**Documentation of Nature’s Notebook v3.0**

(5/2/2024 to 3/2/2025)

*Updated 3/11/2025 by Ellen Denny*

The documentation files in this packet are organized as follows:

**Monitoring guidelines** folder includes screen captures of new webpages after an updated USA-NPN website was launched in early May 2024. This refresh included significant changes to navigation of the Nature’s Notebook platform to streamline the onboarding, registration and training of new observers:

* All training materials are now accessed from the Observation Deck “Learning” tab. Many of the old training materials, including the “Learn How to Observe” webpages, scripted videos, and materials specific for groups were dropped. The Observer Certification Course has become the primary training guide, and includes links to the First Visit Guide, FAQs, and the Botany and Phenophase Primers for more information.
* Nature’s Notebook Nuggets were reformatted and included within the FAQ section.

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, Module 3 did not change since v2.10 and Module 4 did not change since v2.11; Phenophase Photo Guide format did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.6; Section 1 of the “Phenophase Primer”, and the content of the “Frequently Asked Questions” did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.5; the Botany Primer did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.3. Thus these materials are not included again in this v2.11 documentation archive (but can be found in the v2.3, v2.5, v2.6, v2.9, v2.10 and v2.11 documentation).

**Species** folder includes a list of all species available for monitoring. The format of the species search page and species profile pages changed slightly from Nature’s Notebook v2.6 and v2.1 (see v2.6 and v2.1 documentation). Example screen captures are included in this v3.0 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 v2.12 documentation archive.

**Mobile apps** folder includes screen captures of a new login process and a “Programs” tab released in 2024 to improve functionality for observers in Local Phenology Programs. Aside from the new “Programs” tab, mobile app screens did not change from Nature’s Notebook v2.7 (see the v2.7 documentation) and thus are not included again in this v2.12 documentation archive.

Details of what was new in Spring 2024 were never outlined on the Frequently Asked Questions page because of the late release of the new website, and because there were no changes to protocols anyway. The details for what was new in Spring 2023 (included below) remained in place, but the change to abundance instructions that is mentioned was never implemented. We are not sure how many observers saw this FAQ over the last two years 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!