



Bird ecology and infectious diseases in the field, the lab and the computer with focus on bird conservation, livestock and public health

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Abstract

In recent years, emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) have posed increasing threats to wildlife, livestock and human health. There is much evidence suggesting that wild birds play an important role in the transmission and spread of diseases like avian influenza, West Nile Virus, Mycoplasma conjunctivitis, avian pox, avian malaria, and many more. However monitoring wild birds, their population dynamics and their health status requires special skills that are not routinely taught to biology or veterinary students. These skills range from choosing the right location to capture and sample birds, to taking blood samples or mouth swabs from the tiniest avian species. This course will provide graduate and postgraduate students with a solid understanding about bird anatomy, physiology and ecology, the nature of their infectious diseases and their transmission, as well as the skills they need to collect samples of birds when they need to address any research question related to wild birds. Furthermore, it will provide a great opportunity to strengthen collaboration between CityU and the prestigious Cornell College of Veterinary medicine, as well as the world famous Cornell Lab of Ornithology.