

Shorebird Vocalizations, February, 2021

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Introduction

This class was originally supposed to be part of our bird sounds class in September, but we ran out of time.

Typically, people want to learn bird sounds as an aid to identifying birds in the field. However, with the confusing cacophony of sounds that you encounter while observing shorebirds in the field, you may find that being able to i.d. the birds visually is as helpful to identifying the vocalization as the other way around. At any rate, I've found that shorebird sounds are fun to listen to and interesting to study, even if confusing.

Class Schedule

One session, Thursday, February 11, 7:00-8:15 (or as long as it takes).

Field Trips?

None, due to C19. We encourage you to go out on your own and listen to the birds. We will offer recommendations about how, where, etc.

Sources

Class Materials I've posted the class PowerPoint slides and this document as pdf files on my website here: **The shorebird slides start with slide number 27.**
<http://diablosteve.yolasite.com/bird-vocalization-class.php>

Text Most explanatory text was taken verbatim from the great Cornell site <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/>, which also has sounds and ID tips, and its companion site <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-learn-bird-songs-and-calls/> (no registration is required).

Sounds Most of the sound files are from the California Bird Songs digital recordings (Cornell/Macaulay Laboratory). A few were recorded directly off the Cornell website.

References

Denise Wight's Xeno-canto sound recordings are here:
<https://www.xeno-canto.org/contributor/UVAHIPJUXZ>
(In case you don't know her, Denise is a long-time ear-birding teacher for GGAS and a wonderful person.)

For a deep dive into bird vocalizations, we recommend Nathan Pieplow's *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt).

All of the sound files referred to in the Pieplow book may be found here:
<https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/peterson-field-guide-to-bird-sounds/> (no registration required).

Need to ID a Bird Song? Try BirdNET from the Cornell Lab: <https://birdnet.cornell.edu/api/>. It seems to be quite accurate, but requires uploading the sound file to their website, which is a little cumbersome.

Sound Software I'm using Raven Lite (free from Cornell) or Audacity (also free) to manipulate and play the sound files:

<http://ravensoundsoftware.com/software/raven-lite/>

<http://audacityteam.org/>

Audubon Climate Status The Audubon climate status for the individual species as shown on the PowerPoint slides comes from the California summary prepared as part of Audubon's "Survival By Degrees" climate change study:

https://nas-national-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/briefs_ca_final.pdf

GGAS has a strategic initiative to mitigate climate change, hence my inclusion of the Climate Status on these slides.

Hearing Resources Many of us have some hearing loss. If you do, but aren't ready for hearing aids, you might consider some lower-priced (\$50–\$400) alternatives:

Bose Headphones: From my personal experience, quite useful, but somewhat annoying to use in the field.

Nuheara IQ Buds: I have no personal experience with these.

Reizen Mighty Loud Ear: Helpful, basic, and cheap, from my personal experience.

Zoom

I will email you a Zoom invitation before the first meeting.

What will you need to do to log in?

You will need to download the Zoom app: https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

We'll be Zooming using GGAS's Zoom account.

You'll need to open your Zoom app at the prompt.

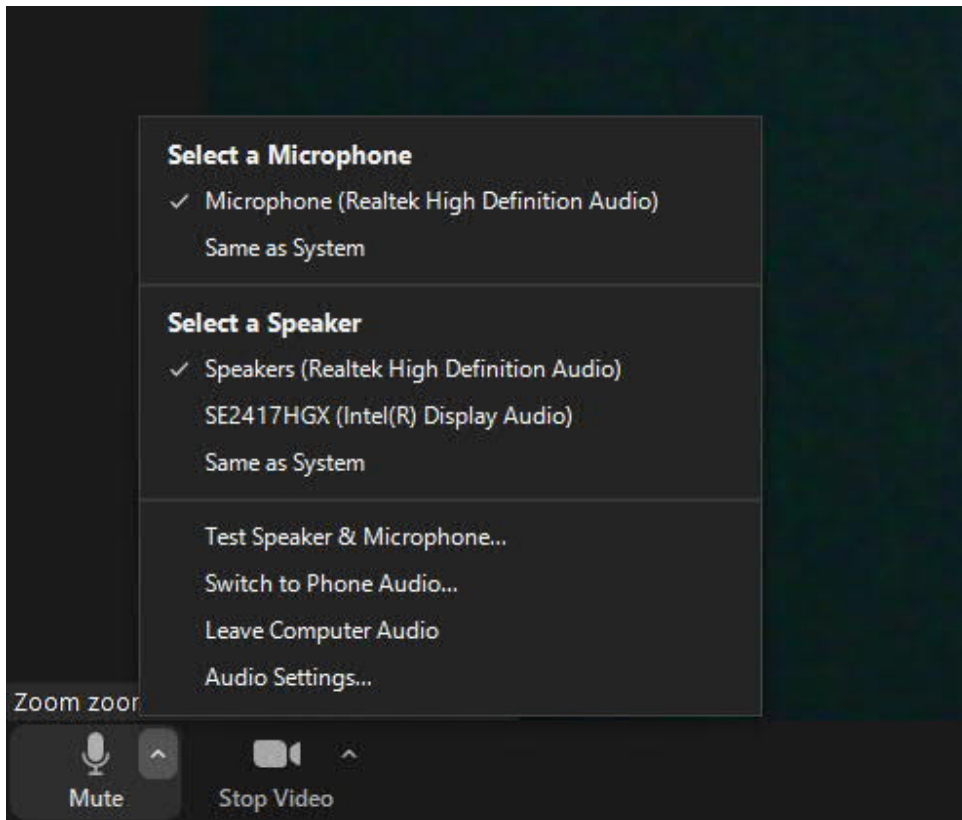
You'll also need to enter the meeting password, which is included in the invitation.

If you have trouble getting into the meeting, call me on my cell phone, 925/785-0130

Join the meeting using Computer Audio. I suggest that you do the speaker and microphone tests before the meeting.

What might you need to do during class?

Find the Mute and Stop Video icons. They are located on the lower left side of the Zoom screen, which you can open by hitting the ALT key.



While we're playing recordings, I'll ask that you Mute your microphone by clicking on the microphone icon (at the lower left on our PC screen).

You may also need to shut off your video camera (by clicking on the "Stop Video" icon) if you have a bandwidth problem and your presentation becomes slow or jerky. Note that this will only shut off your camera. You will still be able to see other participants.