

Wildlife 372/572: Wildlife of North America Spring 2022

Contact Info

Instructor: Dr. Marie Perkins
Virtual: Tues. 3:00 - 4:00 or by appointment
Office Hours: Join URL: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041>
Email: mperkins@uwsp.edu
Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 2:50, TNR 352
Lab: Monday 12:00 - 1:50 or 2:00 - 3:50; see below for meeting location
TA: Kaylee Woelfel; kwoel508@uwsp.edu

*You can find changes to the lecture and lab schedule and lab meeting locations in the live shared document, link found on Canvas

Course Description

As future wildlife managers, educators, interpreters, rangers, wardens, and naturalists, you need to know something about the wildlife in your area to enforce conservation laws, develop education programs, and respond to public inquiries. As a major emphasis in this course, we will explore the taxonomy, natural history, and relevant management issues associated with major groups of wildlife and fish species in North America. Priority attention is given to species of significant social or economic value, and also on species found in Wisconsin. The course will develop your identification skills and natural history knowledge.

Learning Objectives

1. Visually identify >150 North American fish and wildlife species
2. Describe the life history characteristics and identify the historic and present geographic range of North American fish and wildlife species
3. Describe the relevant habitat features and conservation needs of specialist species
4. Recognize and apply knowledge of species' natural history to describe its management implications for public use of and education about wildlife
5. Develop a "naturalistic intelligence" through observation and reflection
6. Participate in common citizen science programs associated with North American wildlife

Required Text

Mammals of the Great Lakes Region (2017) by Allen Kurta. Available for purchase at the UWSP bookstore. This is a good time to start building your natural history library if you have not already!

Optional Texts

- Students will find field guides for birds, mammals, and fish (e.g., Peterson series, generally < \$20) extremely useful in meeting the objectives of the course. If you do not yet own field guides, they would be a good professional investment.
- Recommended bird guides: The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America; A field guide to the birds of Eastern and Central North America (Peterson guide); National Geographic Society, A Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

- Mammal Tracks & Sign: A Guide to North American Species, by Mark Elbroch and Casey McFarland. 2019 Stackpole Books.

Binoculars

It's recommended that you have pair of binoculars available to use throughout this course. As with field guides, a pair of high-quality binoculars would be a good professional investment. Binoculars recommended for use in this course should have a magnification of at least 6x (preferably 7x or 8x) and no greater than 10x. They should be able to focus within 18 ft or less (referred to as close focus distance) to see wildlife at close range. Your field of view and how much light enters are determined by the diameter of the lens. The usual rule is that the lens diameter must be at least 5 times the magnification, for example, 8x binoculars should have a lens diameter of at least $8 \times 5 = 40$ mm. Typically these would be referred to as 8x40. Binoculars can be checked out of the CNR stock room for short-term use and will be available for some outside labs.

Grading

Quizzes: Quizzes will cover lecture and lab material. There will be 6 quizzes during the semester worth 25 points each and they will **not** be cumulative. These will be available for you to complete on Canvas. They will feature a mix of multiple-choice, matching, and short answer questions, as well as include an extensive portion of wildlife identification from photos, slides. Please note that although scientific names of species are provided during lecture, you will not be tested on them in this class. You will need to be able to spell the common names of all species we cover.

Final Exam: There will be a cumulative final exam worth 50 points covering species identification by sight.

Assignments: You will have a variety of assignments related to lab activities for you to complete during the semester (worth 60 pts total). Many of these assignments will require you to go outside and identify wildlife by sight and sound and collect data on these observations. Details for all assignments will be posted in Canvas.

“Pop Quizzes”: In both lab and lecture, I will be giving numerous small point (3-5 pts, 30 pts total) quizzes related to species identification (by sight) that could include any species covered in prior lectures.

Group Presentation: You will be assigned to a presentation group in Canvas and will work together on multiple assignments related to a current topic associated with a species of North American wildlife, details for all assignments can be found on Canvas.

Field Notebook: Students in this class should take an active interest in improving their skills as wildlife naturalists. To this end, you are expected to maintain a field notebook throughout the semester which details your field experiences and animal encounters, like a semester-long wildlife journal. These entries should include more than just what you identify during your outdoor lab activities. Details on the field notebook requirements will be available in Canvas.

