Course Syllabus

Department: Environmental Conservation and Horticulture

Date: 1/18/12

I. Course Prefix and Number: CON 242

Course Name: Field Study of Birds

Credit Hours and Contact Hours: 3 credit hours – 3 contact hours

Catalog Description including pre- and co-requisites: This course provides students the opportunity to identify and study birds in the field. Emphasis is placed on birds of New York State. Topics include identifying birds by sight and sound, capture and handling techniques, banding, field study methods such as breeding bird atlas, waterfowl counts, nestbox surveys and hawk counts.

II. Course Outcomes and Objectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

1. Demonstrate proper equipment usage and bird handling and care techniques for each capture method employed (ethics/values and professional competency)
2. Demonstrate proper non-capture field study techniques (professional competency)
3. Collect biometric measurements and perform basic calculations such as mean and range (mathematics)
4. Graph data collected in field work (mathematics)
5. Identify commonly encountered birds by sight and sound (information resources and professional competency)
6. Demonstrate their knowledge of avian taxonomy (professional competency)

Relationship to Academic Programs and Curriculum:

This course is an elective for all CON degrees or a general elective for students outside of these majors.

College Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course:

☐ writing	☐ computer literacy
☐ oral communications	☒ ethics/values
☐ reading	☐ citizenship
☒ mathematics	☐ global concerns
☐ critical thinking	☒ information resources

III. Instructional Materials and Methods

Types of Course Materials:

Field guides, equipment, worksheets, field journal

Methods of Instruction (e.g. Lecture, Lab, Seminar …):

Lecture, field practice, guest speakers

IV. Assessment Measures (Summarize how the college and student learning outcomes will be assessed):

Practical test demonstrating equipment usage, bird handling, and species identification; data collection, calculation, graphing, and analysis; written exams; and application of field guides and journal information to the field experience.

V. General Outline of Topics Covered:

1. IACUC and other animal handling considerations

2. Bird identification by sight and sound

3. Taxonomy

4. Animal capture techniques

5. Non-capture techniques

6. Data collection

7. Data analysis and graphical representations