

Semester:	08		
Course Code:	ZOOL 42872		
Course Name:	Ornithology		
Credit value:	02		
Status:	Optional		
Pre-requisite:	ZOOL12703		
Co-requisite:	None		
Hourly breakdown:	Theory	Practical	Independent Learning
	24	18	58

Intended Learning Outcomes:

After completion of this course unit, the student will be able to:

1. explain the evolution and global distribution of birds,
2. describe the diversity, morphology and general anatomy of birds,
3. explain the unique physiological processes of birds,
4. describe the bird flight and adaptations for flight,
5. discuss the economic and ecological significance of birds,
6. discuss threats to bird life and conservation strategies, and
7. apply field techniques in avian studies.

Course Content:

Biogeography of birds. Origin and evolutionary history. Diversity of birds. Avian structure including skin, exoskeleton, sense organs and general anatomy. Physiological processes unique to birds. Functions and strategies of moulting and moulting process. Flight, Migration and navigation. Avian communication. Nesting biology. Mating systems and parental care. Field techniques in avian studies. Economic and ecological importance of birds. Threats to bird life. Conservation of local and migratory birds.

Laboratory and field practical sessions, a field study at a selected location. Individual field study on a bird species.

Teaching/ Learning Methods:

A combination of lectures, laboratory and field practical sessions, a field study and student seminars.

Assessment Strategy:

Continuous assessment and end of semester examination. Percentage given for each sub-component indicates the percent contribution to the final marks.

Continuous Assessment 30%		Final Assessment 70%		
Details:		Theory	Practical	other
Laboratory reports	10%	70%	-	-
Field report	10%			
Seminar	10%			

Recommended Readings:

1. Scott, G. (2020). Essential Ornithology, Oxford University Press.
2. Harrison, J. (2011). A Field Guide to the Birds of Sri Lanka.
3. Kazimierczak, K. (2006). A Field Guide to the Birds of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal,
4. Newton, I. (2003). Speciation and Biogeography of Birds. Academic Press.
5. Sutherland, W. J., I. Newton & R. Green (2004). Birds - Ecology and Conservation: A Handbook of Techniques (Techniques in Ecology & Conservation), Oxford University Press.