

Ornithology (C002778)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0

Study time 135 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

excursion

Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Lens, Luc

WE11

lecturer-in-charge

Mitchell, Lucy

WE11

co-lecturer

Shawkey, Matthew

WE11

co-lecturer

Strubbe, Diederik

WE11

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology\(main subject Biology\)](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

[Master of Science in Biology](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme in Biology \(master's level\)](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Taxonomy, identification, distribution, migration, navigation, behaviour, life-history trait, ecological model, conservation

Position of the course

Students gain basic insights into the taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography of birds. In addition, a variable selection of contemporary research topics is explored in depth through guest lectures.

Contents

Subsequent chapters highlight both theoretical and practical aspects of ornithology.

The following chapters are covered:

- (1) Taxonomy
- (2) Biogeography
- (3) Distribution patterns
- (4) Mobility
- (5) Tropical ornithology
- (6) Invasive species
- (7) Museum studies
- (8) Topography, moult, sexing and aging
- (9) Capita selecta

Initial competences

No specific prior knowledge is required to acquire basic ornithological insights (taxonomy, phylogeny and biogeography). The treatment of contemporary (specialised) research topics draws on the spectrum of ecologically and evolutionarily oriented subjects from the Bachelor's program.

Final competences

- 1 To acquire a general understanding about the field of ornithology.

- 2 To acquire profound insights in selected topics of ornithology.
- 3 To report on ornithological concepts, patterns and processes in accurate scientific language.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Excursion, Lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

General ornithological concepts are taught during oral classes. Excursions focus on bird ringing and determination.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Ornithology
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Number of Slides : 813
 Oldest Usable Edition : 2022-23
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : No
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No

Type: Handouts

Name: Ornithology
 Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
 Optional: no
 Language : English
 Number of Pages : 2
 Oldest Usable Edition : 2022-23
 Available on Ufora : Yes
 Online Available : No
 Available in the Library : No
 Available through Student Association : No
 Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : one-time
 Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time
 Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Type: Excursion

Name: Ornithology
 Indicative price: € 22
 Optional: no
 Additional information: Transport costs for the two compulsory excursions are the responsibility of the student.
 Estimated price if using the train: Excursion Gontrode 7 EUR Excursion Zwin 15 EUR

References

Bennett, PM & Owens, IPF. 2002. Evolutionary Ecology of Birds: Life Histories, Mating Systems and Extinction. Oxford Series in Ecology and Evolution. Oxford University Press.
 Gill, FB. 2006. Ornithology. WH Freeman
 Grubb, TC Jr. 2006. Ptilochronology: Feather Time and the Biology of Birds. Oxford Ornithology Series. Oxford University Press.
 Stutchbury BJM & Morton ES. 2001. Behavioural Ecology of Tropical Birds. Academic Press.

Course content-related study coaching

During field excursions and lab visits, practical (identification) techniques are being trained.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

Written examination (periodic)

Calculation of the examination mark

Written examination (100% of total)