

Waterfowl Ecology and Management

(WILD 361/561)

University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Fall 2021

Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00-12:15PM in TNR 359

Lab: Tuesday 9:00-10:50AM in TNR 354 (and outside!)

Instructor:

Dr. Benjamin Sedinger

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Office hours: Thursdays 1:00-2:00pm

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. [Cornell 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
Participation	50pts
Exam 1	50pts
Final Exam 16-December from 10:15am-12:15pm	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	Topic	Supporting material
9/2	IntroDUCKtion	Pennisi 2019
9/7	Waterfowl ID #1	The Crossley ID guide
9/9	Mallard Capture ***Fieldtrip***	
9/14	Waterfowl ID #2 and Evolution	Koons et al. 2014
9/16	Early Evolution and Systematics	
9/21	ID Quiz & Biogeography	
9/23	Feeding and Foraging Ecology	Pöysä, H. 1983
9/28	Mead SWA ***Fieldtrip***	
9/30	Annual Cycle & Migration	Drent 2006
10/5	Plant Survey ***on your own***	
10/7	Winter Ecology & Carryover Effects	Sedinger and Alisauskas 2014
10/12	Waterfowl Survey ***on your own***	
10/14	TBD	
10/19	Activity Budget ***Fieldtrip***	
10/21	Activity Budget Analysis	
10/26	J. Lynch Discussion & Breeding Ecology I	Lynch 1984
10/28	Breeding Ecology II	
11/2	History of Waterfowl Management	Anderson et al. 2018
11/4	Banding and Vital Rate Estimation	
11/6	SATURDAY FIELDTRIP 7am-7pm	
11/9	Band Recovery Analysis and Discussion	
11/11	Harvest Management	Cooch et al. 2014
11/16	Project work session	
11/18	Habitat Management	Runge et al. 2006
11/23	TBD	
11/25	Thanksgiving – NO CLASS	
11/30	Guest Lecture – Tim Eisele	
12/2	Guest Lecture – DNR (Drew Fowler and Taylor Finger)	Finger and Rohrer 2020
12/7	Tutako River Field Camp Virtual Fieldtrip	
12/9	Semester Review	
12/16	FINAL EXAM 10:15am-12:15pm	