

Tentative Lecture Schedule – BIOLOGY 427 – January to April 2012 (Irwin)

Tues. & Thurs. 9:30-10:20 AM, MacLeod room 220

Note that this schedule is subject to change.

| Date | Topic | Textbook reading (Gill 2007) |
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| Thurs. Jan. 5 | Introduction to course; Avian biodiversity and its importance | Ch. 1, Diversity of Birds |
| Tues. Jan. 10 | Introduction to bird identification | |
| Thurs. Jan. 12 | Taxonomic methods; Evolution from tetrapods to birds | Ch. 2, History; Ch. 3, Systematics |
| Tues. Jan. 17 | Early bird evolution and origins of major groups | |
| Thurs. Jan. 19 | Recent bird evolution and diversity | Ch. 4, Feathers; Ch. 5, Flight |
| Tues. Jan. 24 | Field project: Survey methods | |
| Thurs. Jan. 26 | Species, speciation, and biogeography of BC | Ch. 19, Species |
| Tues. Jan. 31 | Bird migration and orientation | Ch. 9, Annual Cycles; Ch. 10, Migration |
| Thurs. Feb. 2 | Avian contact zones (David Toews) | |
| Tues. Feb. 7 | Anatomy, feathers and molt (Ildiko Szabo) | Ch. 6, Physiology |
| Thurs. Feb. 9 | Migration, migratory divides, and speciation (Kira Delmore) | |
| Tues. Feb. 14 | Analytical methods for field project | |
| Thurs. Feb. 16 | Lecture midterm exam | |
| Midterm Break | | |
| Tues. Feb. 28 | Vocal communication in birds | Ch. 7, Senses and Intelligence; Ch. 8, Vocalizations |
| Thurs. Mar. 1 | Visual communication in birds | |
| Tues. Mar. 6 | Mating systems and sexual selection | Ch. 12, Mates; Ch. 13, Breeding Systems; <i>optional: Ch. 14, Bird Sex!</i> |
| Thurs. Mar. 8 | Hummingbird flight (Dr. Doug Altshuler) | |
| Tues. Mar. 13 | Speciation in a ring: the Greenish Warblers of Asia | |
| Thurs. Mar. 15 | Range limits in birds & community structure (Dr. Jill Jankowski) | <i>optional: Ch. 20, Communities</i> |
| Tues. Mar. 20 | The sixth great mass extinction | |
| Thurs. Mar. 22 | Population dynamics and conservation | Ch. 18, Populations; Ch. 21, Conservation |
| Tues. Mar. 27 | Conservation challenges now and in the future | |
| Thurs. Mar. 29 | Group presentations | |
| Tues. Apr. 3 | Group presentations | |
| Thurs. Apr. 5 | Group presentations | |