

Waterfowl Ecology and Management

(WILD 361/561)

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Spring 2023

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 9:30-10:45AM in TNR 359

Lab: Thursday 11:00-12:50AM in TNR 359 (and outside!)

Instructor:

Dr. Benjamin Sedinger

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Office hours: TBD

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.

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 during lecture and lab. I want you to learn this material, not stress over your grades on these assessments. If your work indicates that you do not understand something, I want you to have the opportunity to think about it more. Instead of the typical point scheme that is traditionally used, we are going to use contract grading this semester. On the first day of class I will hand out contracts for you to sign based on the amount of work you are willing to put in for your grade at the end of the semester. The contract is outlined here:

(1) Class Attendance/Discussion

Class attendance is required. For a grade of A, students will attend at least 12 classes. For a grade of B, students will attend at least 10 classes. If readings are assigned, students will come to class prepared to discuss these readings.

(2) Waterfowl Identification

We will spend the first few weeks of the semester on learning about waterfowl identification and will have an ID quiz on 2/23. For an A, students will score a 3 on the quiz (0-3 point scale). For a grade of B, students will score a 2 on the quiz. Students receiving a 1 or 2 will have the opportunity to complete a follow up assignment to increase their score.

(3) Field Trips

For an A, students will attend all fieldtrips unless absence and make up is arranged with Sedinger before the trip. For a B, students will attend 4/5 fieldtrips unless absence and make up is arranged with Sedinger before the trip.

(4) Lab Assignments

For an A, students will score >2.5 on lab assignment average (3 total assignments). For a B, students score an average of 2 on lab assignments.

(5) Final project

For a grade of A students will score a 3 on the class project. For a B students will score a 2 on the class project.

(6) Exams

For a grade of A students will average >2 on the midterm and final exams. For a B, students will average 2 on both exams.

(7) A NOTE ON GRADES OTHER THAN AN A OR B

Students not meeting requirements for an A or B will receive a C if commensurate for the amount and quality of work completed. For a C, students will attend $>50\%$ of fieldtrips and will score <2 on assignments/quiz/exams. Students who miss most fieldtrips and score <2 on their assignment/quiz/exams average will receive a D or F in the course.

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. 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 on the next page!

Tentative schedule

Date	Lecture	Lab (Thursday)
1/24	IntroDUCKtion	Wing identification #1
1/26	Waterfowl ID #1	
1/31	WI TWS	
2/2	WI TWS	
2/7	Life history evolution	Wing identification #2
2/9	Waterfowl ID #2	
2/14	Early evolution and systematics	Open lab for studying specimens
2/16	Biogeography	
2/21	Feeding ecology	
2/23	Waterfowl ID Quiz	
2/28	Foraging ecology	
3/2	Annual Cycle & Migration	Virtual fieldtrip to YKD
3/7	Breeding Ecology	
3/9	Post-Breeding Ecology	Communicating waterfowl science
3/14	Winter Ecology & Carryover Effects	
3/16	Waterfowl survey on your own	
3/21	Spring Break	
3/23	Spring Break	
3/28	History of Waterfowl Management	Waterfowl surveys and abundance estimation
3/30	Guest Lecture – Chris Nicolai Delta Waterfowl	
4/4	Guest Lecture – WDNR Biologists	Activity budgets at Pfiffner Park*
4/6	Activity budgets at Pfiffner Park*	
4/9	Harvest Management I	Band Recovery Analysis and Discussion
4/11	Band Recovery Analysis and Discussion	
4/8 or 4/15	Goose Pond Saturday Fieldtrip**	
4/18	Harvest Management II	Waterfowl survey on your own
4/20	Waterfowl survey on your own	
4/25	Habitat Management I	Mead Wildlife Area Fieldtrip*
4/27	Mead Wildlife Area Fieldtrip*	
5/2	Habitat Management II	Schmeckle Nest Box Fieldtrip*
5/4	Schmeckle Nest Box Fieldtrip*	
5/9	Semester Review	
5/11	Semester Review	
5/15	FINAL EXAM 12:30-2:30 PM	

*Lab fieldtrip, please prepare accordingly

**All Saturday fieldtrip