

Ecology of Birds in Winter Field Course Itinerary - 2023

(Version 1 - tentative schedule)

12 students + 1 TA + 1 professor = 14 people total

Note: This itinerary is subject to change depending on weather. If we encounter poor weather, we will reschedule our trips.

Sunday, February 12, Day 0

Arrive at the Queen's University Biological Station by 5:30 pm for dinner (5:30-6:00 pm). For directions to the biology station, see: <https://qubs.ca/contact>

Course vehicles will travel from the Biosciences Complex at Queen's University (Kingston) for those in need of a ride, leaving at 3:00 pm from the loading dock/parking area of Biosciences on Arch Street (contact Paul at pm45@queensu.ca to arrange).

7:00-8:00 pm - Welcome and introduction to the course.

Monday, February 13, Day 1

6:00-11:30 am - Early morning field outing, QUBS properties, leaving the station at 6:00 am (sharp). (Bedford Road to Chaffey's Lock)

(note: breakfast will be available in the lodge prior to all morning departures)

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-2:30 pm - Bird Identification

2:30-5:00 pm - Natural History Presentations, Part 1 (order from a random draw: 6 students)

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Lecture 1: Winter Ecology of Birds

Tuesday, February 14, Day 2

4:00-11:30 am - Owl surveys and morning field outing on QUBS properties (Massassauga).

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-2:30 pm - Lecture 2: Phylogeny and Taxonomy of Birds

2:30-5:00 pm - Natural history presentations, Part 2 (order from a random draw: 6 students)

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Lecture 3: Thermoregulation

Wednesday, February 15 - Trip to Amherst Island, Day 3

4:00 am departure from QUBS to make 6:30 am ferry departure at Millhaven (with a stop for Eastern Screech-Owl).

Full day field trip, packed lunch on Amherst. Return to QUBS late afternoon.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Lecture 4: Food in Winter

Thursday, February 16, Day 4

6:00-10:00 am - Field trip on QUBS properties - Finding Food in Winter (Moore, Pangman or Bracken Tract)

10:00-11:30 am - Scientific Method

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-3:30 pm - Assigned readings: Platt (1964) and Cimprich & Grubb (1994)

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Student Presentations, Part 1 (order randomly drawn: 2 students).

Friday, February 17, Day 5

6:00-11:30 am - Field trip - discuss student projects. (Moore or Pangman Tract)

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:15-5:00 pm - Student Presentations, Part 2 (6 students).

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:45-7:30 pm - Student Presentations, Part 3 (1 student)

Saturday, February 18, field trip - Algonquin or other - Day 6

3:00 am departure from QUBS

Full day field trip, packed lunch. Return to QUBS late afternoon (1:00-1:30pm).

6:30-7:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - BBC: Planet Earth, Seasonal Forests

Sunday, February 19, Day 7

6:00-11:30 am - In the field, figuring out projects. Preliminary data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-5:00 pm - Design projects, write project proposal.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Student Presentations, Part 4 (1 student). Informal discussion of proposed projects as a group.

Monday, February 20, Day 8

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Student Presentations, Part 5 (2 students)

Tuesday, February 21, Day 9

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Lecture 5: Birds of Opinicon

Wednesday, February 22, Day 10

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Lecture 6: Species Interactions & Community Ecology

Thursday, February 23, Day 11

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - BBC: Planet Earth II

Friday, February 24, Day 12

7:00-8:00 am - Brief meeting to discuss projects as a group.

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-5:00 pm - Synthesis and analysis of data.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - tba: lecture or specimen preparation demonstration

Saturday, February 25, Day 13

7:00 am - Turn in field notebooks for grading.

7:00-11:30 am - Prepare presentations on projects.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-5:00 pm - Project presentations (not graded).

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

7:00 pm onwards, relax; field notebooks will be returned to students

Sunday, February 26, Day 14

Morning trip - details to be decided by class. If there is something interesting in the area, we could try to see it.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - pack up and depart

There will be a van driving to Kingston at 2:00-3:00 pm going to the Biosciences Complex at Queen's for those in need of a ride.