

Ecology of Birds in Winter Field Course Itinerary - 2026

(Version 1 - tentative schedule - 1 Jan 26)

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.

Saturday, February 14, 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).

6:30-7:30 pm - Welcome and introduction to the course.

Sunday, February 15, Day 1

5:45 am - 11:30 am - Early morning field outing, QUBS properties, leaving the station at 5:45 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 (informal)

2:30-5:00 pm - Natural History Presentations, Part 1 (order from a random draw: **Jessie, Marilyn, Carlo, John, Bethany, Bianca, Luca**)

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Lecture 1: Winter Ecology of Birds

Monday, February 16 - Trip to Amherst Island, Day 2

4:45 am departure from QUBS to make 6:30 am ferry departure at Millhaven.

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

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Lecture 2: Birds of Opinicon

Tuesday, February 17, Day 3

6:00-11:30 am - Field trip on QUBS properties - Finding Food in Winter (Pangman Tract)

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-2:30 pm - Lecture 3: Phylogeny and Taxonomy of Birds

2:30-5:00 pm - Natural history presentations, Part 2 (order from a random draw: **Morgan, Kamea, Katie, Lauren, Grace, Madison**)

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Lecture 4: Food in Winter

Wednesday, February 18, Day 4

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

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

[1:30-2:30 pm - time to read assigned reading: Platt (1964)]

2:30-3:30 pm - Discussion: Scientific Method, Strong Inference

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Lecture 5: Cold and Thermoregulation

Thursday, February 19, Day 5

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

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30-5:00 pm - Student Presentations, Part 1 (order randomly drawn:

Lauren, Morgan, Jessie, Luca, John).

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Student Presentations, Part 2 (**Madison, Katie**)

Friday, February 20, Day 6

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

6:30-7:30 pm - Student Presentations, Part 3 (**Kamea**). Informal discussion of proposed projects as a group.

Saturday, February 21, Day 7

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Student Presentations, Part 4 (**Grace, Bethany**)

Sunday, February 22, Day 8

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - Student Presentations, Part 5 (**Carlo, Bianca**)

Monday, February 23, Day 9

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm - BBC: Frozen Planet, The Ends of the Earth (optional, drivers to bed)

Tuesday, February 24, field trip - Algonquin (tentative) - Day 10

3:00 am departure from QUBS

Full day field trip, packed lunch.

Return to QUBS late afternoon (leave park at 1:00-1:30pm).

6:00-6:30 pm - Dinner

7:00-8:00 pm - Our Planet (Netflix) - Forests

Wednesday, February 25, Day 11

Field project data collection.

12:00-12:30 pm - Lunch

Field project data collection.

5:30-6:00 pm - Dinner

6:30-7:30 pm – Brief meeting to discuss projects as a group.

Student Presentations, Part 6 (**Marilyn**)

Thursday, February 26, Day 12

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

6:30-7:30 pm – Graduate students (Marilyn, Kamea) share their thesis research (informal).

Friday, February 27, 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 tonight or in the morning

Saturday, February 28, 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, or earlier Brunch]

1:00 pm or earlier - pack up and depart

Vans will leave for Kingston at ~2:00pm going to the Biosciences Complex at Queen's for those in need of a ride (we should arrive at Biosciences by 3pm). If people need to be dropped off at the train or bus stations, we can do that as well.