**Documentation of Nature’s Notebook v2.11**

(1/27/2023 to 5/1/2024)

*Updated 3/11/2025 by Ellen Denny*

The documentation files in this packet are organized as follows:

**Monitoring guidelines** folder includes a few new materials that were released in 2023:

* The fourth module of an online Observer Certification Course was deployed to help observers understand how to make intensity estimates. Module 7 was renamed Module 5 and the course was complete before Spring 2023. Observers who complete this course will be flagged as “certified observers” in the database.

The “Guide to Your First Visit and How to Observe in the Field with *Nature’s Notebook*” did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.10; Observer Certification Course Module 1 did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.7, Modules 2 and 7 (now called Module 5) did not change since v2.9, and Module 3 did not change since v2.10; Phenophase Photo Guide format and Nature’s Notebook Nugget 5 did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.6; “Basic Botany and Intensity Estimation” slideshow and scripted video quizzes, Section 1 of the “Phenophase Primer”, Nature’s Notebook Nuggets 9-11, and the “Frequently Asked Questions” webpage did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.5; “Learn How to Observe with a Group” webpages and Nature’s Notebook Nuggets 6-8 did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.4; “Learn How to Observe” training videos, the Botany Primer and Nature’s Notebook Nuggets 1-4 did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.3; training materials for group sites (formerly called “shared sites”) did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.2; and the monitoring guidelines embedded in our webpages did not change appreciably since Nature’s Notebook v2.1. Thus they are not included again in this v2.10 documentation archive (but can be found in the v2.1, v2.2, v2.3, v2.4, v2.5, v2.6, v2.7, v2.9 and v2.10 documentation).

**Species** folder includes a list of all species available for monitoring. The format of the species search page and species profile pages did not change from Nature’s Notebook v2.6 (see v2.6 documentation) and thus example screen captures are not included again in this v2.11 documentation archive. For specifics on phenophases and definitions for each species during this period, check the database output that accompanies download of Nature’s Notebook data.

**Registration forms** did not change from Nature’s Notebook v2.1—with the exception of the initial registration process which was streamlined in Nature’s Notebook v2.2. Thus example screen captures are not included again in this v2.11 documentation archive (but can be found in the v2.1 and v2.2 documentation).

**Datasheets** did not change from Nature’s Notebook v2.1 (see the v2.1 documentation) and thus are not included again in this v2.11 documentation archive.

**Mobile apps** did not change from Nature’s Notebook v2.7 (see the v2.7 documentation) and thus are not included again in this v2.11 documentation archive.

The **Nature’s Notebook Documentation page** “Instructions Given to Observers” section was updated in early May 2024 to reflect the changes on the new website. A screen capture of the previous version of the text, valid from v2.0 (2012) through this v2.11, is included.

Details of what was new in Spring 2023 were outlined on the Frequently Asked Questions page and are included below. The change to abundance instructions that is mentioned was never implemented. We are not sure how many observers saw this FAQ and followed this intended change vs. the existing instruction to enter than the number of individuals in the Phenophase.

WHAT'S NEW FOR SPRING 2023?

We have added several new plant and animal species to *Nature’s Notebook*—

including five fireflies!—and we switched several existing forb species that sometimes retain green leaves throughout the dormant season to the “Semi-evergreen forb” protocol.

We also revised the instruction for estimating abundance for a few animal phenophases—"Occupied nest”, “Eggs”, “Cast-off skins”—to clarify that the number of nests, eggs, and skins should be counted and entered rather than the “number of individual animals observed in this phenophase”. *Note that this change will unfortunately not appear in the protocols on the website or the mobile app until our redesigned website is launched in a few weeks.* The new instructions will read:

* For abundance, enter the number of occupied nests observed.
* For abundance, enter the number of eggs observed.
* For abundance, enter the number of cast-off skins observed.

All the other species and phenophases you are accustomed to are still here, unchanged, and waiting to be observed!