

## Resources for Teaching Ornithology and Related Courses

AOU 2009 Pre-Meeting Workshop on Innovative Teaching in Ornithology

August 12, 2009

### Campus Resources

- Check to see if your university has a **Center for Learning and Teaching** or a **Center for Teaching Excellence**. They may offer seminars, consulting, videotaping, short courses, or web resources to help develop your teaching.
- **Preparing Future Faculty** courses are offered by more than 45 universities, often through the Graduate Department. This one- or two-semester course in best practices for pedagogy may also cover interviewing, applying for jobs, and involve a supervised mentorship where you guest lecture at a school similar to your ideal institution.

### Books

- *McKeachie's Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers, 12<sup>th</sup> edition* (McKeachie and Svinicki, 2005) is a great starting place for ideas on how to write a syllabus, alternatives to lecturing and dealing with problem students.
- *Why Don't Students Like School: A Cognitive Scientist Answers Questions About How the Mind Works and What It Means for the Classroom* (Willingham, 2009) is hot off the presses and takes a fresh tack to educational reform. You might first try his article in *American Educator*, which can be found at: [http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american\\_educator/issues/spring2009/WILLINGHAM\(2\).pdf](http://www.aft.org/pubs-reports/american_educator/issues/spring2009/WILLINGHAM(2).pdf)
- NSTA Press titles that may be of interest include: *Teaching Tips: Innovations in Undergraduate Science Education* (Druger, Siebert & Crow, 2004), *Handbook of College Science Teaching* (Mintzes & Leonard, 2006), *Start with a Story* (Herreid, 2006), and *Practicing Science: The Investigative Approach in College Science Teaching* or *Innovative Techniques for Large-Group Instruction* (both NSTA Press collections of selected articles from the *Journal of College Science Teaching*, 2002).
- Several companion resources to Campbell's *Biology, 8<sup>th</sup> edition* have been developed, notably *Biological Inquiry: A Workbook of Investigative Case Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* (Campbell, Reece, Waterman & Stanley, 2008), and *Inquiry in Action, Biology: Interpreting Scientific Papers* (Campbell, Reece & Buskirk, 2008).
- A slightly older General Biology resource is *Thinking Toward Solutions: Problem-Based Learning Activities for General Biology* (Allen & Duch, 1998).

### Journals, Associations, and Meetings

The following associations all offer regular conferences and journals or newsletters. Other resources of particular interest are noted below.

- *Journal of College Science Teaching* – Society for College Science Teaching (Also offers job postings): <http://www.scst.org>
- *Bioscene* - Association for College & University Biology Educators: <http://acube.org>
- *American Biology Teacher* – National Association for Biology Teachers (Also has regional affiliates, 2- and 4-year college sections, and awards): <http://nabt.org>
- *Abstracts* - Association for Biology Laboratory Education: <http://ableweb.org>

### Resources From AOU Members

- Ardia, D. 2005. Natural Selection & Variation: A Hands-on Lesson using Bird Specimens. *American Biology Teacher*, 67(8): 468-473. Reprint available at: [http://csip.cornell.edu/Curriculum\\_Resources/CSIP/Ardia/default.asp](http://csip.cornell.edu/Curriculum_Resources/CSIP/Ardia/default.asp)
- Burt, E.H. & Wilson, W.H. 1999. A Survey of Undergraduate Ornithology Courses in North America. *Wilson Bulletin*, 111(2): 287-293. Reprint available at: <http://www.colby.edu/personal/w/whwilson/Wilson%20pdf's/Burt&WilsonWB1999.pdf>
- Burt, E.H. 2002. A Manual of Field and Laboratory Exercises for Ornithology. Wilson Ornithological Society. An edited volume available in English and Spanish at: <http://www.wilsonociety.org/wosmanual/index.html>

### Other Online Resources

- Tomorrow's Professor Blog: [http://amps-tools.mit.edu/tomprofblog/archives/tomorrows\\_teaching\\_and\\_learning/](http://amps-tools.mit.edu/tomprofblog/archives/tomorrows_teaching_and_learning/)
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Job postings and articles): <http://chronicle.com/>
- *Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology* from the Ecological Society of America: <http://tiee.ecoed.net/>
- Resources from the University of Minnesota's Center for Teaching and Learning (Tips on grading, lecturing, active learning and more): <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/resources/guides/index.html>
- Teaching Tips from the Association for Psychological Science's *Observer* (Succinct and practical suggestions from experienced educators): <http://www.psychologicalscience.org/observer/getArticle.cfm?id=1745>
- Connecting Undergraduates to the Enterprise of Science from Missouri University (Before and after examples of cookbook laboratories turned into inquiry-based investigations): <http://cues.missouri.edu/>