



## COURSE OUTLINE: NRT135 - ORNITHOLOGY

Prepared: School of Natural Environment

Approved: Bob Chapman - Dean

<b>Course Code: Title</b>	NRT135: ORNITHOLOGY
<b>Program Number: Name</b>	5214: FISH/WILD CONSERVATN
<b>Department:</b>	NATURAL RESOURCES PRG
<b>Academic Year:</b>	2025-2026
<b>Course Description:</b>	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.
<b>Total Credits:</b>	3
<b>Hours/Week:</b>	3
<b>Total Hours:</b>	42
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
<b>Corequisites:</b>	There are no co-requisites for this course.
<b>Substitutes:</b>	NRT113
<b>Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course:</b>	<b>5214 - FISH/WILD CONSERVATN</b>
Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.	VLO 1 Demonstrate clear, concise and industry appropriate written, spoken and visual communication skills
	VLO 2 Identify, discuss, organize and assess common flora and fauna species found throughout Ontario, including biological characteristics
	VLO 3 Demonstrate the ability to follow standardized protocols to collect field data on fish and wildlife populations in a variety of weather and site conditions.
	VLO 6 Understand the importance of managing fish and wildlife resources in Ontario and related federal, provincial and municipal legislation.
	VLO 7 Recognize the contributions and applications of various science disciplines in the understanding of natural environments.
	VLO 11 Analyze, evaluate and apply subjective and objective safety considerations.
<b>Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:</b>	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
	EES 3 Execute mathematical operations accurately.
	EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
	EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
	EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology



- and information systems.
- EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
- EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
- EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
- EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
- EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.

**General Education Themes:** Science and Technology

**Course Evaluation:** Passing Grade: 50%, D

A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.

**Other Course Evaluation & Assessment Requirements:** Attendance of all classes is imperative. A quiz will begin each class. This quiz will constitute approximately 10% of the final grade.

Attendance Policy: Academic success is directly linked to attendance. Missing more than 1/3 of the course hours in a semester shall result in an 'F' grade for the course.

**Books and Required Resources:** Birds of Eastern North America (Field Guide) by Sibley  
Publisher: Penguin Random House Edition: 2nd

**Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:**

<b>Course Outcome 1</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1</b>
1. Describe how bird behaviour is unique in the animal kingdom.	1.1 Research required readings and the Internet to collect theories related to bird behavior. 1.2 Summarize different theories that explain activities such as: a) Migration b) Vocalization c) Territoriality d) Nest building
<b>Course Outcome 2</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2</b>
2. Inventory the principal game and non-game birds in the Sault area.	2.1 Use visual field marks to identify about 92 common bird species from digital images, video, or field guides to 75% accuracy. 2.2 Participate in bird inventories, such as Waterfowl Inventories, Nocturnal Owl Surveys or Hawk Watches. 2.3 Use a bird identification field guide effectively. 2.4 Key out unidentified bird species. 2.5 Identify approximately 35 species of birds by vocalization.
<b>Course Outcome 3</b>	<b>Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3</b>
3. Understand habitat requirements and conservation issues for all Ontario upland game birds, endangered or threatened	3.1 Research the habitat requirements of the above groups of birds. 3.2 Be prepared on theory tests to present a summary of habitat requirements and management considerations for

non-game birds, and waterfowl.

improving habitat for major avian groups.

**Evaluation Process and Grading System:**

<b>Evaluation Type</b>	<b>Evaluation Weight</b>
Assignments	20%
Practical Tests	50%
Quizzes	10%
Theory Tests	20%

**Date:**

December 2, 2025

**Addendum:**

Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.

