**Documentation of Nature’s Notebook v2.9**

(2/1/2021 to 3/9/2022)

*Updated 3/14/2022 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 2021:

* The second and seventh modules of an online Observer Certification Course were deployed to demonstrate how to use the mobile app (Module 2), and how to make observations on a desert willow (Module 7). The course will be expanded into more modules for next year. Observers who complete this course will be flagged as “certified observers” in the database.

The Observer Certification Course Module 1 did not change since Nature’s Notebook v2.7; 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 v2.9 documentation archive (but can be found in the v2.1, v2.2, v2.3, v2.4, v2.5, v2.6 and v2.7 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 v2.9 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 v2.9 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 v2.9 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 v2.9 documentation archive.

Details of what was new in Spring 2021 were outlined on the Frequently Asked Questions page and are included here:

WHAT'S NEW FOR SPRING 2021?

We have added several new plant and animal species to *Nature’s Notebook*, revised the “Falling leaves” plant phenophase definition for clarity, and changed the bird/mammal phenophase name “Active individuals” to “Live individuals” to avoid confusion about our meaning of the term “active”—this phenophase is meant to include all live individuals detected during a site visit whether or not they are actively moving about. We also added the phrase “or heard” to the definition because detection may be by sight or sound. The phenophase now reads:

**Live individuals:** One or more individuals are seen or heard moving about or at rest.

Similarly, we have dropped the word “Active” in insect phenophase names so “Active adults” has become “Adults”, “Active larvae” has become “Larvae”, etc. Protocols for aquatic insects (dragonflies, damselflies, mayflies and stoneflies) have also been updated to include phenophases for egg laying and recently emerged (teneral) adults. All the other species and phenophases you are accustomed to are still here, unchanged, and waiting to be observed!