

Lesson 6 Part 1

A COLLECTION OR FIELD GUIDE:

PATTERNS

PATTERNS

- Nature is full of patterns and scientists often use patterns to group or categorize species, or as clues to underlying processes or forces at work.
- A pattern exists when a set of numbers, colors, shapes, or sounds are repeated. Patterns can be found everywhere: in animals, plants, and even the solar system! Some specific patterns are called fractals or **spirals**. Fractals are patterns that repeat at different scales.



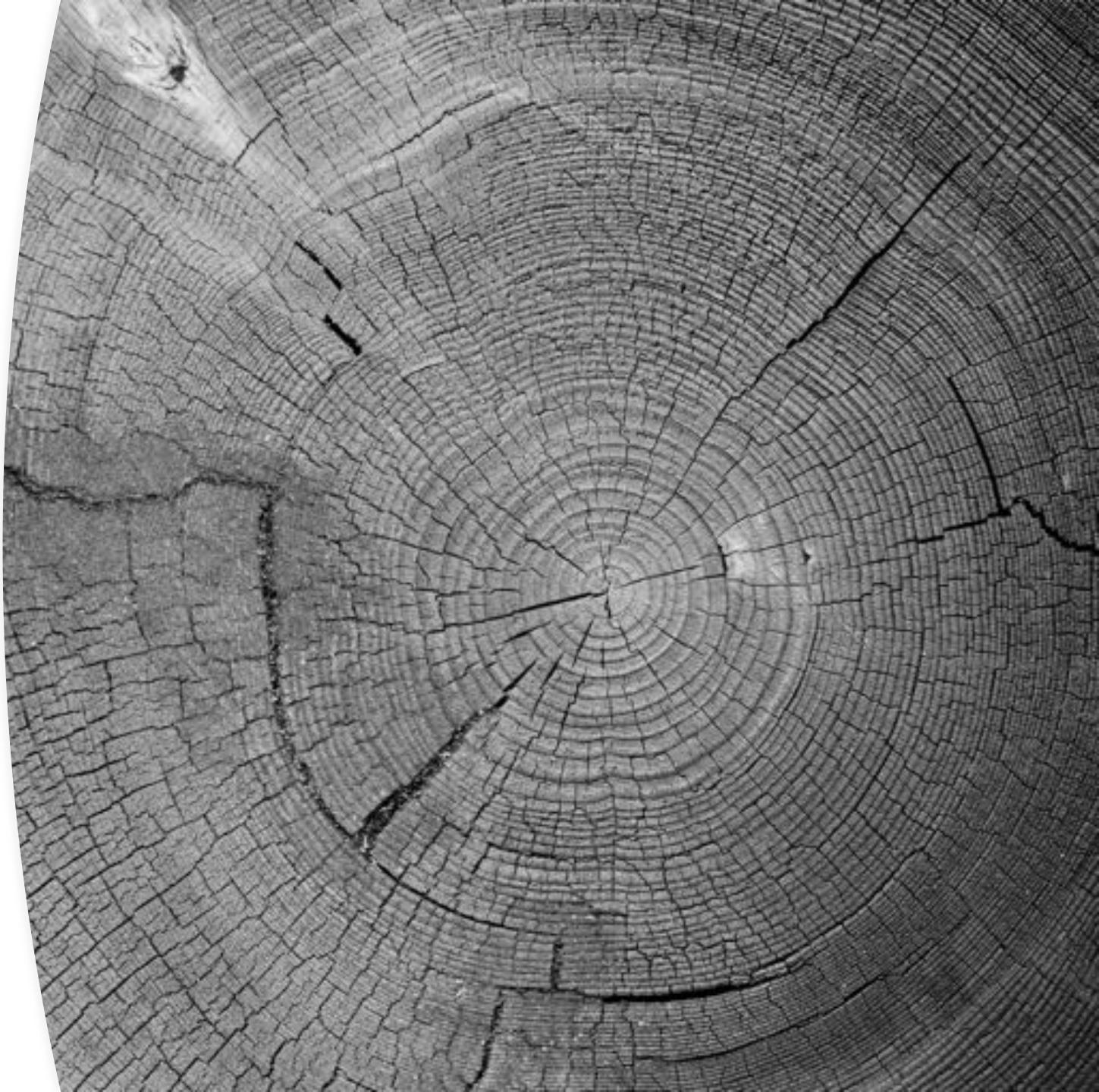
How to Study Patterns

- Ask yourself these questions when you are doing an observation:
 - What patterns do you notice?
 - How can you describe the pattern?
 - Are there exceptions to the pattern?
 - What might be causing the pattern?
 - What does the pattern remind you of?



