

**Class hours:** 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Text:** Elphrick, C., J. B. Dunning, Jr., and D. A. Sibley, editors. 2001. The Sibley guide to bird life & behavior. Alfred A. Knopf, New York.

**Readings:** Please read pages 8-120 before the first class. Following each field trip, please read in the text the sections that cover the bird groups (taxonomic families) we observed in the field (for example, "Sandpipers, Phalaropes, and Allies, Family Scolopacidae"). All classroom presentation materials will be posted as pdf files that you can view and download from Moodle (available through your student portfolio).

**Important information for the first class meeting:** Please meet in the classroom at 7:00 am. After a short briefing, we will depart for a field trip, so please wear clothes and footwear suitable for that; bring binoculars (essential), notebook, pen/pencil; hat; sun screen; any bird field guide; camera (optional). After the field trip we will return to campus and convene in the classroom for lecture and discussions. Field trip destinations are in part weather dependent and will be provided on the day prior to each trip.

**August 8 (Monday):** Classroom session, then morning field trip, then back in the classroom. Lecture/discussion topics: course overview; bird diversity; evolution; external features.

**August 9 (Tuesday):** Morning field trip. Lecture/discussion topics: feathers, flight, and molt; basic anatomy and physiology.

**August 10 (Wednesday):** Morning field trip. Lecture/discussion topics: sensory systems and communication; migration.

**August 11 (Thursday):** Morning field trip. Lecture/discussion topics: breeding biology.

**August 12 (Friday):** Morning field trip. Lecture/discussion topics: ecological relationships; conservation biology of birds.

**Requirements:**

- Field trip reports (5). Guidelines to be posted in Moodle. Reports are due one week after the field trip. Each report constitutes 10% of the course grade.
- Take-home exam. To be posted in Moodle after August 12. Due August 28. 40% of grade.
- Museum study guide questions. To be completed at Yale's Peabody Museum. To be posted in Moodle. Due August 27. 10% of grade.