

BECOME A NATURALIST

- Finally, a comprehensive book for nature study! Rob J., hobby naturalist
- This is exactly what is needed for training naturalists & getting ideas for my students. Bridget B., former nature center director; classroom teacher
- My new nature study class is a hit thanks to this book. Michelle D., homeschool educator



C.J. Fitzwilliams-Heck, Ph.D.

Whether you consider yourself a novice or a seasoned naturalist, your nature study will benefit from this unique and holistic approach. The 600+ page reader-friendly book is a logical step in a lifelong journey of understanding nature. A long, overdue resource, *A Practical Guide to Nature Study* fills a gap in the literature dedicated to nature-based education.

WHY THIS BOOK?

Gain confidence in your naturalist skills, become more ecologically aware, learn basic natural histories of common flora and fauna, and explore regional field guides. For educators, easily meet STEM & NGSS goals through Nature Journal activities throughout the entire book.

DISCOVERING NATURE

In Part I, readers build their naturalist skills to explore the world around them:

- improve observation skills
- taxonomy
- the Sit Spot
- field inventorying
- landscape shapers
- a watershed perspective
- scientific thinking
- interpreting habitats
- terrestrial & freshwater ecosystems
- basic geology & soil types



THE SCIENCE OF NATURE STUDY

Part II covers ecology essentials:

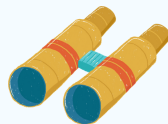
- populations & communities
- understanding evolution
- four spheres of earth & energy flow
- carbon, nitrogen, & water cycles
- biodiversity, conservation, & management



NATURAL HISTORIES & FIELD GUIDES

Discover these worlds in Part III with backgrounds, keys, & color photos:

- fungus, plants, & trees
- insects, spiders, & other invertebrates
- fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals



LAYOUT OF THE BOOK

Helpful features of the book include:

- detailed table of contents & index
- color-coded tabbed pages
- in-color field guides
- nature journal prompts & templates
- chapter review questions
- inspiring reference list



AUTHOR



With over 20 years of experience as an interpretive naturalist, environmental educator, and college professor, Fitzwilliams-Heck has helped hundreds of diverse audiences of all ages understand nature. Through extensive outreach in the community and in the classroom, she has fostered people's awareness and understanding of the natural world through experiential, place-based approaches to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on social-ecological concepts, she aims to increase nature appreciation and desire to support and contribute to efforts for protecting our natural resources.