

# Wildlife 372/572: Wildlife of North America

## Spring 2020

### **Contact Info**

Instructor: Dr. Marie Perkins  
Virtual Wed. 11:00 - 12:00 or by appointment  
Office Hours: Join URL: <https://uwsp.zoom.us/j/5266245041>  
Passcode: 262380525  
Email: [mperkins@uwsp.edu](mailto:mperkins@uwsp.edu)  
Lecture and lab: Material will be posted on Canvas on Monday each week.

### **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.

### **Course Outcomes:**

As a result of completing this course, participants will:

- (1) be able to visually identify >150 North American fish and wildlife species,
- (2) be able to differentiate and describe the life history characteristics of common fish and wildlife species,
- (3) identify the historic and present geographic range for wildlife species,
- (4) describe the relevant habitat features required by specialist species,
- (5) recognize and apply knowledge of species' natural history to describe its management implications for public use of and education about wildlife,
- (6) develop a "naturalistic intelligence" through observation and reflection.

### **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.

**Binoculars:**

It's recommended that you have pair binoculars available to use throughout this course. As with field, 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) in order 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. For those of you near to Stevens Point, binoculars can be checked out of the CNR stock room for short term use.

**Kaltura Videos and PowerPoint:**

I will be providing video lectures using PowerPoint presentations posted on Canvas each week for both lecture and lab material. I will also post the associated PowerPoint slides on Canvas.

**Assignments:**

You will have a variety of assignments to complete over the course of the semester. Many of these assignments will require you to go outside and identify wildlife by sight and sound and collect data on these observations. Additionally, some assignments will require you to work virtually in small (assigned) groups. Details for all assignments will be posted in Canvas.

**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 and range maps.

**Field Notebook:**

Students in this class should take an active interest in improving their skills as a wildlife naturalist. To this end, you are expected to maintain a field notebook throughout the course of 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.

## Grading:

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

**Getting Help:** Please do not be shy about asking for help. You are welcome to join in my virtual office hours or email me to schedule a time to meet 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](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.

Lecture materials and recordings for WLDL 372 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.

Wildlife 372 – Wildlife of North America

Spring 2021 – TENTATIVE Lecture & Lab Schedule

You can find changes to the lecture and lab schedule in the live shared document:

[https://uwspedu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mperkins\\_uwsp\\_edu/EdRACgsx8uVLrxOihGLutPUBzGuhmf-ROD7wTVAISJWevQ?e=jsy2Kd](https://uwspedu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/mperkins_uwsp_edu/EdRACgsx8uVLrxOihGLutPUBzGuhmf-ROD7wTVAISJWevQ?e=jsy2Kd)

Week of	Lecture topic 1	Lecture topic 2	Lab topic	Quizzes*
Jan. 25	Course intro	North American Model	No Lab	
Feb. 1	Classifications	Birding 101	Birding resources/ Open for birding	
Feb. 8	Upland game birds	Upland game birds	Legal classification of animals	Quiz 1 Feb. 11-14
Feb. 15	Cranes	Waterbirds	Waterfowl	
Feb. 22	Raptors	Bird TBA	Open for group work	Quiz 2 Feb. 25-28
Mar. 1	Squirrels and small mammals	Porcupines and other rodents	Tracking	
Mar. 8	Beavers, muskrats, rabbits	Mustelids	iNaturalist	Quiz 3 Mar. 11-14
Mar. 15	Bears	Ungulates	Deer aging	
<b>Mar. 22</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
Mar. 29	Felids	Canids	Open for group work	Quiz 4 April 1-4
Apr. 5	Marine Mammals	Bats	Snapshot WI	
Apr. 12	Fish	Fish	Fish keys*	Quiz 5 Apr. 15-18
Apr. 19	Turtles	Snakes	Open for birding	
Apr. 26	Frogs/Salamanders	Crocodylians/Lizards	Frog call survey	Quiz 6 Apr. 29 - May 2
May 3	Climate change	Conservation concerns	Open	
May 10	Catch up/TBA	Catch up/TBA	<b>Field notebook due</b>	

Final exam week:  
Final exam on ID, cumulative

\*All quizzes will be open from 8:00AM Thurs. until 11:59PM Sunday