



**FACULTY:**

Dr. John Blake  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

Dr. Bette Loiselle  
University of Missouri-St. Louis

**PLUS INVITED GUEST FACULTY:**

Dr. Gilbert Barrantes  
Universidad de Costa Rica

Dr. Thomas Sherry  
Tulane University

Dr. John Bates  
Field Museum

This 2-week course in tropical avian ecology is directed towards advanced graduate students interested in field research on birds in the tropics. The course will visit contrasting sites including Pacific dry forest at Palo Verde, high elevation oak forests and paramo, and Atlantic rain forest at the La Selva Biological Station, home to a diverse avian assemblage and modern laboratory facilities.

Considerable theory in population, community, and behavioral ecology has arisen from studies on birds. Further, the impacts of habitat alteration on the extinction and population declines of species are best known in birds. The main objectives of this course will be to introduce students to techniques in studying the ecology and behavior of birds in the field and review key topics in evolutionary ecology and conservation of birds. Topics will include biogeography, speciation, diversity patterns, population dynamics and community ecology, frugivory and seed dispersal, pollination, mating systems, fragmentation, and global change.

Emphasis will also be placed on developing research questions, hypothesis testing, and statistical analysis. The course will include a mixture of lectures, field activities, and discussions.



**WHEN:**

14-27 May 2009 (arrive 14 May mid-day to Liberia, depart 28 May from San Jose)

**WHERE:**

Costa Rica – Palo Verde Biological Station, Cuerici Biological Station, La Selva Biological Station

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Up to 22 graduate students in the fields of ecology, behavior, evolution, conservation biology, or related disciplines.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

16 February 2009 for priority admission, followed by rolling admission until fully enrolled.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

For registration contact Barbara Lewis ([blewis@ots.ac.cr](mailto:blewis@ots.ac.cr)) or the OTS website at [www.ots.duke.edu](http://www.ots.duke.edu) and for course content contact Bette Loiselle ([Loiselle@umsl.edu](mailto:Loiselle@umsl.edu)) or John Blake ([John\\_Blake@umsl.edu](mailto:John_Blake@umsl.edu)).

**TUITION:**

\$2000 OTS consortium applicants  
\$2500 Non-member applicants

Partial fellowships may be available. Preference for fellowships will be given to OTS consortium members and students from Latin America.