

North American Birds and their Ecosystems

White Horse Hall, Wessex Elective

1:45pm-3:15 pm, Sanctuary, 2018 Spring semester

Text: Assorted readings, provided in class

Dates: Fridays, January 19 – May 11; Spring break (No classes March 16); Good Friday (No classes March 30)

Instructor: Mr. Boyd

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General overview: Through a series of lectures I will be taking students on photojournalistic explorations across the continent. Many of the stories, places, and birds shared will be first hand accounts. Readings will accompany each new ecosystem and bird group. There will be no quizzes or tests. I may also ask students to sketch different birds and/or important habitat features from time to time. Students will select a bird species and ecosystem that they find most interesting and will develop a short report and presentation on them for our class conclusion. I hope to schedule a weekend day field trip or two if time allows.

Materials needed: A folder to keep readings; field journal for sketching, pencil, field guide to birds of North America (Western guide will do, Sibley, Peterson, Kaufman, etc.), and binoculars

Assignments: Final presentation and report; report and draft presentation due May 4; final presentations to be given in class May 11; family and friends are encouraged to come!

Readings: Hard copies given out in class each week along with a notes handout highlighting the topics of discussion for that day and a place to write additional notes

Grades:

Based final presentation and report, which will reveal student's understanding of the specific ecology of their species of choice.

Key Verses

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. – Genesis 1:20-23

I know all the birds of the mountains, And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.. – Psalm 50:11