

Introduction to Birdwatching
ZOO 1030 CRN 25282
Hybrid TR3 Spring 2010

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Leesa L. Sward

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 7:00a-8:30a; 1:30p-5:00p

Online Hours: Monday 8:30a-9:30a; M/W/R/F 2:00p-3:00p; all other days and times by appointment only.

OFFICE: Room 249

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WEBSITE: <http://frontdoor.valenciac.edu/?lsward>

WebCT6: This is a hybrid and WebCT6 enhanced course, the website can be accessed by logging on to <http://webct6.valenciac.edu/> You will use your Atlas account ID and password to access the course syllabus, assignments and handouts etc.

CLASS MEETS: 7:00pm – 8:30pm Friday; Dates: 4/2, 4/9, and 4/16
8:30am – 2:00pm Saturday; Dates 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24

PLACE: Winter Park Campus, Room 242, Lake Island Park, Mead Garden, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, and other sites.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

1. Any North American, Eastern, or Florida birding field guide.
2. **Binoculars (highly recommended)**

If you already own a birding field guide, that will serve as your textbook. If you **DO NOT** have a field guide here are some suggested guides that you can purchase at any local bookstore or check out from a library:

A Field Guide to the Birds of Eastern and Central North America
by Roger Tory Peterson (Series Editor), Virginia Marie Peterson (Editor)
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin; 5th edition (April 4, 2002)

Birds of Florida
By Bill Pranty, Kurt Rademaker, Gregory Kennedy
Publisher: Lone Pine Publishing International (2006)

Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America (Paperback)
by Kenn Kaufman
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin (April 14, 2005)

National Geographic Field Guide To The Birds Of North America, 5th Edition (Paperback)
by National Geographic Society
Publisher: National Geographic; 5th edition (November 1, 2006)

Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern Region (Stokes Field Guides) (Paperback)
by Donald Stokes, Lillian Stokes
Publisher: Little, Brown; 1st ed edition (January 29, 1996)

The Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America
by David Allen Sibley, Rick Cech
Publisher: Knopf; 1st edition (April 29, 2003)

PRE AND COREQUISITES: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A general education non-lab field course, with supporting lecture, designed to increase knowledge and awareness of North American bird species. Some of the topics to be included are: bird identification techniques, bird topography and anatomy, tips on using field guides and checklists, binocular basics, basic birding principles, common backyard birds, urban birds, birds of prey, wading birds, shorebirds (let's go to the coast), and migratory species, conservation measures and issues impacting bird populations, an introduction to the ecology of birds, bird habitat relationships, birding by ear, taxonomy, scientific nomenclature, Alpha codes, census techniques, and birding ethics.

This course requires a flexible attitude and openness to new outdoor experiences. Since we spend most of our time outdoors, we cannot predict what our experiences will bring. Students will need some degree of hardiness, as conditions in the field may occasionally be uncomfortable (hot, cold, humid). Students are expected to pay \$5.00 each to cover the cost of the field trip to the Audubon Bird of Prey Center (if time permits).

Since this is a hybrid and WebCT enhanced course you will submit and access many assignments on-line. We will use these tools to ensure that you have a productive and rewarding class experience.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE and POLICY: Class attendance is required the first week of class. If you do not attend class during the first week of class, you may be withdrawn from the class as a "no show." The deadline for withdrawing from this class with a grade of W is Saturday, May 1, 2010. After that date, withdrawing from class will result in a grade of either WP or WF, depending on your average as of the date of your withdrawal or last date of attendance. If a student decides to withdraw prior to the final exam, it is the student's responsibility to complete official procedures through the registrar's office. If you do not withdraw and fail to take the required final examination, the instructor will assign you an F. Please refer to the College catalog for more details.

COMPETENCIES:

Valencia faculty defined four interrelated competencies (Think, Value, Communicate, Act) that prepare students to succeed in the world community.

Think: Think clearly, critically and creatively, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate concepts

Value: Make reasoned judgments and responsible commitments

Communicate: Communicate with different audiences using varied means

Act: Act purposefully, effectively, and responsibly

This course will further develop your mastery of these core competencies through classroom lecture and discussion, group work, and class activities.

The class will also reinforce skills and competencies applicable to CLAST

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR FLORIDA BIRDS:

The following learning outcomes describe what students should know, understand, and/or be able to do with their new knowledge at the end of this course.

