

Waterfowl Ecology and Management

(WILD 361/561)

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Fall 2019

Lecture: Monday & Wednesday 9:30-10:45AM

Lab: Wednesday 12:00-1:50PM + One full-day Saturday field trip

Instructor:

Dr. Benjamin Sedinger

Office: TNR 342

Phone: 715-346-2529

Email: ben.sedinger@uwsp.edu

Office hours: Monday 10:50-11:50am

Teaching Assistant:

Jordan Thompson

Office: TBD

Email: jthom003@uwsp.edu

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 at least one essay question. The final project involves writing a formal research paper and a short presentation to the class.

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 hands on 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.
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Required Text:

Baldassarre, G.A. and E.G. Bolen. 2006. *Waterfowl Ecology and Management*. 2nd Edition. *Rentals are available through UWSP bookstore.*

Optional (but very useful) Text:

Crossley, R., P. Baicich and J. Barry. 2017. *The Crossley ID guide: waterfowl*. Crossley Books 1st Edition. 512 pp.

Other resources:

1. Cornell Lab of Ornithology (www.allaboutbirds.org)

2. 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 Assignments & Quizzes	100pts
Discussion participation	100pts
Exam 1	50pts
Exam 2	50pts
Final Exam 17-December 2019 2:45-4:45pm	100pts

Lecture Schedule (tentative):

WEEK	TOPIC
1	IntroDUCKtion
2	Systematics and biogeography
3	ID Quiz , Evolution
4	Feeding ecology and Mead Fieldtrip (**lecture and lab combined**)
5	TBD
6	Case Studies (discussion #1) and Exam #1
7	Annual cycle & migration
8	Winter ecology & carryover effects (possibly combined with lab**)
9	Breeding ecology
10	Case Studies (discussion #2) and Exam #2
11	History of waterfowl management
12	Habitat management
13	Harvest management & Thanksgiving
14	Harvest management cont. & Case Studies (discussion #3)
15	Waterfowl discussion (discussion #3) and Review
16	Final Exam 17-December 2:45-4:45PM

Lab Schedule (tentative):

WEEK	TOPIC
1	Waterfowl ID

2	Waterfowl ID #2
3	BPOP and aerial Survey Online Assessment
4	Fieldtrip to Mead Wildlife Area (outside) 9:30AM-1:50PM
5	TBD
6	Banding lab and intro to band-recovery analysis
7	Band-recovery analysis cont.
8	Waterfowl Survey & activity budgets (outside)
9	Case studies (discussion #4)
10	TBD
11	Saturday (11/9 OR 11/16) Trip to Mississippi River (7am – 7pm)
12	Waterfowl activity budget data analysis
13	Thanksgiving – NO LAB
14	Project work session
15	Final Projects Due, Course discussion