

## Term Project Reflection

1. What is your project site's main topic or theme?

Birding information for beginners

2. Target audience:
  - a. What were your assumptions about your target audience needs (content needs and equipment/software needs)?

I assumed that my target audience has a wide variety of devices, but mostly cell phones and mobile devices.

- b. How did you design your site to accommodate those needs?

I made sure that all webpages looked reasonably good on mobile devices by utilizing the developer tools in Chrome that allow you to simulate the viewport of different devices.

3. Please list the URL to:

- a. The project site home page: <https://cs125h.birdingwithbrandon.com/>
  - b. The pages that demonstrate the use of:
    - i. List(s): <https://cs125h.birdingwithbrandon.com/visual.html>
    - ii. Table(s): <https://cs125h.birdingwithbrandon.com/equipment.html>
    - iii. Form(s): <https://cs125h.birdingwithbrandon.com/submit-photo.html>

4. Review the project criteria and use the grading table to evaluate your project site and answer the following questions.

- a. What was your initial score for the **Design Elements** category?

I would give myself full credit since I have included all items that were required. Additionally, I created 7 well developed pages with only 2 that were left in a "coming soon" state.

- b. What was your initial score for the **Site Organization** category?

I would give myself 23/25 since I have what I believe is a well organized file structure. All CSS files are within the style director, JavaScript is in the js folder, and images are located in images. I would mark myself down since I chose to keep all HTML file in the root folder for ease of access. In hindsight, I would have made a directory for each page since many of my pages have their own CSS files.

- c. What was your initial score for the **Presentation** category?

I would give myself 23/25. I have an issue with the footer on the Submit Your Photo page and it is not going to the bottom like it should be. It was working before I did some refactoring, but I ran out of time to troubleshoot this issue after it broke. I would not go down to 20/25 since all of the other pages are well presented. I also used tools online to choose complementary colors as well as high contrast colors for ease of reading.

- d. What was your initial score for the **Coding** category?

I would give myself 25/25. My code is well organized and followed stylistic guides. It is easy to read due to indentation and I also used one file as a template. I also used a VSCode extension to verify my HTML and CSS files with W3C. Lastly, I have Chrome, Firefox, and Safari installed on my computer and my website looked good in all of them.

- e. Will you make any changes to your project site based on the results of these questions? Explain.

Yes, I plan to fix the footer on my photo submission page. I would also research best practices for handling multiple CSS files.

5. Describe how you created the unique look and feel of your site. What stylistic choices are you particularly pleased with? Are there any style choices made that you are unsure of? What else could be done to enhance the visual appeal of your site's interface?

I started by looking at some modern website layouts and I liked a design where there was a large photo on the left to draw the user's eye, followed by a grid of key pages on the right side. Regarding colors, I started by picking the blue color from a Western Bluebird that I seen around the time the class started. From this color, I started finding complementary colors that would go well with it.

I feel good about the stylistic choice, but I think I could make the site look more modern, perhaps by using transitions or transparent pictures. At this point, I do not have the CSS or JavaScript knowledge to accomplish this.

6. Describe your site's navigation scheme. Explain how this fits into the good design practice, how it fits the needs of your target audience, and how you might improve or expand on this scheme if you were to continue developing the site.

I used flexbox to create my site's navigation bar and I used slicknav from the Murach book to adjust my site for mobile users. I think this meets the needs of my target audience since my site can be accessed easily from any device. If I continued to develop this website, I would fine tune the navigation bar layout by adjusting padding and transitions to be a bit smoother.

7. What accessibility issues did you take into consideration? How does your site demonstrate this? What additional measures could be taken to improve the universal interpretation of your site?

I tried to take into account anyone with visual impairments. I chose colors that would contrast with each other while still fitting into my aesthetic. I also used alt tags for all of my images and I made sure to valid all pages in case I missed any. I also use figures to enclose audio, images, and tables so that the captions would describe their contents. To improve the universality of my website, I would need to run all pages through an accessibility checker to catch what I did not think of.

8. What are the strongest features of your current site? Explain. What are some extended goals you might have for your project site? In other words, what else do you wish your site did, or contained? What would you need to learn or do to implement those changes?

I think the strongest feature of my website is the simplicity but also the variety of content. There are embedded videos, audio, and pictures along with text so that my audience has a variety of ways to experience the information. I also think my website is easy to navigate. I had an honest student of mine test the website and his only feedback was to improve the mobile navigation experience, which I was able to do with slicknav. He actually liked my color scheme and this surprised me since I have always thought of design as my weakness.

An extended goal of mine is to have a gallery of the bird photos that I take. Currently, the picture of the Spotted Towhee on the main page is a photo I took, but I would like to explore plugins that would connect to a photo gallery hosted on a site like 500px or Flickr. This would be much easier for my workflow using Lightroom and would remove the step of having to upload my photos manually.

I would also like to learn more about API and eventually have my bird of the week be chosen randomly from eBird. From a cursory glance at their documentation, it looks like I could use their API to access the photos, videos, and even recent sightings in Oregon. About six months ago, I began watching a YouTube video about using the Cat API website, but I didn't know much HTML or CSS so it was overwhelming since the present assumed everyone knew it. After taking this class, it feels much more manageable.