

**Ornithology.1: Wild Birds & Humans Exploring Conservation, Art, Health, & Food**

**Faculty:** Dr. Keila Dhondt, Senior Lecturer of the Microbiology/Immunology and Biomedical Sciences Departments, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

**Week One:** July 6 - 12, 2025

**Schedule:** Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

**Location:** On campus, classroom, with some field work

Dear Students,

Welcome to “Wild Birds & Humans: Exploring Conservation, Art, Health and Food”! I’m thrilled to have you in this course.

Birds have fascinated and inspired humans for thousands of years—as symbols of freedom, subjects of art and literature, and vital players in our ecosystems. In this class, we’ll explore the rich and complex relationships between birds and people across cultures, time periods, and disciplines.

This will be a hands-on, immersive, and unique experience. In addition to class discussions and readings, we’ll head outside for field trips to observe birds in their natural habitats, visit an art museum to see how birds have been represented in art and science, and engage in interactive activities that bring our topics to life. Whether you're an avid birder or just beginning to notice the world of wings around you, there will be something here to spark your curiosity.

Get ready to think critically, observe closely, and reflect deeply on the many ways humans and birds intersect.

I can’t wait to begin this journey with you.

Keila

**Ornithology.1: Wild Birds & Humans Exploring Conservation, Art, Health, & Food**

**Faculty:** Dr. Keila Dhondt, Senior Lecturer of the Microbiology/Immunology and Biomedical Sciences Departments, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

**Week One:** July 6 - 12, 2025

**Schedule:** Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

**Location:** On campus, classroom, with some field work

## Resource List

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> Please download this app on your phone.

### Things to bring to class list:

Fieldwork in summer can be amazing but also tough, so dressing smart is key. Here's a practical guide on how to dress for comfort, safety, and efficiency when doing fieldwork in hot weather:

- ☐ Lightweight, long-sleeve shirt (breathable, for sun + bug protection)
- ☐ Lightweight, long pants (to protect from ticks, thorns)
- ☐ A hat or cap
- ☐ Sturdy trail shoes or sneakers (good grip)
- ☐ Moisture-wicking socks (synthetic or merino wool—no cotton!)
- ☐ Insect repellent (especially for mosquitoes and ticks)
- ☐ Sunscreen (SPF 30+, non-greasy so it won't smudge optics)
- ☐ Binocular if you have one (We have some to share.)
- ☐ Field notebook & pen and birding app on your phone
- ☐ Small towel or cooling cloth (great for hot, humid days)
- ☐ Reusable water bottle & snacks!