Evaluation		Grades	
	<u>Points</u>		
Quizzes (6 @25pts each)	150	93% and above	A
Final Exam	50	90-92%	A-
Assignments	60	87-89%	B+
“Pop Quizzes”	30	83-86%	B
Group Presentation	50	80-82%	B-
Field notebook	60	77-79%	C+
		73-76%	C
		70-72%	C-
		67-69%	D+
		64-66%	D
		62 and below	F
TOTAL	400		

Face Coverings*:

At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the Disability and Assistive Technology Center to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

***Face covering mandates may change throughout the semester, you are expected to follow the most up-to-date requirements.**

Other Guidance:

- Please monitor your own health each day using this screening tool. If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646).
- As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.
- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

Getting Help:

Please do not be shy about asking for help. You are welcome to email me to schedule a time to meet with me in Zoom. If you are having any trouble understanding something in class, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Academic Dishonesty and Late Work Policy:

Trust between students and the instructor is of paramount importance in academic settings. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in the classroom (e.g., cheating on exams) or in

research efforts (e.g., plagiarism). Academic dishonesty will be punished to the fullest extent that University policy permits.

Inclusivity Statement:

It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that students' learning needs are addressed both in and out of class, and that the diversity all students bring to this class is viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. It is my intent to present materials and activities that are respectful of diversity: gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let me know ways to improve the effectiveness of the course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

If you have experienced a bias incident (an act of conduct, speech, or expression to which a bias motive is evident as a contributing factor regardless of whether the act is criminal) at UWSP, you have the right to report it (<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Bias-Hate-Incident.aspx>). You may also contact the Dean of Students office directly at dos@uwsp.edu.

Equal Access for Students with Disabilities:

UW-Stevens Point will modify academic program requirements as necessary to ensure that they do not discriminate against qualified applicants or students with disabilities. The modifications should not affect the substance of educational programs or compromise academic standards; nor should they intrude upon academic freedom. Examinations or other procedures used for evaluating students' academic achievements may be adapted. The results of such evaluation must demonstrate the student's achievement in the academic activity, rather than describe his/her disability.

If modifications are required due to a disability, please inform the instructor and contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to complete an Accommodations Request form. Phone: 346-3365 or Room 609 Albertson Hall.

Online Materials and Class Recordings:

Lecture materials and recordings for WLDL 372/572 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. If a lecture is not already recorded, 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.

Spring 2022 – Lecture & Lab Schedule

Week of	Monday Lab	Lab Meeting Location	Tuesday	Thursday	Quizzes*
Jan. 24	No Lab		Course intro	North American Model	
Jan. 31	Intro and Birding 101	TNR 359	Classifications	Songbirds	
Feb. 7	Legal classification of animals	Computer lab - TBA	Upland game birds	Upland game birds	Quiz 1 Feb. 10-13
Feb. 14	Birding	Schmeckle Visitor Center	Waterbirds	Cranes*	
Feb. 21	Waterfowl	TNR 354	Raptors	Owls Tracking intro	Quiz 2 Feb. 24-27
Feb. 28	Tracking	Schmeckle Parkway Shelter	Rabbits +	Squirrels and small mammals*	
Mar. 7	Mammal lab	TNR 354	Mustelids	Jumping mice, porcupine, beaver, muskrat*	Quiz 3 Mar. 10-13
Mar. 14	No Lab		Bears	Ungulates	
Mar. 21	Spring Break		Spring Break	Spring Break	
Mar. 28	No Lab		Felids	Canids	Quiz 4 Mar. 31- Apr. 3
Apr. 4	Deer aging and skull ID	TNR 354	Marine Mammals	Fish**	
Apr. 11	iNaturalist	Schmeckle Parkway Shelter	Bats	Fish**	Quiz 5 Apr. 14-17
Apr. 18	No Lab Frog and toad survey		Toads and Frogs	Salamanders	
Apr. 25	Herp lab	TNR 354	Snakes	Crocs, lizards, and turtles	
May 2	No Lab		Climate change	Conservation concerns	Quiz 6 May 5 - 8
May 9	No lab Optional birding trip		Catch up/TBA	Catch up/TBA	Field notebook due

Final Exam: Available 8:00 AM Mon. May 16 until 11:59 PM Thur. May 19

All quizzes will be open on Canvas from 3:00 PM Thurs. until 11:59 PM Sunday

*Guest lecture from Dr. Dubay; **Guest lecture from Dr. Raabe