

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore the biological and ecological life requirements of important Ontario bird species. Topics will include avian anatomy and physiology, bird habits and behaviour, field inventories and field identification of common Ontario species, both visually and by vocalization.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ELEMENTS OF THE PERFORMANCE:

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

1. ***Prepare a technical report on an approved aspect of avian behaviour, ecology or biology***

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research the biological and ecological requirements of bird species found in various ecosites
- Research behavioural adaptations of a variety of birds
- Prepare a technical report in the approved Sault College Natural Resources format.

This outcome constitutes approximately 10% of the final grade of this course

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

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Research required readings and the Internet to collect theories related to bird behaviour
- Summarize different theories that explain activities such as :
 - Migration
 - Vocalization
 - Territoriality
 - Nest building

This outcome constitutes approximately 10% of the final grade in this course

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

Potential Elements of the Performance:

- Use visual field marks to identify about 125 common bird species from digital images, video, or field guides to 75% accuracy.
- Use a bird identification field guide effectively
- Key out unidentified bird species
- Keep ongoing spreadsheet or web-based records of bird sightings in the Algoma district
- Identify 20 species of waterfowl from wings collected from hunters at a check station.
- Identify approximately 50 species of birds by vocalization

This outcome constitutes approximately 58% of the final grade in this course

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
- Be prepared on theory tests to present a summary of habitat requirements and management considerations for improving habitat for major avian groups

This outcome constitutes approximately 22% of the final grade in this course

III. **TOPICS:**

Note: These topics will not necessarily be explored as isolated learning units, or in the order presented below:

1. Avian anatomy and physiology
2. Bird behaviour
3. Habitat requirements and mitigation
4. Identification of:
 - Birds by visual field marks
 - Waterfowl wings
 - Avian vocalizations

IV. REQUIRED RESOURCES/TEXTS/MATERIALS:

1. Peterson Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America – available in the bookstore
2. Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
3. More Birding by Ear – on reserve in the library
4. Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs – on reserve in the library

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, written assignments and field assignments. All assignments must be word-processed.

Practical Test	50%
Theory Tests	25%
Assignments	25%
Total	100%

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

Grade	<u>Definition</u>	<i>Grade Point Equivalent</i>
A+	90 – 100%	4.00
A	80 – 89%	
B	70 - 79%	3.00
C	60 - 69%	2.00
D	50 – 59%	1.00
F (Fail)	49% and below	0.00
CR (Credit)	Credit for diploma requirements has been awarded.	
S	Satisfactory achievement in field /clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
U	Unsatisfactory achievement in field/clinical placement or non-graded subject area.	
X	A temporary grade limited to situations with extenuating circumstances giving a student additional time to complete the requirements for a course.	
NR	Grade not reported to Registrar's office.	
W	Student has withdrawn from the course without academic penalty.	

VI. SPECIAL NOTES:

On identification tests, correctly identifying 65% of the species presented is equivalent to a mark of 50%; which is the passing level for the course. Mark equivalents increase in a linear fashion, meaning that 95% of the specimens must be identified correctly to achieve a mark of 90%, the A+ level for the course. A simple conversion chart will allow students to readily convert their test results to college standardized mark equivalents.

One or more field activities will be scheduled outside regular class time (early mornings and/or weekends).

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 professor and/or the Special Needs office. Visit Room E1101 or call Extension 493 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.

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.