

Waterfowl Ecology and Management

(WILD 361/561)

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Fall 2020

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15PM

Lab: Tuesday 9:00-10:50AM

Instructor:

Dr. Benjamin Sedinger

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Virtual office hours: By appointment

Course Description:

This course covers the history, theory and application of waterfowl ecology and management. Lectures are used to cement core concepts introduced in weekly readings. Labs focus on the application and management of waterfowl ecology. Exams will cover core concepts and will consist of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Course Objectives:

1. Identify waterfowl by species and sex, both 'on the wing' and in the hand.
2. Understand core concepts in waterfowl ecology and be able to apply them to management scenarios.
3. Gain experience in common waterfowl field techniques.
4. Develop a working knowledge of wetland plants important to waterfowl both locally and across North America.
5. Be able to effectively communicate objectives 1-4 both verbally and in writing.

Required Text:

Crossley, R., P. Baicich and J. Barry. 2017. The Crossley ID guide: waterfowl. Crossley Books 1st Edition. [UWSP text rental or online]

Optional Text:

Baldassarre, G.A. and E.G. Bolen. 2006. Waterfowl Ecology and Management. 2nd Edition. [online]

Other resources:

1. [Carney Waterfowl Wing Plumage Guide](#)
2. [USFWS Waterfowl ID Website](#)
3. [Cornel Lab of Ornithology](#)
4. [Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of MN and WI](#)
5. [Aquatic and wetland vascular plants of the northern Great Plains](#)
6. Peer-reviewed literature *TBD during semester*

Grading:

Assignments, quizzes and exams will cover material presented in the course (lecture, labs, reading). Grades are assigned as follows:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	73-76 = C	60-66 = D
90-92 = A-	80-82 = B-	70-72 = C-	0-59 = F
87-89 = B+	77-79 = C+	67-69 = D+	

Grading scale may be adjusted depending on class performance. Assignments must be turned in on time and will be docked 10% for each day they are late.

Make-up exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances if instructor is notified within 24 hours of the missed exam and written documentation is provided for the absence.

Assignments and scoring:

Lab projects (Plant ID and Waterfowl surveys) and other assignments	150pts
Lab ID quiz	50pts
Discussion participation	50pts
Exam 1	50pts
Exam 2	50pts
Final Exam 17-December 2019 2:45-4:45pm	100pts

Tentative schedule

	DATE	TOPIC
LEC	9/3	IntroDUCkTion
LAB	9/8	<i>Waterfowl and plant ID. Introduction to class projects (zoom)</i>
LEC	9/8	Systematics and biogeography
LEC	9/10	Evolution
LAB	9/15	<i>Waterfowl survey and wetland plant collection #1 (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	9/15	<i>Waterfowl survey and wetland plant collection #1 (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	9/17	Life history evolution and Koons et al. 2014 – Discussion #1
LAB	9/22	<i>Determining species, age, and sex from wings (zoom)</i>
LEC	9/22	Feeding ecology
LEC	9/24	Review and feeding ecology case study – Discussion #2
LAB	9/29	<i>Waterfowl ID quiz (Canvas timed quiz)</i>
LEC	9/29	TWS Waterfowl Talks
LEC	10/1	TWS Waterfowl Talks
LAB	10/6	<i>Waterfowl survey and wetland plant collection #2 (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	10/6	<i>Waterfowl survey and wetland plant collection #2 (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	10/8	Exam #1
LAB	10/13	Activity budgets (zoom)
LEC	10/13	<i>Activity budgets (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	10/15	Annual cycle & migration
LAB	10/20	<i>Detection probability and fun with the FWS waterfowl survey learning tool (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	10/20	Winter ecology & carryover effects
LEC	10/22	Breeding ecology
LAB	10/27	<i>Waterfowl survey #3 (OYO outside)</i>

LEC	10/27	<i>Waterfowl survey #3 (OYO outside)</i>
LEC	10/29	Breeding ecology
LAB	11/3	<i>Exam Week – No lab</i>
LEC	11/3	Review and annual cycle case study – Discussion #3
LEC	11/5	Exam #2
LAB	11/10	<i>Waterfowl banding and vital rate estimation (zoom)</i>
LEC	11/10	History of waterfowl management
LEC	11/12	Harvest management
LAB	11/17	<i>Mississippi River fall migration – virtual fieldtrip (zoom)</i>
LEC	11/17	DNR biologists – Waterfowl science and management in Wisconsin
LEC	11/19	Tim Eisele – Ding Darling and the Federal duck stamp program
LAB	11/24	<i>Work on duck ID and wetland plant project - Due 12/1/2020 (zoom)</i>
LEC	11/24	Harvest management case study – Discussion #4
LEC	11/26	Thanksgiving
LAB	12/1	<i>Estimating duck use days (zoom)</i>
LEC	12/1	Habitat management
LEC	12/3	Habitat management
LAB	12/8	<i>Tutakoke River, AK virtual fieldtrip (zoom)</i>
LEC	12/8	Habitat management case study – Discussion #5
LEC	12/10	Review
FE	12/15	Final Exam 15-December 2:45-4:45PM

***OYO outside = on your own outside

Academic Dishonesty: Don't cheat — aside from the fact that cheating is cause for dismissal from the university, you are just short-changing yourself when you stoop to that. You're better than that, and UWSP is better than that. If you wanted an "education" where your grades, rather than your learning, was the most important thing then you should have gone somewhere else.

Harassment: Be cool. Nobody likes a bully or a jerk. If I see any form of harassment, whether in my classroom or anywhere else on campus, I'll report it to the Dean of Students, I've got no patience for that kind of behavior. Everybody is different, and we all deserve to be treated with respect.

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