

BIOL116C : Field Ornithology

This course introduces the student to the biology of birds and the methods of modern field studies, identification, life histories, ecology, and behavior of birds, with an emphasis on local species. The course involves a major field component (observing and identifying birds in their natural habitats) complemented by investigations into aspects of bird biology and ecology, such as habitat use, bird morphology; flight, song, nesting and reproductive behavior; and migration. No previous experience with birds is expected. Lecture and lab may include demonstrations, discussion, and field trips.

Credits 4

Lab/Practicum/Clinical Hours 2

Lecture Hours 3

Recommended Prerequisites

high school Biology

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will:

1. Explain the evolutionary origins, diversity and taxonomic system for classifying birds groups and species.
2. Identify numerous species of birds in New Hampshire and describe their songs, appearance, and behaviors.
3. Describe the morphological and anatomical features of birds, and distinguish these as adaptations for particular environments.
4. Examine foraging behavior, physiology, senses, navigation, and migration as adaptations for particular environments.
5. Compare and contrast the behavioral ecology of reproduction, courtship, mating systems, nest building and parental care.
6. Indicate the ecological role of birds, threats to biodiversity, and human efforts to conserve bird species.