Some things with a Pattern

- Spirals
- Branching patterns
- Things found under rocks
- 120 degree angles
- Patterns made by melting snow
- Animal or plant camouflage
- Tracks in the mud
- Signs of the season
- Flowers
- Orb Spider webs
- Bird Feathers





Collection or Field Guide: Patterns

In this lesson, you will create of field guide of 3-5 things focusing on the concept of **Patterns**.

- Here's what you'll do:
1. Make a field guide of your chosen subject that shows patterns.
 2. Include three to five things in your field guide.
 3. Arrange the page so that you show drawings with words next to them.
 4. Record observations with words, pictures, and numbers, paying attention to similarities and PATTERNS.

Field Guides

are useful tools for identifying and learning about plants, animals and other parts of nature in a specific area.

- Look at the following field guide pages.
 - Notice what kind of information is included and how it is arranged on the pages.
1. Typically, a field guide will have pictures or drawings for each subject, sometimes showing different stages or forms for each subject.
 2. Written information describing key points, and maps.
 3. Subjects are arranged in an order that helps compare similar species.

Pocket Guide to Dragonflies and Damselflies

- Small foldable pamphlet you can take in the field to quickly identify your subject.
- Very little information about the animal, just enough to identify it, but you'll need to do more research on it when you get back home.

PERCHING POSITIONS

Dragonflies and damselflies have five distinctive ways they perch on trees and vegetation which can be an aid to their identification.



SPREADWING DAMSELFLIES

Spreadwing damselflies are so named since they rest with their wings partially opened. They often perch on plants at oblique angles. 18 species.



Common Spreadwing
Lestes disjunctus
To 1.3 in. (4 cm)
Thorax is blackish with green shoulder stripes. Abdomen is blue-tipped. Face and eyes are blue. Perches obliquely.

Spotted Spreadwing
Lestes congener
To 1.5 in. (4 cm)
Thorax is black with pale shoulder stripes. Abdomen is black above and blue-tipped. Perches obliquely.

POD DAMSELFLIES

Family of small to medium damselflies have clear wings and are often brightly colored. Many have eyespots (colored spots behind the eye). Forktail species have a projecting fork at the tip of the abdomen. 96 species.



Familiar Bluet
Erythromma civile
To 1.3 in. (4 cm)
Blue thorax has black stripes on the top and sides. Black markings on the abdomen are most pronounced near the tip. Blue eyespots may be comma-shaped. Perches horizontally.

Northern Bluet
Erythromma cyathigerum
To 1.3 in. (4 cm)
Thorax is blue with a wide black dorsal stripe and thin black side stripes. Black markings on the abdomen are most pronounced near the tip. Eyes have large pale blue eyespots. Perches horizontally or obliquely.

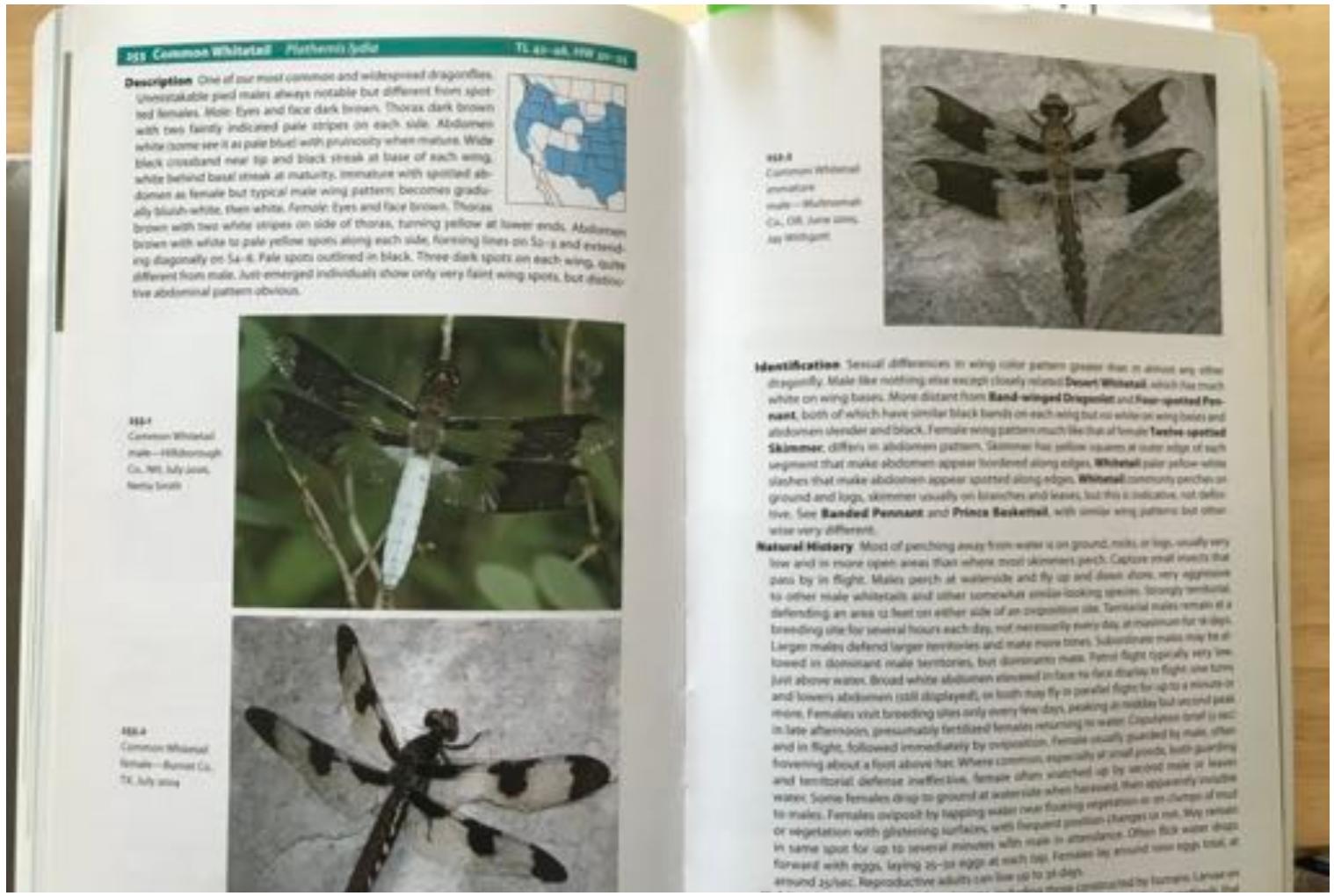
Marsh Bluet
Erythromma spuriun
To 1.2 in. (3.6 cm)
Very small size. Blue thorax has black stripes on the top and sides. Black markings on the abdomen are most pronounced near the tip. Blue eyespots are very small. Perches horizontally.

Stream Bluet (E)
Erythromma virgo
To 1.2 in. (3.6 cm)
Thorax is black above with blue shoulder stripes. Black abdomen has thin blue rings and is blue-tipped. Perches horizontally.

Taiga Bluet
Cordulegaster boltonii
To 1.2 in. (3.6 cm)
Thorax is black above with blue shoulder stripes and green-blue on the sides. Black and blue abdomen is blue-tipped. Perches horizontally.

Vesper Bluet (E)
Erythromma vesperum
To 1.2 in. (3.6 cm)
Yellow thorax has broad black stripes. Abdomen is black above, yellow below and blue-tipped. Perches horizontally.

Field Guide to Dragonflies Two pages on one species.



Identification: Sexual differences in wing color pattern (please don't mistake any other dragonfly. Male like nothing else except closely related Desert Whitetail, which has much white on wing bases. More distant from Band-winged Dragonlet and Four-spotted Pennant, both of which have similar black bands on each wing but no white on wing bases and abdomen slender and black. Female wing pattern much like that of female *Torches-spotted Skimmer*, differs in abdominal pattern. Skimmer has yellow squares at outer edge of each segment that make abdomen appear thickened along edges. Whitetail has yellow-white slashes that make abdomen appear spotted along edges. Whitetail commonly perches on ground and logs, skimmer usually on branches and leaves, but this is indicative, not definitive. See *Banded Pennant* and *Prince Baskettail*, with similar wing patterns but otherwise very different.

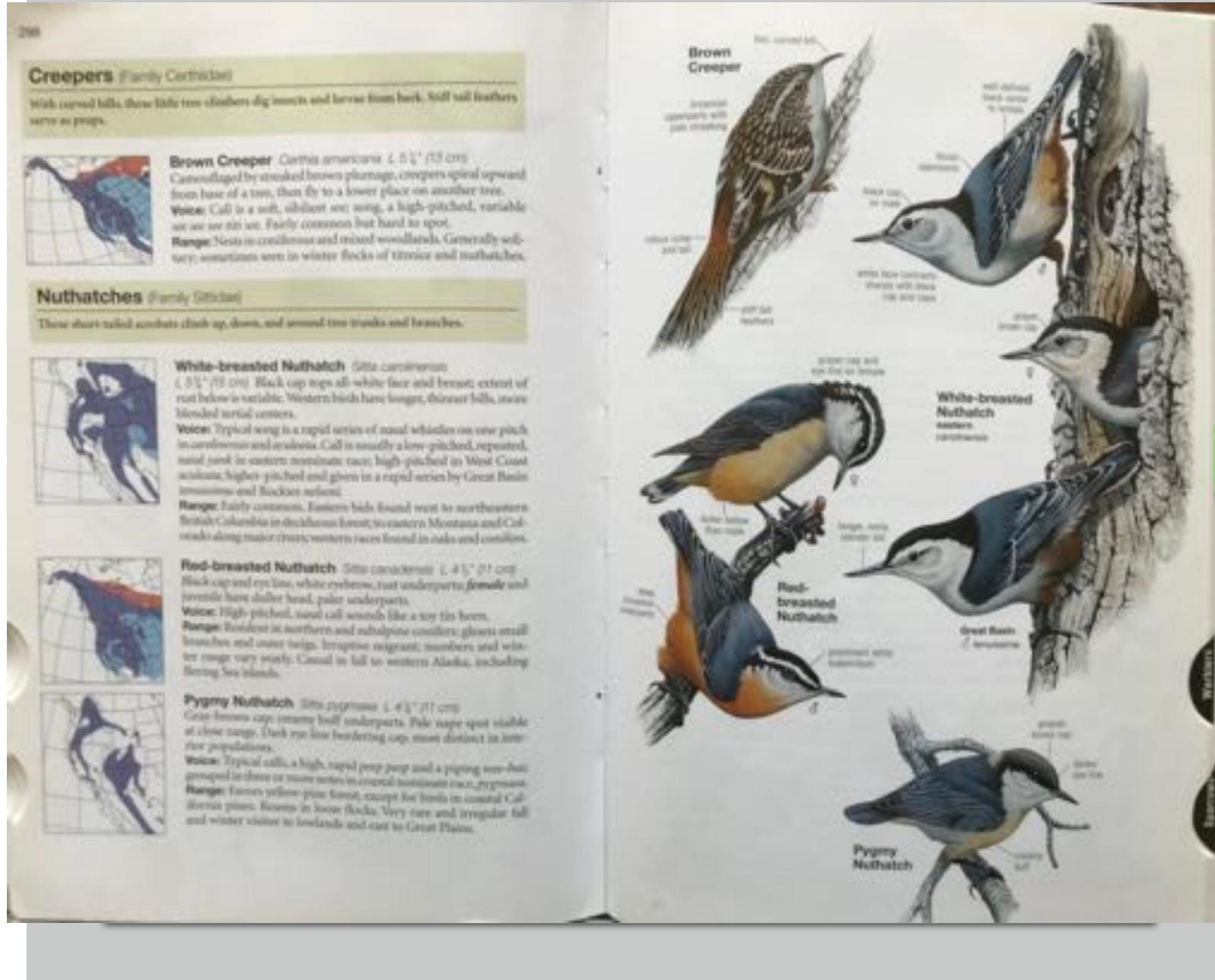
Natural History: Most of perchng away from water is on ground, rocks, or logs, usually very low and in more open areas than where most skimmers perch. Capture small insects that pass by in flight. Males perch at waterside and fly up and down shore, very responsive to other male whitetails and other somewhat similar-looking species. Strongly territorial, defending an area 12 feet on either side of an "advertisement site." Territorial males remain at a breeding site for several hours each day, not necessarily every day, at maximum for 10 days. Larger males defend larger territories and mate more often. Subordinate males may be allowed in dominant male territories, but dislodge males. Flight flight typically very low just above water, broad white abdomen extended in face to face display in flight, one turny and lowers abdomen (tail displayed), or both may fly in parallel flight for up to a minute or more. Females visit breeding sites only every few days, perching on nearby but unoccupied pads in late afternoon, presumably fertilized females returning to water. Copulation (male is erect) and in flight, followed immediately by oviposition. Females usually guarded by male, often hovering about a foot above water. Where common, especially at small ponds, both guarding and territorial defense ineffective; female often watched up by nearby male or leave water. Some females drop to ground at water's edge when harassed, then apparently escape to males. Females oviposit by dipping water near floating vegetation or on clumps of mud or vegetation with glistening surfaces, with frequent position changes on mat. May remain in same spot for up to several minutes with rise in attendance. Often back water dash forward with eggs, laying 25–30 eggs at each dip. Females lay around four eggs total at around 25/sec. Reproductive adults can live up to 31 days.

Pocket Guide to Backyard Birds



Field Guide to Birds

- 450-page book with more information on each of the related species.
- Maps of distribution are important in helping to identify the species you're studying.



Field Guide to Insects

Two different sections of the same book. How is this book organized?

203 PAPILIO MACHAON Old World Swallowtail

Family Papilionidae

Order Lepidoptera

Length Wingspan is 80–85 mm.

Recognition marks Hind wing has a dark area along the inner margin not extending into the discal cell area, and tails only two or three times as long as wide. (A closely related species, *P. machaonius* has tails much longer.)

Habitat Unknown, but in Europe larvae feed on Umbelliferae. Disposition has been reported on *Artemisia arctica* (Compositae).

Distribution Alaska and Canada and in the northern part of Europe. Rare.

Note This species is one of about twenty-eight species of swallowtail butterflies, so-called because they almost always have tails on the hind wings. Among the most beautiful of butterflies with over 500 species worldwide, most of them tropical, they are highly prized by collectors. One common species, the pipevine swallowtail (*Battus philenor*), lacks tails on the hind wings. This species is widely distributed in the United States. The larvae feed on wild ginger, pipevine, and other plants. It is mimicked by the red spotted purple (*Limenitis arthemis* (see illustration 250)).



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204 PAPILIO CRESPHONTES Giant Swallowtail

Family Papilionidae

Order Lepidoptera

Length Wingspan is 100–140 mm.

Recognition marks Black with a yellow "X" on the front wing and basal and subapical bands on hind wing. Distinguished from *P. machaon* by the larger spots forming in the lower left leg of the "X" on the front wing. This is the largest butterfly in the United States and Canada.

Habitat Larvae feed on a variety of trees and plants including citrus, prickly ash, and hop trees. The ometeterium (see larva; next species) is orange.

Distribution Eastern North America to Mexico.



O



82 CICINDELA SPLENDIDA Splendid Tiger Beetle

Family Cicindelidae

Order Coleoptera

Length 12–15 mm.

Recognition marks Elytral margins are metallic blue or green, strongly contrasting with the disk of the elytra which is brilliantly copper-red or metallic green.

Habitat Usually in sandy areas, particularly in evergreen forests.

Distribution Eastern North America west to the Rocky Mountains.

Note The larvae of tiger beetles are all carnivorous. They make a vertical burrow in the soil, 300 mm (1 foot) deep. The head and thorax is modified to form a plug at the top of the tube. The larva waits, with open jaws, until a passing insect touches the larva, whereupon the jaws snap closed and a struggle follows. The dorsal surface of the fifth abdominal segment has two pairs of hooks that help prevent larva from being dragged from the hole.



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83 OMUS DEJEANI Dejean's Omus

Family Cicindelidae

Order Coleoptera

Length 15–21 mm.

Recognition marks Black; elytra have numerous very large scattered pits among smaller punctures; rest of the body is nearly smooth.

Habitat In rotten stumps. Adults will visit if disturbed.

Distribution Common in the Pacific Northwest. Other very similar species occur throughout the western states.

Note Dozens of species of the genus *Omus* have been described, but relatively few are valid names representing natural species. These beetles, except for this species, are relatively rare. Very little is known about their habits or their life histories.



White Dead-nettle

Lamium album L.

The dead-nettle
and mint family
Labiatae

The white dead-nettle with leaves similar to those of the common stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.*), often grows in similar places, which have a high content of nitrogenous substances in the soil, such as wasteland, thickets, hedgebanks, roadsides and thin woods. The blossoms are adapted to the visits of insect. The upper, hooded lip shields two long and two short stamens. Nectar is secreted at the bottom of the corolla-tube, which is covered internally with fine hair, and which prevents small insects from reaching the nectar. When bees or bumble-bees pollinate the flowers, they touch the anthers, shake the pollen on to their hairy bodies, and in this way transfer it to other flowers.

The white dead-nettle contains various medicinal substances, but usually only the white flowers are collected. This, and the subsequent drying process can be quite painstaking work, because the flowers easily turn brown. Nevertheless, its medicinal effects are reputed to be considerable, as it can be used as a sedative for neuritis, to regulate bowel activity, to soothe coughs or to cure inflamed wounds. The young leaves in spring can also be used as a spinach-like vegetable.

IV—IX; 2½;
20—40 cm.
Rhizome:
Creeping.
Stems: Erect,
unbranched,
square in cross
section.
Leaves: Opposite,
petiolate, cordate,
ovate, serrate.
Flowers: In the
axils of leaf-like
bracts.
Calyx: White,
bell-shaped
with narrow
pointed teeth.
Corolla: 2-lipped
with 4 stamens.
Fruit: 4 achenes.
Eu., As.;
secondary N. Am.

1 — Longitudinal
cross-section of
rhizome.



Field Guide to Plants

2 TOES



Mountain Goat

Oreamnos americanus
To 6 ft. (1.8 m)

Distinguished by its long, white coat and black, dagger-like horns. Tracks are 2.5-3.5 in. (6-9 cm) long. Toes may be spread in front, making the tracks look square.



Elk

Cervus canadensis
To 10 ft. (3 m)

Male has large antlers and a shaggy brown neck. Tracks are 3.5-4.5 in. (9-11 cm) long. Dew claws are often evident in soft soil, snow, and when running.



Bighorn Sheep

Ovis canadensis
To 6 ft. (1.8 m)

Distinguished by its coiled horns. Tracks are 2.5-3.5 in. (6-9 cm) long. Hoof prints are splayed when running.



Pronghorn

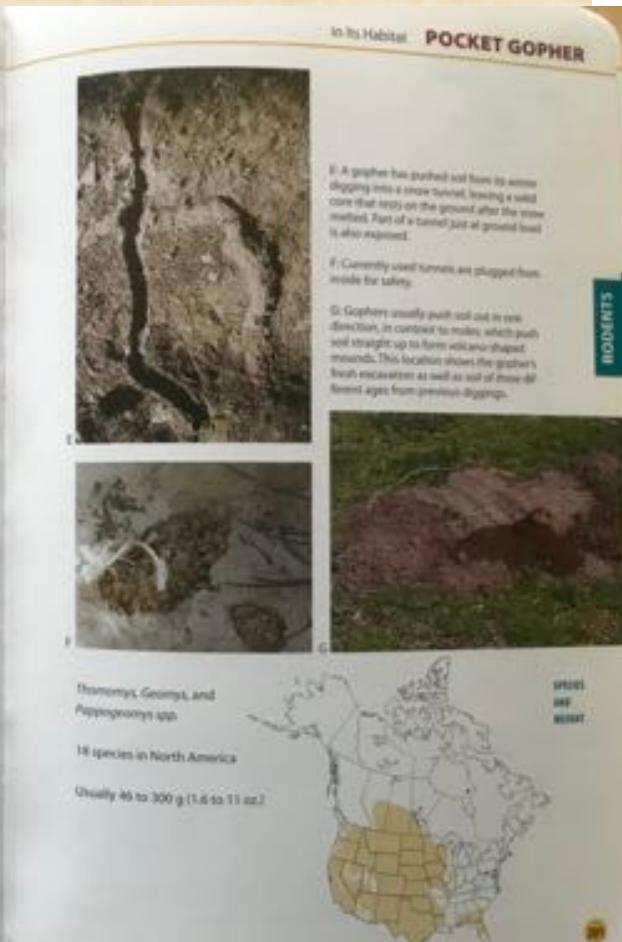
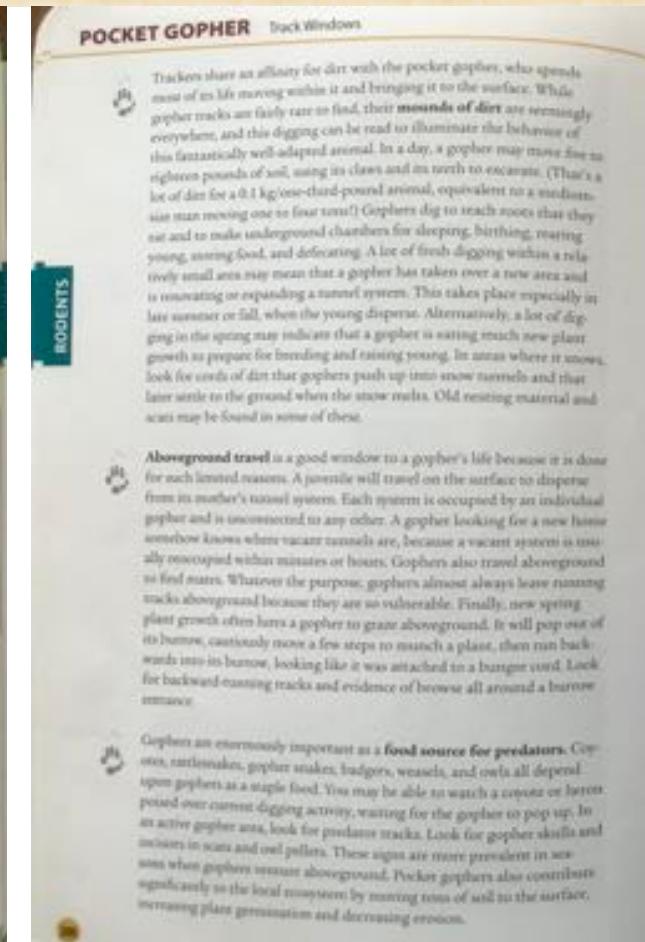
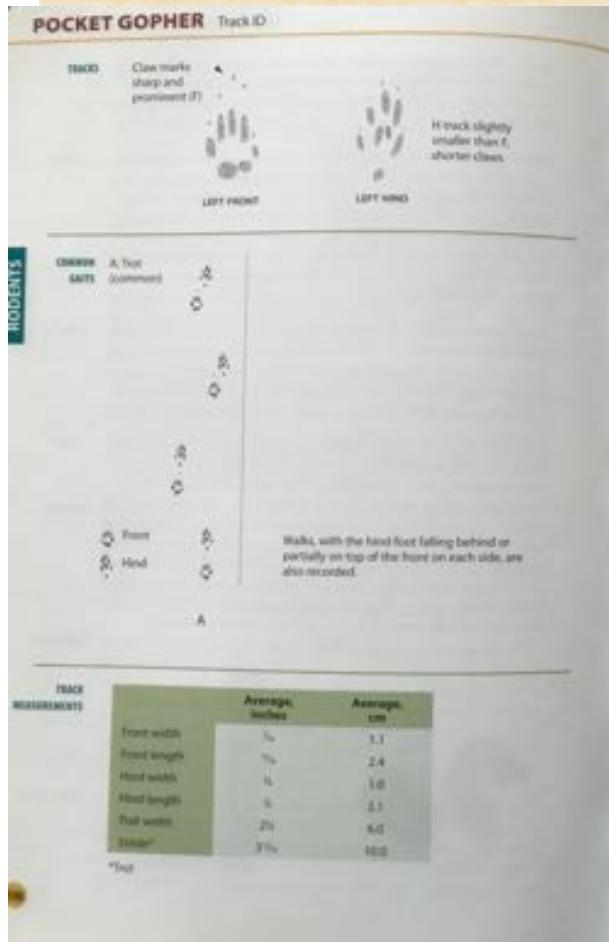
Antilocapra americana
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)

Told by its 'pronged' horns and white side and rump patches. Tracks are 2.5-3.5 in. (6-9 cm) long and wider at the base.



Pocket Guide to Tracks
Another small, foldable pamphlet. Easy to carry with you.
Limited information and limited number of species.

This field guide on animal tracks goes into great detail about each animal, its behavior, habitat and even its gait. Four pages on the pocket gopher.





Your Turn

-
1. Make a field guide of your chosen subject that shows patterns.
 2. Include three to five things in your field guide.
 3. Arrange the page so that you show a drawing with words next to it.
 4. Record observations with words, pictures, and numbers, paying attention to similarities and differences and PATTERNS.

Remember to begin with your metadata



Date, Day, Time



Location, habitat



Weather

Temperature

Wind

% Cloud cover

Plan your page

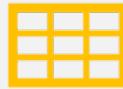


Heading first

Then Title



If you're studying three objects, create enough space for all three things.



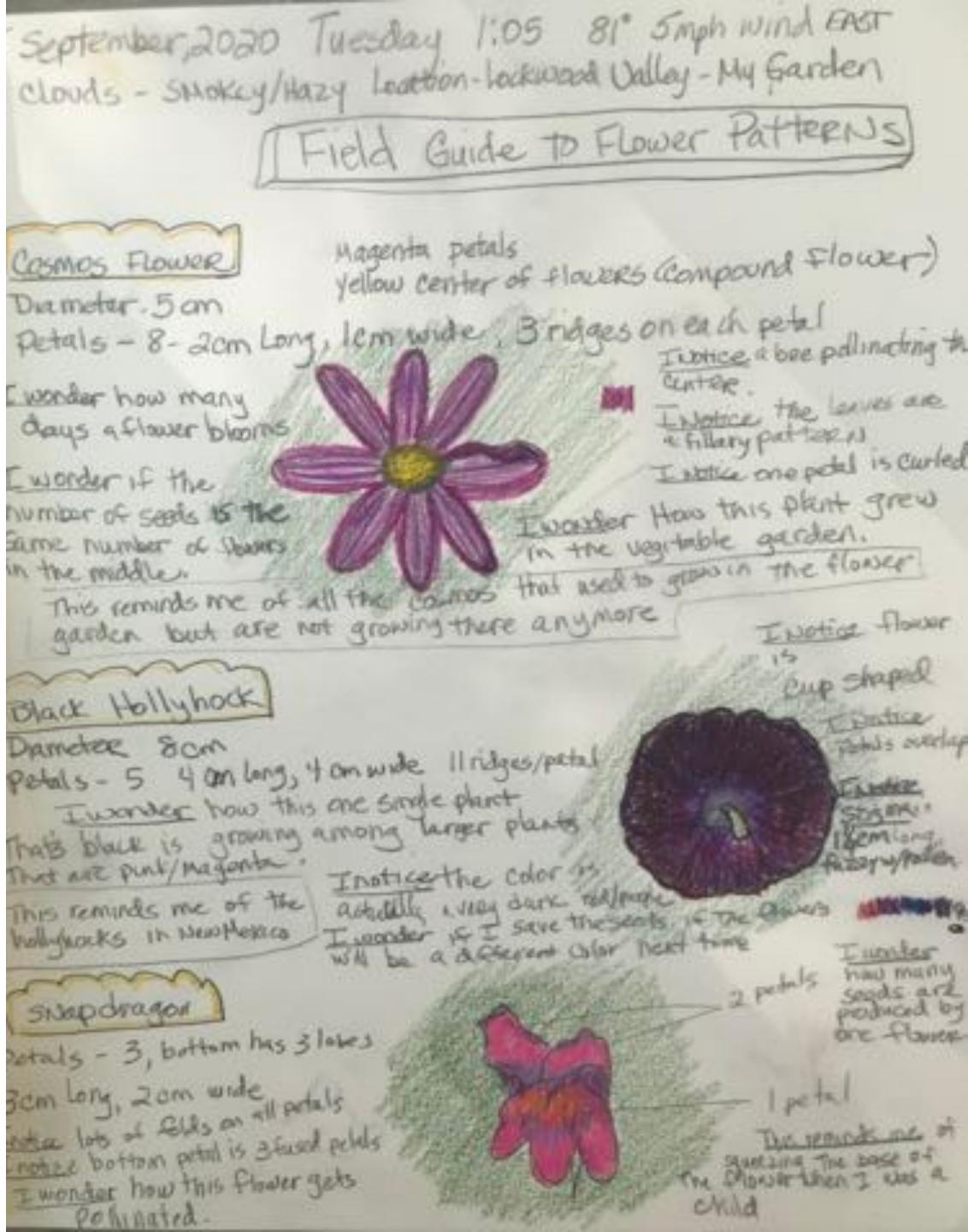
Remember to include ABC's, 123's and drawing/sketch/diagram.



Use the next page for your reflection questions/paragraph.

Plan your layout the way you want it.

- Here's mine:
 - 3 sections
 - Lots of measurements (123's)
 - Each subject treated the same way
 - Name of flower
 - Measurements
 - I notice, I wonder, this reminds me of



Now do your
own field
guide.
Focus on
PATTERNS



Take 45 minutes to 1 hour to
work on all your studies (3-5).



Come back and do your
reflection questions on your
next page.



Question/Answer form (Put as many words from the question into your answer.)



Answer all questions, then put them in an order that makes sense for a paragraph.



Begin with a topic sentence (“I created a field guide focusing on patterns.”)



End with a closing sentence (“It was interesting to discover the similarities and differences in each of the subjects I studied.”)

REFLECTION

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What did you notice that was interesting to you as you made your field guide?
- What cool questions did you come up with?
- What are some similarities and differences among the subjects you recorded in your field guide?
- What are some possible explanations for the similarities and differences you saw?
- Are there any features or structures that are shared by your subjects? Describe them.

Looking Forward

Next time, we'll
create a field guide
focused on **CAUSE**
AND EFFECT.

Start looking
around for
interesting
subjects.

BYE FOR
NOW.

THANKS FOR
JOINING ME.

