

**Systematics of Birds
FW 312**

Credit hours: 2

Term offered: Spring

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

Course objectives:

1. Develop skills in the sight and sound identification of birds, focusing on birds occurring in Oregon.
2. Learn how natural selection has shaped avian form and function.
3. Become familiar with vocabulary needed to study and observe birds.

Course Content: This class will introduce you to the diversity of birds that breed, winter, and/or migrate through Oregon. About 479 species have been recorded in the state, but only 356 occur regularly. Unfortunately, we do not have time to look at all species either in the lab or in the field. As a result, we will show you a sample of these species in lab and use them to learn the skills needed to identify unknown birds when you encounter them in the field, wherever you may go. We may also review the many of the major orders and families of birds of the world.

Prerequisites: One year of introductory biology.

Text:

1. Manual of Ornithology. Proctor, N. S. and P. J. Lynch. Yale University Press.
2. You are also required to bring a field guide to every lab period.

Testing: Mid-term, final, and lab quizzes.

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