

**UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA**  
**Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology**

<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Field Ornithology</b>
<b>Instructor(s):</b>	Julie Morand-Ferron jmf@uottawa.ca
<b>Dates:</b>	May 6-19 inclusively
<b>Location:</b>	Ottawa
<b>Cost:</b>	350\$
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Ecology, Introduction to statistics
<b>Enrolment*:</b>	18(4)
<b>Course Description (brief):</b>	This course provides students with an introduction to (i) the observation and taxonomic identification of birds in a variety of habitats; (ii) traditional and modern tools of ornithology; and (iii) experimental design and data collection.
<b>Evaluation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10% Species identification test I: first day of the course, based on material you will be sent prior to the course.</li> <li>• 10% Species identification test II: near the end of the course, covering species we will have encountered during the course.</li> <li>• 15% Oral presentation: prepared individually prior to the course.</li> <li>• 10% Field book: your field notes on daily activities.</li> <li>• 15% Participation: during daily activities and students' presentations</li> <li>• 40% Report: based on data from group research projects conducted during the second week of the course. To be submitted 3 weeks after the course.</li> </ul>

Deadline to apply is **Feb 8, 2019**.

If interested please complete the application form and submit it to the OUPFB course coordinator at your school.  
Deposit of \$350 is due at the time of registration.

Tuition at your home institution is *in addition* to any field module costs.

Students who drop a field course should not expect a refund of any field course costs.

Students are encouraged to purchase cancellation insurance if airline tickets are required.

Students are responsible for all fees incurred by the home or host university due to any bounced cheque.

## An Average Day – What to Expect

(a) Daily timeline	Activities can begin as early as 5h AM or end as late as 9h PM, weekdays and weekends. A typical day will include a field trip or data collection from 6 AM to 12 AM, a break for lunch, and then oral presentations by students, guest lecturers, or data analysis between 1 PM and 4 PM. You will then need to fill in your field book and prepare the next day's field trip (e.g. new birds species we are likely to encounter) individually. We usually take a day off on the first Sunday. You need to keep your schedule completely free during these 2 weeks as the exact time and days of activities may have to shift in response to weather forecast.
(b) Work habitat & Physical exertion	We will hike and watch birds in all sorts of terrain: dry or wet path, sometimes muddy and hilly. We spend long hours in the field, walking slowly and in silence to hear and detect birds. You may also need to stand in place for long periods. We take breaks to sit, drink and snack at least every two hours.
(c) Common activities	<p>Week 1: you will be driven from University of Ottawa to a field site where we will walk around and observe birds. Experienced guides will help you hone your identification skills. We will then come back at University for presentations, discussions, etc. Other activities include the research collections of the Museum of Nature, volunteering at Ottawa Bird Day, etc.</p> <p>Week 2: you will collect data in small teams for your final report. Topics for projects relate to avian ecology, conservation, welfare or behaviour.</p>
(d) Weather, dehydration, & biting insects	Weather tends to be cold early morning and can become hot in the afternoon (we experienced as low as 0 C and as high as 30 C). Dressing appropriately is key. We will not go out in storms but you should not be afraid of light rain.
(e) Toxic/poisonous, wildlife/ plants	We will hike on sites where there are deer ticks. Some can be infected and transmit Lyme disease; we will provide guidelines you should follow to reduce these risks. No mosquitoes. There may be poison ivy off path, but we tend to stay on paths.
(f) Sleeping, washroom & laundry facilities	Students are responsible for their own housing. I will provide contact information and a code for reduced price at the uOttawa student residence on campus for those coming from out of town. Cost at the residence is usually around 30\$/night (single rooms with shared kitchen + bathroom).
(g) Meal plans & food allergies	Students are responsible for their own meals (not included in course fee). Registration fee include a free dinner at a local restaurant at the end of the course.
(h) Non-academic responsibilities	None.
(i) Degree of isolation	Low as the course is partly occurring in a teaching room at uOttawa, and field sites are less than 1 hour drive away. You may not have cell phone signal at some field sites.
(j) Alcohol & drugs	Not tolerated during the course's activities.
(k) Vaccinations/ Insurances	None.
(l) Social Situations	Evaluation includes an oral presentation, and collecting data as part of a team. Also, I will expect a friendly, collaborative and respectful attitude from everyone at all times during the course.
(m) Final comments	Transport to and from field sites will be provided by us (min-vans). However you need to ensure you can reach University of Ottawa by 5AM, which means that public transportation may not be an option, and walking on your own from home may not be safe. Consider this in your planning; for instance, even if you live in Ottawa you may be interested in taking a room at the student residences so that you do not have to deal with transportation at inconvenient times of day. I will expect everyone to try and learn as much as they can during the course, despite the early morning start, long days, and sometimes difficult weather conditions.