dec.20, 2022, 9-11:20am; details TBA

Instructor: Dr. Claus Holzapfel

Email: holzapfe@rutgers.edu

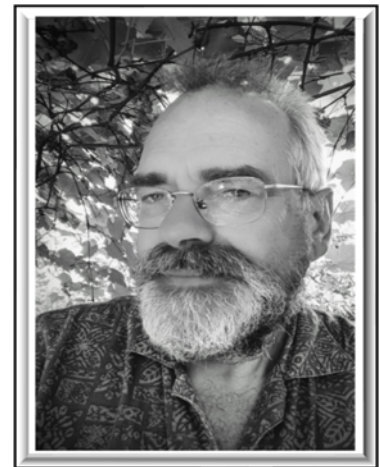
Office: Boyden 408

Office Hours: see under ‘*Appointment policy*’

Course Description: Designed as introduction to aspects of the biology of birds, this class will combine field trips with lectures and a student seminar. Students will be exposed to current themes in evolution and ecology of birds and will also learn how to actively study birds in their habitats and thereby understand and appreciate the high diversity of birds.

This class is field oriented and will combine lectures with **required** field trips. **Enrolling students have to make sure that they are able to participate (see schedule, there can be no replacement dates).** Students will be required to prepare and deliver a 15 minutes presentation

on particular topics that will assigned at the beginning of the class. As this is a Writing Intensive (WI) course, student need to develop a written paper of their respective presentation topics that will undergo 2 rounds of editing. All-class period field trips (5) need to be documented by a written trip protocol (based on taken field notes on the trip). Besides longer field trips, we will conduct small “field trips” to observe birds on campus.



Fulfills *Laboratory/Field Experience* requirement towards B.A., B.SC. in Biology, Writing intensive

Course-Level Learning Outcomes:

1. In an outdoor setting, students will learn how to build observation skills and learn how to ask questions and build hypotheses about natural phenomena.
2. Students will understand that biodiversity is found in human dominated landscapes as well and how urban environments are part of our natural history.
3. Students will learn to appreciate biodiversity and will develop citizen-based and professional stewardship skills. Thus, they will understand social and ethical implications of biological study and the responsibilities that arise from biological knowledge.
4. Students will learn and practice how to acquire information on a selected topic, critically assess information and learn how to transmit this in scientifically sound yet publically assessable format.
5. By studying a particular group of animals (here birds) in detail, students will practice observation and analytical skills that will be useful to them in a wide (and maybe even not related) range of topics.
6. The writing assignments will introduce students to particular topics from field note taking techniques to scientific writing in general.

Course Policies:

Academic Dishonesty Policy: There is ZERO tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course which includes both cheating and any form of plagiarism. The punishment for dishonesty in this course will be a zero on the assignment and a consultation with the Dean's Office after which further action may be required. Please ask if you have any questions on this policy. You should also consult Rutgers University's Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>

Lecture policy: All lectures will be given live

Email policy: Other questions can be emailed – I will do my best to answer emails received on weekdays (those sent between 9am Monday and 5pm Friday) within 24 hours. Emails received on the weekend (after 5pm on Friday or before 8am on Monday) will be answered within 24 hours of the following Monday at 9am. General course communication from the instructor will be through Blackboard

Appointment policy: Requests for appointments should be made *at least* 24 hours in advance. To request an appointment, send an email that includes your name, the class you are in, and a list of the times you are available. All meetings can be held via Zoom or in person, your preference.

Course materials policy: All course materials are for students' own use only (no sharing or posting anywhere).

Religious Holiday Policy: Students are advised to provide timely (at least one class time prior) notification to instructor about necessary absences for religious observances and are responsible for making up the work or exams according to an agreed-upon schedule.

Disability Services: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must complete and submit the Registration Form, schedule and complete an intake meeting, and submit appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If your request for reasonable accommodations is approved, you will receive a Letter of Accommodations (LOA), **which you should present privately to the instructor as early in the semester as possible.** Accommodations are not retroactive and are effective only upon submission of the LOA to the instructor. Please begin by submitting a completed Registration Form at the website below.

