Home Study Course in Bird Biology





Interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

Do you know ...



You'll learn the answers in the ...

...Second Edition of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Home Study Course!

earn about bird behavior, ecology, conservation, and many other subjects in your own home, at your own pace, with no deadlines! This comprehensive course was written by twelve leading ornithologists, edited by Lab of Ornithology staff, and illustrated by acclaimed wildlife artist John Schmitt. The course is written at the introductory college level, but is suitable for anyone with an inquiring mind and a serious interest in birds. It introduces important biological concepts by exploring the major topics in ornithology. Current and past students include bird watchers of all skill levels as well as high school and college students, professional biologists, wildlife rehabilitators, and homeschoolers.

Sign up for the course and receive:

- A 1,300-page textbook, generously illustrated with detailed figures and black-and-white photos
 - An audio CD of bird sounds to accompany the chapter on Vocal Behavior
- Choice of online exams through eCornell or paper exams
- Complete instructor support

A fter you have read and studied each of the ten chapters and completed all of the corresponding exams successfully, you will receive a Certificate of Completion signed by the director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



Course Overview

Birds and Humans: A Historical Perspective

Sandy Podulka, Marie Eckhardt, and Dan Ötis, Cornell University

The role of birds in historical and contemporary human societies • Birds in religion, folklore, art, and literature • Birds and early natural science

Introduction: The World of Birds

Kevin J. McGowan, Cornell University What is a bird? • The diversity of bird forms • Current theories on the evolution of birds and feathers

A Guide to Bird Watching

Stephen W. Kress, Audubon
How to identify birds in the field by size, shape, sound, color, behavior, and field marks
Choosing and using binoculars and spotting scopes

Form and Function: The External Bird

George A. Clark, Jr., University of Connecticut Feathers: Their structure, function, and care • Nonfeathered areas • Molts and plumages • How colors are produced

Black-bille

Scythebill

What's Inside: Anatomy and Physiology

Howard E. Evans and John B. Heiser, Cornell University Skeletons, muscles, and internal organs • The nervous system and senses, circulation and respiration, hormones and reproduction, digestion and excretion

Birds on the Move: Flight and Migration Kenneth P. Able, SUNY Albany

Understanding how birds fly • Hovering, soaring, flying in formation • Why and how do birds migrate and navigate?

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institute dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. The Lab and Cornell University together provide an international center for training both amateurs and professionals in the ecology, evolutionary biology, and conservation of birds.

Evolution of Birds and Avian Flight

Alan Feduccia, University of North Čarolina Archaeopteryx and the fossil record of birds • Theories on the evolution of avian flight

Understanding Bird Behavior

John Alcock, Arizona State University Instinct and learning • Social behavior, displays and their functions, mating systems • Understanding behavior through the theories of natural selection and evolution

Vocal Behavior

Donald E. Kroodsma, University of Massachusetts The diversity of bird sounds explored and explained through sonagrams and an accompanying audio cassette tape or compact disc • Bird songs, calls, and their functions

Nests, Eggs, and Young: Breeding Biology of Birds David W. Winkler, Cornell University

Nest types, eggs, and patterns of clutch variability • Roles of the sexes during nesting • Development of young, nestling care • Brood parasitism • Evolution of nesting behavior

Individuals, Populations, and Communities: The Ecology of Birds

Stanley A. Temple, University of Wisconsin

How birds interact with their physical and living environments • Feeding ecology, how ecosystems work, ecological niches • Bird associations: population dynamics, communities, symbiosis

Bird Conservation

John W. Fitzpatrick, Cornell University

The importance of biodiversity • Why and how birds decline in number, become endangered, go extinct • Legal aspects of conservation: the Endangered Species Act • Conservation success stories

Lab members receive many benefits, including

- Living Bird—An award-winning magazine featuring bird biology, conservation, art, and recreation
- BirdScope—A unique newsletter reporting the latest findings in research and conservation from Lab programs and citizen-science projects
- Discounts at Wild Birds Unlimited at Sapsucker Woods
- Discounts on the Lab's citizen-science projects



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Please allow 2–3 weeks for delivery within the United States, 6–8 weeks for foreign deliveries. Shipment is via UPS Ground. Shipments to foreign countries or P.O. boxes are sent via U.S. mail. Please inquire at your post office about any required taxes or duties.