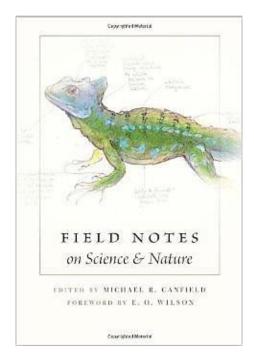
Field Journals in Science

A personal record observations of nature

- observations enhance learning and idea generation
- observations may be linked to or inform 'hard data'
- widely used in biology, paleontology, archaeology, social sciences



Your Field Notebook: What to include?

Outdoor field lab entries should include:

- date and time
- weather (temp., cloud cover, precipitation, wind speed, wind direction)
- specific location (lat/long; written description, a sketched map)
- description of habitats, general landscape

Field Notes in Science

 Many biologists make field notes a 'habit'

Much important
information buried in field
notes of leading scientists

 important for historical scientific record

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EDWARD O. WILSON

Along with copious notes on ants, my notebooks contain natural history observations such as these notes on birds from New Caledonia, taken in July 1954.

Field Notes in Science

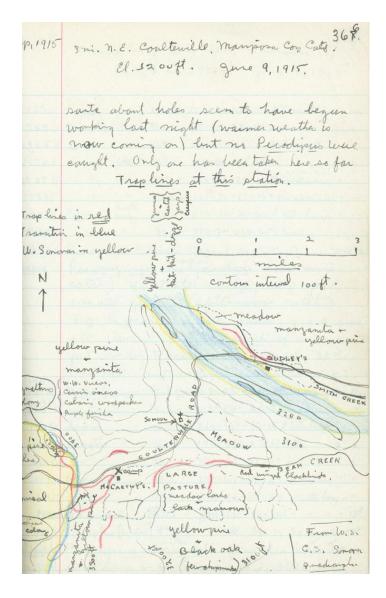
- sketches are important

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This notebook page documents collections of Pheidole ants, an arboreal earthworm found in the inflated internode of a rainforest shrub, as well as Aneuretus ants, the elusive group I sought in Sri Lanka in 1935.

Field Notes in Science

maps and other site details are essential!



Field Notebooks

A full-semester activity with entries for:

- each field lab (not required for indoor labs)
- research project activities
- miscellaneous observations

Field Notebooks: the Process

- Take quick notes in field
- Complete notes at home (same day if possible)
 - transfer to new notebook if needed
 - use voice to text on smartphone?
 - 'apps' for note keeping
 - field time should *focus on making observations*
- Sketches will be part of your notebooks

Field Notebooks: Grading

- 10% of grade (significant)
- Should be clear that effort/time was involved
 - 1 entry for each lab (more if >1 location/activity)
 - research project & misc. observations
 - details of time, location, site, weather
 - content of entries (observations)
 - neatness, legibility