Learning Outcomes	Assessments	Valencia's Core Competencies
Students will identify various bird species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Trip Reports, Bird ID test, Birding Journal, Birding Basic Quizzes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Think, Communicate, Act, Value
Students will demonstrate their ability to use field guides, birding principles, Alpha codes, and binoculars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Birding Basics Quizzes, Field Trip Reports, Birding Journal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Think, Communicate, Act, Value
Students will demonstrate knowledge of taxonomy, scientific nomenclature, bird topography, basic anatomy, and avian ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Trip Reports, Birding Basics Quizzes, Bird topography quiz, Bird Conservation PowerPoint presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Think, Communicate
Students will describe conservation measures and issues impacting bird populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Field Trip Reports; Bird Conservation PowerPoint presentation, Birding Basics Quizzes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Think, Communicate, Act

Students will begin to recognize several common bird species by their song or call	• Bird song and call quiz	• Think, Communicate
Students will demonstrate ethical birding behavior	• Field Trips	• Think, Value, Act

GRADING SCALE:

The final grade will be determined as a percentage of **total possible points** earned. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A=90-100% B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=Below 60%

GRADE COMPOSITION (point values subject to change)

1. Field Trip Reports (complete bird count with observation summary 3 @ 50pts each = 150 pts)(field/homework)
2. Birding Journals (8 @ 15 pts each = 120 pts) (homework)
3. **Class attendance:** Attendance is mandatory; **You cannot make up missed work or quizzes.**
4. Bird Conservation PowerPoint presentation (55 pts) (post on webct)
5. Bird slides identification test (50 pts) (taken in class)
6. Birding Basics Quizzes 4 @ 12pts each = 48pts (taken on webct)
7. Basic Bird Diagram Quiz (23pts) (taken in class)
8. Bird Song Quiz (20 pts) (taken in class)

CLASS POLICIES:

1. VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEKEND POLICY: I welcome your attendance at each of the Friday and Saturday sessions. It is important that you are here each Friday and Saturday. The format of these classes is structured in such a way that **attendance is MANDATORY**. Please give careful consideration to your options the first day of class.
2. Be sure you have backup transportation options, in case of care trouble. **You cannot make up missed Field Trips/Reports.**
3. ATTENDANCE: You are expected to arrive on time and leave when the instructor ends class. Leaving after a break will be considered an absence. A sign-in roll will be provided at the beginning of class or any field work segment. It is your responsibility to sign in at the beginning of class, as this is your evidence of prompt arrival. Although carpooling with your group is encouraged, groups must also adhere to the attendance policy.
4. ASSIGNMENTS are to be turned in at the beginning of class. **Late assignments are accepted with a 50 percent point reduction and must be turned in within 2 days from due date.** You can email your assignment to me, but for assignments to be considered on time, the date and time on the email must be before the class on which the assignment is due. **You cannot make up missed assignments.**
5. CLASS LOCATIONS: It is your responsibility to understand and verify the location of the field trip, as field meeting locations may change during the term. Call or email me or your classmates if you are unclear of the location. Be sure you know where each meeting place will be.
6. PARKS AND REFUGES: No plant or animal collecting is allowed. Bring a camera or do sketches to help you remember what you have observed.
7. WEATHER: If weather causes cancellation of field trips for an entire class day, we will meet on the Winter Park Campus in room 242

HANDOUTS:

1. Some supplemental materials will be handed out during class. All other materials will be posted on WebCt6
2. If you are absent from the class when handouts are distributed or you misplace them, access them from WebCT
3. Maps to field trip locations are best accessed through map quest from your home.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

1. Each student is expected to be in compliance with the college catalog and student handbook.
2. **Students are expected to do their own work. Field trip reports and birding journals must be your own work.** Students who plagiarize or cheat in any way risk dismissal from class and expulsion from the college

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE/STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Your class behavior should not inhibit learning by other students.
2. It is important, while walking in the field, to listen for animal sounds.
3. All students will follow Valencia Student Code of Conduct. Violation of the Student Code of Classroom Conduct shall constitute grounds for student disciplinary action as provided in Policy 6Hx28:10-04.
4. Cell phones can be carried for emergency outgoing calls only. Ringer should be off during class and field work.

EVACUATION: Please make note of evacuation route from your classroom in case of emergency. Interpret all audible alarms as valid and act accordingly.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

1. Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a letter from the office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities (Winter Park Campus, room 203; (407-582-6887).
2. Please follow the college policy relating to children on campus and make arrangements for childcare outside of classrooms or labs.

WebCT6 COMPONENT

This course uses WebCT6 to support in-class learning. You will be using WebCT6 to access your on-line quizzes, discussion assignments, course calendar, scores for course work, and all email communications for this course. If you do not presently have a computer, the Library has computers available for you to use. If you are unfamiliar with WebCT6 and would like to check out Valencia's online support page, go to <http://www.valenciacc.edu/helpnow/valencia101a.asp>. If you follow this link, it will take you to the WebCT tutorial page with important information, such as: 1) a listing of skills needed to succeed in online coursework at Valencia, 2) a list of software applications commonly used by students to complete their online coursework, 3) links to view free tutorials available online that will show you how to navigate and use these applications, 4) information on the hardware/internet requirements for online learning at Valencia. Please check out this site.