- **Applying for Services:** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/applying-for-services>
- **Documentation Guidelines:** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>
- **Letter of Accommodations (LOA):** <https://ods.rutgers.edu/my-accommodations/letter-of-accommodations>
- **Office of Disability Services (ODS)**
Suite 219, Paul Robeson Campus Center
(973) 353-5375
odsnewark@rutgers.edu

Required Course Materials:

Sibley, David Allen (2003, or newer): **The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America.** Knopf, New York ISBN 0-679-45120-X, \$19.95 (or less).

There may be selected additional readings will be posted weekly on the class site (Canvas)

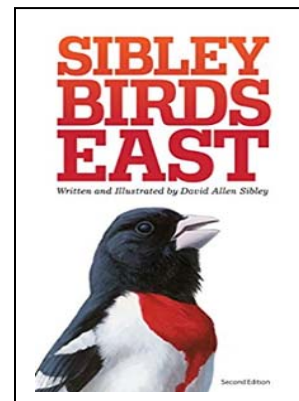
Course Website: on CANVAS, login with your NetID.

Modes of Assessment:

Grades	Points
Midterm	20
Project Paper and Presentation	30
Field trip protocols (5 of them)	25
Final Exam	25
Total	100

Exams. There will be two exams.

Participation: Attendance is mandatory. If you must miss a class for a valid reason (reason has to be documented), please discuss making up the missed material with your instructor as soon as possible. Deadlines for assignments will be given at the beginning of the class and are binding, make-up dates will be given only for valid reasons.



Make up exams: Make-up exams will be possible with prior approval. If you do miss an exam, make sure to contact instructor within two days of the missed exam

Grades and Assessments:

Course Grade: Grades will be determined by performance on exams and assignments (as outlined above). Grades will be determined by the percentage of the possible points earned, following the standard grade scale below. Grades are not curved. Do not ask for extra credit.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 – 100
B+	85 – 89.99
B	80 – 84.99
C+	75 – 79.99
C	70 – 74.99
D	60 – 69.99
F	0 – 59.99

Your scores will be posted to Canvas so you can keep track of your progress in the course. ***It is up to you to calculate your current grade in the course at any given time using the grade breakdown posted above.***

Please let me know ASAP if you require accommodations for a disability or if you have any concerns about the course so that we can work to resolve them. For advice on how to best succeed in this course, feel free to make an appointment to speak with me. **I am here to help!**

Additional Learning Resources:

- Rutgers Learning Center (tutoring services)
Room 140, Bradley Hall
(973) 353-5608
<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/rlc>
- Writing Center (tutoring and writing workshops)
Room 126, Conklin Hall
(973) 353-5847
nwc@newark.rutgers.edu
<https://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/writingcenter>



Please note: the following is a tentative schedule. Any changes made will be announced & posted to Blackboard.

WEEK	MEETING TOPIC	NOTES/READING ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS
Week 1: Sept6	1. Introduction: What makes a bird?	Workshop
Week 2 Sept13	2. Observing birds	Workshop, topic selection
Week 3 Sep20	Field trip: Meadowlands 1	
Week 4 Sept27	3. Flight and Migration 4. Vocalization	
Week 5 Oct4	Fieldtrip: Montclair Hawk Watch	
Week 6 Oct11	5. Breeding and Populations	
Week 7 Oct18	Filed trip: Bayonne	1 st draft of paper due
Week 8 Oct25	6. Ecology of Feeding	Midterm
Week 9 Nov 1	Fieldtrip: Meadowlands 2	
Week 10 Nov8	7. Biogeography and communities	2 nd draft
Week 11 Nov15	Fieldtrip: Great Swamp, Watchung	
Week 12 Nov22	No class: Thanksgiving change day	
Week 13 Nov29	8. Evolution and Speciation 9. Humans and birds 1	
Week 14 Dec6	10. Humans and birds 2 Student presentations	Final paper due, presentation
Week 15 Dec13	Student presentations	Presentations

DATE OF FINAL EXAM: DEC. 20

