

Introduction to Bird Song - Syllabus

An 8-week course, meeting one evening per week, for 90 minutes. 7:00 to 8:30 PM. No prerequisites.

Location: UW-Milwaukee Field Station, Saukville, WI.

Instructor: William P. Mueller, Director, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory

E-mail: wpmueller1947@gmail.com Phone: 414-698-9108

Please bring a laptop or tablet for Week 1.

Week	Topics	Dates
Week 1	Resources for studying bird song	Feb. 6
Week 2	Learning songs - Group 1: bird of deciduous and mixed forests or woodlands	Feb. 13
Week 3	Learning Songs - Group 2: birds of wetlands	Feb. 20
Week 4	Learning songs - Group 3: birds of grasslands and miscellaneous habitats	Feb. 27
Week 5	Why birds sing; the evolutionary component of song, how song functions ecologically	Mar. 6
Week 6	Research on song; how bird song is being used by science	Mar. 13
Week 7	Aesthetics of bird song: why we enjoy bird song and some special examples	Mar. 20
Week 8	Testing our knowledge, refinements, continued learning	Mar. 27

Recommended readings will include specific chapters in these references:

Kroodsma, D. 2009. Birdsong by the seasons. Harcourt Houghton Mifflin , New York.

Rothenberg, D. 2005. Why birds sing. Basic Books, New York.

Stap, D. 2005. Bird song. Oxford University Press, New York.