If you have difficulty accessing WebCT6 on your computer, or difficulty opening different pages on the class website, you can do several things:

1. Contact WebCT6 Student Help at 407-582-5600, or send an email to: WebCT6help@valenciacc.edu
2. Contact Valencia Student Help at 407-299-5000 extension 5444
3. Use computers in the Library

If you experience problems with WebCT6, try these above options immediately. If these options fail to take care of the problem, contact me as soon as possible. You are responsible for insuring that you receive all and any information relating to this course!

Netiquette (Discussion Boards and email): The term "netiquette" refers to the awareness of the need for a certain code of behavior (etiquette) in electronic environments (the net)...Net + Etiquette = netiquette.

In order to maintain a positive online environment for our class, we all need to follow the netiquette guidelines summarized below.

All students are expected to:

- Show respect for the instructor and for other students in the class
- Respect the privacy of other students
- Express differences of opinion in a polite and rational way
- Maintain an environment of constructive criticism when commenting on the work of other students
- Avoid bringing up irrelevant topics when involved in group discussions or other collaborative activities

The following list summarizes the kind of behavior that is not acceptable. Each item listed below is grounds for removal from the class.

Students should not:

- Show disrespect for the instructor or for other students in the class
- Send messages or comments that are threatening, harassing, or offensive
- Use inappropriate or offensive language
- Convey a hostile or confrontational tone when communicating or working collaboratively with other students
- **USE ALL UPPERCASE IN THEIR MESSAGES—THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF SHOUTING!!**

If I feel that a student is violating any of the above guidelines, I will contact that student to discuss the situation in person. If you feel that a student is behaving inappropriately, please send me a private email message explaining the situation as soon as possible.

If you are engaging in electronic environments as a member of this class then you are subject to the same expectations and rules of conduct any teacher or administrator might expect of you in a face-to-face environment. Additionally, whether or not you are entering an electronic environment as a member of the class, if you are doing so via a WebCT or Atlas account, you are legally responsible to abide by Valencia's policies and expectations.

DISCLAIMER:

The syllabus and course schedule is subject to change.

DATE	TIME	TENTATIVE TOPICS/SCHEDULE	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Apr 2 Friday	7:00 p – 8:30 p	WPC room 242; Syllabus; Course objectives etc. Birding Basics How to use your field guide; (Taxonomy and Scientific nomenclature) Bird Identification Techniques; Bird Topography Diagram review Introduction to Birds (list and slides of resident and visiting migratory species)	You will need to printout all of the handouts posted under the heading "handouts" on webct. The handouts contain the basic information needed for the course. You should read all handouts carefully and study the information contained in each. All of your quiz questions/answers will come from the information in the course handouts.
Apr. 3 Saturday	8:30a – 2:00 p	WPC room 242; Lake Island Park Field Trip; Review Field Trip Report Form; Alpha codes; Birding Ethics; Habitats; Binocular Use; WPC room 242-debrief; compile species list etc. Review birds seen; Bird Conservation Powerpoint assignment discussion; Introduction to Birding by Ear; Birding Journal Assignment discussion;	Quiz #1 completed on webct by Apr. 8
Apr. 9 Friday	7:00 p – 8:30 p	WPC room 242; Introduction to Birds (list and slides of resident and visiting migratory species); Review Bird Songs and Calls;	Field trip report for Lake Island Park due Apr. 9 in class; 2 Birding Journals submitted by Apr. 9 in class;

Apr.10 Saturday	8:30a – 2:00 p	WPC room 242; Habitats; Conservation measures and issues; Threatened and Endangered Birds of Florida; Mead Garden Field Trip; Debrief at Winter Park Campus;	Bird Conservation PowerPoint Presentation Due/Posted on WebCT for comments and grading by Apr. 18 Quiz #2 completed on webct by Apr.15
Apr. 16 Friday	7:00p- 8:30p	Quiz Bird Topography diagram Review: Birding by Ear-bird songs and calls; Quiz: Bird Song Prep for Merritt Island Field Trip Review: Introduction to Birds (list and slides of resident and visiting migratory species);	Field trip report for Mead Garden due Apr. 16 in class; 3 Birding Journals submitted in class by Apr. 16; Bird Song Quiz (in class) Basic Bird Topography Diagram Quiz (in class)
Apr. 17 Saturday	8:30a – 2:00 p	We will meet at the Refuge at 8:00 AM Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip; Debrief at MINWR visitors center 2:00pm	Bird Conservation PowerPoint Review completed by Apr. 22 on webct Quiz #3 completed on webct by Apr. 24
Apr. 24 Saturday	8:30a – 2:00p	WPC room 242; Lake Island Field Trip Review Bird ID slide test;	Field trip report for Merritt Island due Apr. 24 in class; 3 Birding Journals submitted by Apr. 24 in class; Quiz #4 completed on webct by Apr. 24