Waterfowl Ecology and Management

(WILD 361/561)
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point
Spring 2022
Lecture: Monday & Wednesday 9:30-10:45AM in TNR 359
Lab: Wednesday 11:00-12:50AM in TNR 359 (and outside!)

Instructor:
Dr. Benjamin Sedinger
Office: TNR 342
Phone: 715-346-2529
Email: ben.sedinger@uwsp.edu (preferred)
Office hours:

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.

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 and other assignments	150pts
Lab ID quiz	50pts
Participation	50pts
Exam 1	50pts
Final Exam	100pts

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.

Recording: Lecture materials and recordings for WLDL361 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. You are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Tentative schedule

Date	Lecture	Lab	Supporting material
1/24	IntroDUCKtion		
1/26	Waterfowl ID #1		The Crossley ID guide
1/31	Early Evolution and Systematics		
2/2	Waterfowl ID #2		The Crossley ID guide
2/7	Biogeography		
2/9	Yukon Delta NWR – Virtual fieldtrip		
2/14	Evolution		Koons et al. 2014
2/16	Feeding Ecology		
2/21	Foraging ecology		Pöysä, H. 1983
2/23	**Waterfowl ID Quiz**		
2/28	Annual Cycle & Migration		Drent 2006
3/2	Breeding Ecology and John Lynch discussion		Lynch 1984
3/7	Post-Breeding Ecology		
3/9	WDNR – Taylor Finger, Allicyn Nelson, Tyler Strelow		Finger and Rohrer 2020
3/14	Winter Ecology & Carryover Effects		Sedinger and Alisauskas 2014
3/16	**Exam #1**		
3/21	**Spring Break**		
3/23	**Spring Break**		
3/28	History of Waterfowl Management		Anderson et al. 2018
3/30	Waterfowl surveys and abundance estimation		
4/4	Harvest Management I		Cooch et al. 2014
4/6	Band Recovery Analysis and Discussion		
4/9**	**Goose Pond Fieldtrip?**		
4/11	Harvest Management II		
4/13*	**Waterfowl survey on your own**		
4/16**	**Goose Pond Fieldtrip?**		
4/18	Habitat Management I		Runge et al. 2006
4/20*	**Mead Wildlife Area fieldtrip**		
4/25	Habitat Management II		
4/27	**Duck capture fieldtrip**		
5/2	Guest lecture – Tim Eisele		
5/4*	**Schmeeckle Nest Box Fieldtrip**		
5/9	Guest Lecture – Chris Nicolai Delta Waterfowl		
5/11	Semester Review and final exam		
5/18	**FINAL EXAM DUE**		

***Fieldtrip, please prepare accordingly**
****All Saturday Fieldtrip**