

BIOLOGY OF BIRDS
FW 311

Credit hours: 3

Term offered: Spring

Instructor: Bruce Dugger in odd-numbered years, Doug Robinson in even-numbered years

Course objectives: FW 311 is an introduction to ornithology, the branch of biology that studies birds. This course is a survey of what makes a bird, a bird. Objectives for the course are to introduce you to the structure and function of birds, to provide you with an understanding of the concepts of vertebrate biology as they pertain to birds, and to illustrate the connection between the biology of birds and the conservation of avian resources.

Course content: The topics covered include: 1) anatomy and physiology; 2) evolution and taxonomy; 3) adaptations and the physics of flight; 4) behavior; 5) ecology of individuals, species, populations, and communities; and 6) conservation of birds.

Prerequisites: One year of introductory biology.

Text required: Ornithology, by F. B. Gill.

Testing: The course grade will be based on in-class exams and a cumulative final exam.

Students for whom the course is intended: Fisheries and Wildlife majors and students with an interest in birds.