

**LAB SYLLABUS**  
**BIOL 4404/5407 Ornithology Spring 2021**

**Instructor:** Sean P. Graham, PhD

**Office Hours:** T-Th 9-11 F 11-12

**Laboratory:** Monday 3-450 WSB 107

**Office phone:** 837-8084

**Office:** WSB 221

**Email:** sean.graham@sulross.edu

**MC TA:** Tomas Hernandez

**Laboratory:** Much of the material covered in lecture will be greatly enhanced and expanded in the laboratory component of this course. You will be tested on this material during the scheduled exam periods. You need to check Blackboard to download and print any lab notes preceding each meeting. Field trips are tentatively scheduled, you are required to attend at least three to obtain all laboratory participation points. Seeing birds in the field is not only enjoyable but will enhance your appreciation and understanding of the material being presented in lecture and laboratory. The finalized dates of field trips will be announced in class. Field trips and keeping a field notebook are excellent practice for bird taxonomy and nomenclature and will help with lab practicals and lecture exams.

**Attendance:** is required for labs. No lab make ups are possible. Missing labs will seriously hinder your ability to make good grades on lab practicals, and I will penalize you for missing labs by taking away lab participation points. Lab practicals are impossible to re-take. Missing a lab practical will result in a 0 for that test, and this will seriously affect your grade.

**Supplies:**

- Bird field guide (optional, but would be a wise investment)
- field notebook; pencil or waterproof pen
- Binoculars

**Lab Grading:**

3 lab practicals @ 100 pts ea	300
Field trip participation	100
Field notebook	100
<u>Class (in-lab) participation</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>600 points</b>

To obtain all field trip participation points, you must attend all of the in-class field trips. These will be held locally and you will have the ability to return to campus or stay later and see more birds. In addition, your participation in these outings will be judged for full credit. You must also sign up for at least one of the weekend field trips. Laboratory participation will be similarly judged. Only students actively engaged in activities will be given full credit; slackers and spongers will not. Participation in the optional weekend field trip will be considered excellent grounds for receiving full participation credit, as long as attendance or participation issues do not arise.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Biology:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of evolution by natural selection.

2. Demonstrate an integration of environmental awareness into everyday modern life.
3. Understanding how to incorporate molecular biology into the study of the whole organism.
4. *Demonstrate utilization of various field techniques toward addressing scientific questions in the discipline.*
5. Conduct basic laboratory experiments utilizing standard observational strategies.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Biology, MS:

1. Understanding and implementation of scientific methodology
2. Utilization of field techniques toward addressing scientific questions\*
3. Be able to utilize statistics toward the analysis of data within the discipline
4. Be able to effectively disseminate scientific findings using both written and oral communication.

### **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**Tentative schedule** (subject to change)

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>week of</b>
1	No lab first week (MLK day)	21-Jan
2	Introduction: World bird orders, feather anatomy	28-Jan
3	Dissection, wing, foot, and beak adaptations, and U.S. bird families	4-Feb
4	Field Trip: Winter Birds	11-Feb
		<b>Saturday Field Trip: Serious Winter Birding 16 Feb</b>
5	Trans Pecos birds: Waterfowl and Shorebirds	18-Feb
6	Trans Pecos birds: Fowl and raptors	25-Feb
6		
7	<b>Lab practical #1</b>	<b>4-Mar</b>

8	Field trip: aquatic birds and spring migration	11-Mar
	Spring Break	March 18-22
9		
10	Trans Pecos birds: cuckoos, nightjars, hummingbirds, woodpeckers and passerines I	25-Mar
11	Field trip: Spring migration of land birds	1-Apr
12	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines II	8-Apr
13	<b>Lab practical 2</b>	<b>15-Apr</b>
14	<b>Epic optional Big Bend Weekend Field Trip! April 26-28</b>	26-Apr -28 April
14	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines III	22 April
15	Trans Pecos birds: Passerines IV	29-Apr
16	<b>Lab practical #3 *last day of class for us</b>	6-May

**Students with disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations. If you would like to request such accommodations because of a physical, mental, or learning disability, please contact the ADA Coordinator for Program Accessibility at 837-8203, FH 112.**