WILD 4060-6060, Field Ornithology Tentative Lecture Schedule, Spring 2010
Lecture: 11:15 – 12:05 MW Lab: Fri 08:00-12:05
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Course Objectives: To familiarize students with avian biology, including anatomy and physiology, behavior, ecology, evolution, and conservation. Lab exercises will emphasize taxonomy and identification of North American birds through use of field labs and study skins.

Texts: Required: (1) Gill, Frank B. 1995. Ornithology. Third edition. W. H. Freeman and Co. (2) A field guide. I recommend Peterson, Roger T. 1980. A field guide to the birds of eastern and central North America. Fourth edition. Houghton Mifflin. **Or** Sibley, David A. The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America. Knopf. (paperback).

Grading: Your grade will be based on a total of 600 points, split between two lecture exams (100 points each), a final exam (100 points), two laboratory exams (100 points each), and a research paper (100 points).

Paper: Each student, or a team of two students, will work independently on a research project focusing on a topic of their choice (start thinking now!). A 1-2 page proposal, outlining the nature of the question, preliminary review of literature, and methods will be turned in by **Monday, February 1**. Students will present project results in a paper (**due 29 April**), which will be in proper scientific format (see major ornithological journals such as Auk or Condor for format). Papers are to be typed, double-spaced and include clearly presented results in text, figures and tables. Examples will be provided.

Course outline (tentative):

Date		Topic	Chapter(s)
Jan	8	General avian characteristics (see lab schedule)	Introduction, 1
	11	Feathers	4
	13	Avian skeleton & muscles, flight	5
	18	**No class – MLK day**	
	20	Physiology	6
	25	Digestive system & feeding	
	27	Origin & evolution of birds	2
Feb	1	Origin & evolution of birds	
	3	Darwin's finches	
	8	Speciation	19
	10	Systematics	3
	15	Senses & intelligence	7
	17	Song & communication	8
	22	Song & communication	
	24	Annual cycles	9

Course outline (continued)

March	1	Migration & navigation	10
	3	Social behavior	11
	8	**No class – spring break**	
	10	**No class – spring break**	
	15	Reproduction	12, 14, 15
	17	Reproduction	
	22	Mating systems	13
	24	Development	16
	29	Habitat relationships	
	31	Life history strategies	17
April	5	Population ecology	18
	7	Community ecology	20
	12	Tropical ornithology	21
	14	Agriculture and birds	
	19	Forest management and birds	
	21	Monitoring bird populations	
	26	Avian disease issues	
	28	Partners in Flight	
	29	Wrapup	
May	**7**	**FINAL EXAM (12:00—15:00)**	

Note: All readings, unless otherwise noted, are from Gill, F. Ornithology (third edition). Additional readings from the primary literature will also be assigned.

WILD 4060-6060, Field Ornithology
Tentative Lab Schedule, Spring 2010

Date		Topic	Location	Time
Jan	8	Course introduction / projects / lecture	1-101	08:00
	15	Bird topography & orders / local field trip	Museum Nat. Hist.	08:00
	22	Birding software / field projects / field trip	1-101	08:00
	29	Dissections / field projects	1-101	08:00
Feb	5	Field trip	Whitehall	08:00
	12	**Lecture Exam I**	1-101	09:00
	19	**Overnight Field trip (FL)**	Whitehall	08:00
	26	Field trip	Whitehall	08:00
March	**5**	**Lab exam I**	1-101	08:00
	12	Spring break		
	19	Study skin preparation	1-101	08:00
	26	**Lecture Exam II**/ field trip	1-101	08:00
April	2	Field trip	Whitehall	07:00
	9	**Overnight Field trip (MS)**	Whitehall	07:00
	16	Field trip	Bot. Garden	07:00
	24	**Lab Exam II**	1-101	09:00

Note that many but not all field trips leave from Whitehall Forest. Also note that lab times differ from week to week. Lab times are subject to change. I will remind you of lab and exam times, but you are ultimately expected to be at the correct place on time or you will be left behind.