

Name: _____

Date: _____

Teacher Sheet: Create a Field Journal

✓Nestlings

Include in your field journal the following information:

Name: *Mary Joe Bird*

Date: *May 12th*

Location: *Lava Beds National Monument*

Weather: *Partly Cloudy*

Habitat: *Sagebrush Steppe*

Observations: *Observed many birds including California Quail, Western Kingbird, and even a Pinyon Jay. Saw a Prairie Falcon dive from a telephone pole.*

Thoughts and/or Feelings: *The wind blew over the sagebrush steppe filling the air with the smell of sage and juniper. We had to stay very quiet so we wouldn't disturb the birds. Staying quiet also helped us hear and locate the birds. I had a great time on the field trip and it was fun becoming a real scientist by creating a field journal.*

Sketches:

List questions generated from your observations:

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✓Fledglings

Creating a Grinnellian Field Journal

As you set up your journal, use this format as a guide.

Date

Your Name & Year

Location (squiggly line)

Species (straight line)

Diagram

Matsumoto, Karen
1975

Brown Towhee

Jewel Lake, Tilden Nature Study Area,
Tilden Park, Contra Costa Co., Ca.

Jan 10 8:25 am. Brown Towhee observed foraging on ground and around Baccharis along service road next to Nature Center. Scratching at ground making shrill one-note peeps. Two more individuals seen in same area, flying and alighting on Baccharis, approx. 3-5 ft. above ground.

Jan 25 8:10 am. South gate of Nature Area. Two Brown Towhees foraging on ground in grassy area beneath a bare Elderberry tree somewhat sheltered by dead brush and Baccharis. The two were thought to be a pair. They were foraging close to each other, not more than 4-5 feet apart from each other. Up and down head movements, pecking for food were seen (approximately at a 45° angle). Birds would occasionally turn their heads to the side, appearing to use monocular vision to look at ground. The towhees would scratch back + forth at ground from front to the back of his body. The towhees have been constantly keeping an eye on the other one.

Matsumoto, Karen
1975

Journal

Driones Regional Park, Alhambra Valley,
Road Entrance, Contra Costa Co., Ca.

Feb 15 8:00 am. We met at the parking lot at top of Alhambra Valley Road entrance. The weather is amazingly clear (you can see the Sierras!) and somewhat cool (Air temperature taken by Dr. R.C. Stebbins 7.0° C) We continued up the Three Lakes Trail. We went on an offshoot of the main trail, looking for California Slender Salamander. We then continued on NE trail and then SW to main 3 lakes trail again 9:15 am. We continued up the ridge and along crest of hill through grassland and Oak-Bay (Amygdus agrifolia) woodland. We went into an oak-bay area with dense leaf litter and large branches on ground. Here, under an oak log, an Ensatina was found. 10:15 am. We went down the ridge through a grassy, muddy area down to 3 lakes trail. going down to the ponds. We encountered pond #1 and did a tree frog survey. After observing Pacific Tree frogs for about half an hour we walked over to the adjacent pond #2 to observe Taricha tarosae. These ponds are situated at the bottom of gently sloping, grassy

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Field Journal Tips

Use the following information and bird vocabulary to help you when you write in your journal.

Bird Identification– What did the bird look like?

1. *Silhouette*: Body and tail shape, length of bill, etc.
2. *Field marks*: Feather coloration, wing bars or patches (see below Bird Body Parts).
3. *Posture*: Was the bird sitting upright or vertical or perching horizontally?
4. *Size*: Was the bird small like a finch or large like a hawk?

Bird Behavior– What was the bird doing?

1. *Foraging*: Another word for feeding. Describe what it is feeding on.
2. *Flocking*: More than three birds together in a group. Describe flock size.
3. *Preening*: Cleaning their feathers with their bill.
4. *Flying*: Describe whether the bird is soaring, hovering, flapping, or gliding.
5. *Singing*: Long, complex musical notes sung only by male birds.
6. *Calling*: Short, simple notes sung by both males and female birds.

Bird Body Parts:

