



BIO 130: The Biology and Behavior of Birds

This is an introduction to the biology of birds and their behavior. Special emphasis will be given to species of the United States and Massachusetts. A wide range of topics will be presented including: field identification; bird diversity and taxonomy; courtship and nesting; feather structure, flight, and migration; physiology, including respiration, circulation and feeding strategies; and visual and vocal communication. Students will be required to conduct field research and attend one outside field trip of their choosing. Three lecture hours and two laboratory hours per week. Instructional Support Fee applies. Gen. Ed. Competencies Met: Scientific Reasoning and Discovery.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Appreciate the diversity of birds of the world and distinguish how birds are classified 2. Examine and describe how birds evolved and are still evolving 3. Describe various features of anatomy and physiology of birds and explain how these characteristics contribute to the dynamics of flight 4. Distinguish some of the ways that birds are physically adapted to fly, communicate, find food, attract mates and reproduce. 5. Analyze and explain the ecological role of birds in the world and how they interact with humans, particularly in relation to the threats and conservation efforts in our state

Credits: 4

Program: Biology