

# Wildlife 372/572: Wildlife of North America Spring 2024

## **Contact Info**

Instructor:	Dr. Marie Perkins
Office Hours:	By appointment
Location:	TNR 188 or via Zoom: <a href="https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041">https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041</a>
Email:	<a href="mailto:mperkins@uwsp.edu">mperkins@uwsp.edu</a>
Lecture:	Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 - 2:50, TNR 170
Lab:	Fridays 11:00 - 12:50 or 1:00 - 2:50; see below for meeting locations
TA:	Sophia Sperduto; <a href="mailto:ssper053@uwsp.edu">ssper053@uwsp.edu</a>

## **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 to 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. Identify the historic and present geographic range of North American fish and wildlife species
3. Describe the relevant habitat features and conservation needs of North American fish and wildlife species
4. Apply knowledge of North American fish and wildlife species' natural history to describe management implications related to public use and education
5. Develop a "naturalistic intelligence" through observation and reflection
6. Participate in common citizen science programs associated with North American wildlife

## **Required Text**

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

## **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.

## **Binoculars**

It's recommended that you have a 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 5 quizzes during the semester worth 20 points each and they will **not** be cumulative. They will feature a mix of multiple-choice, matching, and short-answer questions. Please note that although scientific names of species are provided during lectures, 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.

**Lab Practical:** This will be 2 in-person exams worth 60 pts each covering species identification including (but not limited to) identification of images, study skins, calls, jaws and skulls, and tracks. Lab practical 2 will be cumulative. Please note that although scientific names of species are provided during lectures, 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.

**Assignments:** You will have a variety of assignments related to lab activities for you to complete during the semester (worth 80 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 (5 pts each, 50 pts total) quizzes related to species identification (by sight) that could include any species covered. You will only need to provide the common names of the species we cover.

**Wildlife in the News Group Assignment(s):** 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 that 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	Points	Grades	
		93% and above	A
5 Quizzes (20 pts each)	100	90-92%	A-
Lab Practical 1	60	87-89%	B+
Lab practical 2	60	83-86%	B
Assignments	80	80-82%	B-
Pop Quizzes	50	77-79%	C+
Group Assignments	50	73-76%	C
Field Notebook	70	70-72%	C-
		67-69%	D+
		60-66%	D
TOTAL	470	Below 60%	F

**Academic Dishonesty, Attendance, 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.

It is in your best interest to attend the lectures and labs. There will be pop quizzes in both the lecture and lab. You will be able to drop your 3 lowest pop quiz grades, therefore, missed pop quizzes will not be excused.

Quizzes and lab practicals will be taken in person during your scheduled lab section. A make-up for the lab practical will only be allowed in extreme cases, with advanced approval. Other assignments may be submitted late without penalty (within reason) but resubmissions/fixes will not be allowed for late assignments.

### **Cell Phones and Other Electronics**

Cell phones, tablets, and laptops may be distracting to those around you. This is especially true if you are using these devices to view other content. As such, as a courtesy to your classmates and instructors, we ask that electronic devices be put away unless they are being used for note taking or interacting with digital lecture material in class. Please speak with your instructors ahead of time if you have some other reason which requires access to electronics.

### **COVID-19 Guidance and Other Precautions:**

We will follow university guidance (which includes CDC guidance) regarding COVID-19, monkeypox, and other health-related issues. Please reference the [UWSP's website related to COVID](#). The [CDC website](#) provides guidance on isolation and precautions related to COVID. As needed, we will announce policy changes that affect you in this class. It is expected that everyone will respect the needs and preferences of classmates and instructors.

### **Other Guidance:**

- If you are not feeling well or test positive for 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.
- 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 person or via Zoom. If you are having any trouble understanding something in class, do not hesitate to get in touch, as those problems will likely only get worse as the material becomes more complex and builds on itself. You can find important dates, including drop/add dates, in the semester academic calendar linked here <https://www3.uwsp.edu/regrec/Pages/calendars.aspx>. Additionally, the CNR Student Success Center (TNR 122) has professional advisers and peer mentors as an additional resource for students <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr/ssc/>.

**Inclusivity Statement:** It is my intent that students from all diverse backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course, that student's 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](mailto: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 2024 – Lecture & Lab Schedule

Tuesday		Thursday		Friday Lab		Meeting Location
Jan. 23	Course intro	Jan. 25	Classifications	Jan. 26	Birding 101/ Classification	TNR 322 (ACL)
Jan. 30	NAM	<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>No class</b>	Feb. 2	Intro to ID and Songbirds	TNR 354
Feb. 6	Waterbirds	Feb. 8	Waterfowl	Feb. 9	<b>Quiz 1</b> Bird Lab	TNR 359/354
Feb. 13	Raptors	Feb. 15	Owls	Feb. 16	Birding	Schmeckle Visitor Center
Feb. 20	Upland game birds	Feb. 22	Upland game birds / Tracking	Feb. 23	Tracking	Schmeckle Parkway Shelter
Feb. 27	Mustelids	Feb. 29	Squirrels and small mammals*	Mar. 1	<b>Quiz 2</b> Deer aging and skull ID	TNR 359/354
Mar. 5	Felids	Mar. 7	Canids	Mar. 8	Mammal lab	TNR 354
Mar. 13	Ungulates	Mar. 15	Rabbits+	Mar. 15	<b>No Lab</b>	
<b>Mar. 19</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>					
Mar. 26	Marine wildlife	Mar. 28	Marine wildlife	Mar. 29	<b>Quiz 3</b> <b>Lab Practical 1</b>	TNR 359/354
Apr. 2	Bats	Apr. 4	Fish**	Apr. 5	iNaturalist	Schmeckle Parkway Shelter
Apr. 9	Scat and other sign	Apr. 11	Fish**	Apr. 12	Scat and other sign	Schmeckle Parkway Shelter
Apr. 16	Toads and Frogs	Apr. 18	Salamanders	Apr. 19	<b>Quiz 4</b> Herp lab	TNR 359/TBD
Apr. 23	Snakes	Apr. 25	Crocs, lizards, and turtles	Apr. 26	<b>TBD</b>	
Apr. 30	Pollinators	May 2	Pollinators	May 3	Optional birding trip	Lost Creek Wetland
May 7	Climate change	<b>May 9</b>	<b>No class</b>	May 10	<b>Quiz 5</b> <b>Lab Practical 2</b>	TNR 359/354

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

There is no Final Exam for this course, however, lab practical 2 will be cumulative