

I. **COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will explore the biological and ecological life requirements of important groups of birds of Canada. Topics will include avian anatomy and physiology, bird habits and behaviour, field identification of raptors, shore birds, game birds, and non-game species such as passerines by sight and/or sound.

II. **LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will demonstrate the ability to:

1. ***Evaluate the suitability of various habitats to meet the needs of game and non-game bird species***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research the biological and ecological requirements of bird species that exist in various ecosites
- Inventory several habitat types (Mature forests, cut-overs, burns, farmland, meadows, orchards) to determine what attributes are present or lacking
- Map out existing and desired features
- Prepare a management plan to enhance the habitat

2. ***Describe how bird behaviour is unique in the animal kingdom.***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research required readings and Internet to collect theories on bird behaviour
- Summarize different theories that explain activities such as:
 - Migration
 - Vocalization
 - Territoriality
 - Nest building
- Debate in class the pro's and con's of each theory

3. ***Inventory the principle game and non-game birds in the Sault area***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Identify about 110 common bird species from study skins, slides video, Internet or field guides
- Learn how to use a Bird field guide effectively
- Have the necessary skill and knowledge to key out unidentified bird species

- Compile a “Check-list of birds in the Sault and area”
 - Identify from in a slide test 50 random birds at 80% accuracy
 - Identify 20 species of waterfowl from wings collected from hunters at a check station.
 - Identify 30 key species of birds by vocalization
4. ***Describe the habitat requirements and potential methods of habitat improvement for all upland game birds, endangered or threatened non-game birds, and waterfowl.***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research the habitat requirements of the above groups of birds
- Identify nesting structures of significant bird species
- Present a summary of habitat requirements and a management plan for improving habitat for one selected bird species to the class.

III. TOPICS:

1. Avian anatomy and physiology
2. Bird behaviour
3. Habitat requirements and mitigation
4. Identification of:
 - Raptors
 - Shore birds
 - Game birds
 - Upland game birds
 - Woodpeckers
 - Waterfowl
 - Waterfowl wings
 - Avian vocalizations

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

1. **Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America**
2. **Sounds of the Northwoods**
3. **Ornithology Study Guide and Lab manual**

V. EVALUATION PROCESS/GRADING SYSTEM:

Assignment due dates will be clearly indicated at the beginning of the semester. Penalties of 10% per day will apply to all late assignments. After ten days late the assignment will technically have a value of "0" but will still be required to complete the course successfully. A final grade will be derived from a combination of theory tests, practical tests and one or more written assignments. All assignments must be submitted with cover pages, and be word-processed.

Theory tests 3 of equal value–	Total 48%
Practical tests	Total 37%
Assignments	Total <u>15%</u>
	100%

The following semester grades will be assigned to students in postsecondary courses:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>Grade Point Equivalent</u>
A+	90 - 100%	4.00
A	80 - 89%	3.75
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
R (Repeat)	59% or below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field placement or non-graded subject areas.	
X	A temporary grade. This is used in limited situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course (see <i>Policies & Procedures Manual – Deferred Grades and Make-up</i>).	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office. This is used to facilitate transcript preparation when, for extenuating circumstances, it has not been possible for the faculty member to report grades.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

Special Needs:

If you are a student with special needs (e.g. physical limitations, visual impairments, hearing impairments, or learning disabilities), you are encouraged to discuss required accommodations with your instructor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1204 or call Extension 493, 717, or 491 so that support services can be arranged for you.

Retention of course outlines:

It is the responsibility of the student to retain all course outlines for possible future use in acquiring advanced standing at other postsecondary institutions.

Plagiarism:

Students should refer to the definition of “academic dishonesty” in *Student Rights and Responsibilities*. Students who engage in “academic dishonesty” will receive an automatic failure for that submission and/or such other penalty, up to and including expulsion from the course/program, as may be decided by the professor/dean. In order to protect students from inadvertent plagiarism, to protect the copyright of the material referenced, and to credit the author of the material, it is the policy of the department to employ a documentation format for referencing source material.

Course outline amendments:

The Professor reserves the right to change the information contained in this course outline depending on the needs of the learner and the availability of resources.

Substitute course information is available in the Registrar's office.

Attendance:

Attendance will be monitored and is mandatory for all lab sessions. Absence in 2 or more labs will result in an “R” grade. No make-up labs for missed labs will be scheduled unless exceptional circumstances.

VII. PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT:

Students who wish to apply for advanced credit in the course should consult the professor. Credit for prior learning will be given upon successful completion of a challenge exam or portfolio.

VIII. DIRECT CREDIT TRANSFERS:

Students who wish to apply for direct credit transfer (advanced standing) should obtain a direct credit transfer form from the Dean's secretary. Students will be required to provide a transcript and course outline related to the course in question.