

# Marissa's Field Journal

→ Eng Comp 134



# A message to the reader:

Thank you for taking time to read my field journal. Over the past 10 weeks, I have had the privilege of observing a peach tree in my front yard. I hope that you are able to gain an appreciation for the beauty of nature, learn about more species diversity, and identify different stages of peach tree development.

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# Nature's Beauty

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As an artistic approach to observing a peach tree, I recorded my thoughts and emotions that were inspired by nature.

01



# Becoming Buds and Beyond



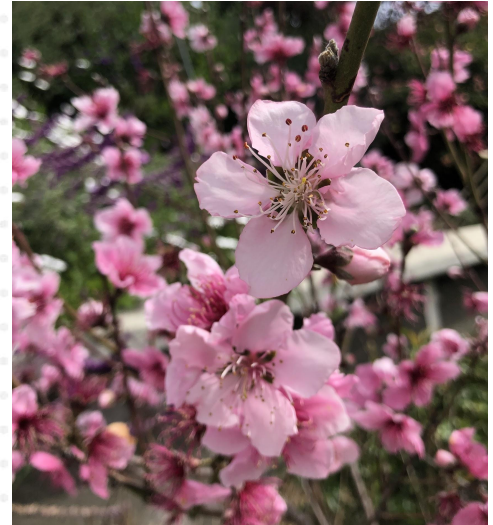
Behold!

Brisk breeze blows,  
bringing busy bees.  
Some soft, silky, smooth  
petals push patiently past,  
delicately descending down.

As all adapt amidst air's aggression,  
few flowers fall  
to testify the tree's tenacity.

Behold!

Buds bear blessings,  
bringing beauty by blossoms.  
Noticing nature's need  
to transition to the temperate term,  
I immerse in its impermanence.  
Rejoice, rouse, ripen, reminisce,  
Promised perfectly pleasing peaches prevail.





# Stay in Place and Observe

The spheres of my everyday life—altered.

The activity of my surroundings—simplified.

The strides I take to class—numbered.

That is, I am staying in place.

I am staying in place at the place I call home.

I am at home, but I look at my home with new eyes.

No longer preoccupied with the bustle of daily life, I can stay in place and observe.

I observe the trees and the bees, the butterfly and the sky.

I reserve time that nature deserves.



# The Consistency of Change

I have returned to nature, a place of comfort during this difficult time.  
Nature reminds me of the strength in resiliency and the beauty in change.

I am drawn to the resilient peach tree.  
Although it stands strong from year to year, it changes with the season.  
Year by year, I can be certain that the peach tree will blossom.  
It will blossom from bare branches into a beautiful sea of flowers.  
These delicate flowers are as fleeting as the morning dew.

No matter how short-lived, this change is essential—required for life.  
Life will spring forth and beauty will be displayed.  
Thus, there is beauty in the consistency of change.



# Species Biodiversity

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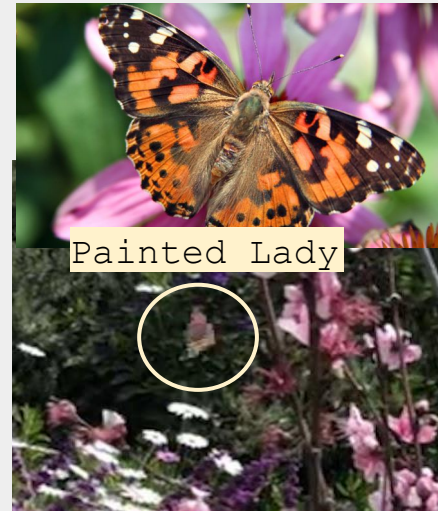
As an ecological approach to observing a peach tree, I photographed different species that I saw interacting with or around the peach tree. I identified these species through photos that I found online and provided them for your benefit.

02



# Species Observed

Date	Species and observations
3/31/2020	<b>Peach Tree:</b> in full blossom with many new buds still waiting to blossom.
4/1/2020	<b>Western Honey Bee:</b> pollinating the blossoms. It does not go in any particular order and flies from one blossom to the next. It spends about 30 seconds at each blossom that it stops at.
4/2/2020	<b>Painted Lady butterfly:</b> flying by, it does not stop on the blossom but flies to other flowers.
4/3/2020	<b>Ants:</b> crawling up and down the branches. They travel alone and are on different branches. They do not seem to be carrying anything.



# Species Observed

Date	Species and observations
4/5/2020	<b>California Scrub Jay:</b> perched on the branch of tree next to the peach tree. It ate a Painted Lady butterfly right after this photo was taken.
4/11/2020	<b>American Crow:</b> flew around the sky in circles above the peach tree, was cawing as it soared in the sky
4/14/2020	<b>Mourning Dove:</b> flew and perched on a light pole that is right behind the peach blossom tree. It sang to its friend that was perched on the roof of my house and later want to join it.



California Scrub Jay



Photo by allaboutbirds.org



Photo by Carrie Threadgill



American Crow



Photo by audubon.org

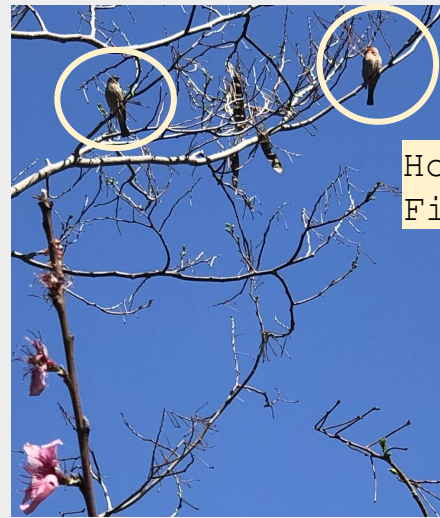


Mourning Dove



# Species Observed

Date	Species and observations
4/15/2020	<b>House Finch:</b> perched on the tree right above the peach tree. They were singing to one another and did not fly away when I approached them to take a picture. One finch had orangish red feathers around its head and belly that allowed me to identify them as house finches. The other finch only had brown and plain feathers.
4/20/2020	<b>American Crow:</b> landed on the concrete wall right next to the peach tree. I noticed this during English Comp 134 lecture because I sit by a window that overlooks the peach tree. The crow walked to the peach tree and then pecked at its blossom before flying away.



House  
Finch

Photo by allaboutbirds.org



Photo by brm1949



American  
Crow

# Species Observed

Date	Species and observations
4/27/2020	<b>Spider:</b> was making a web on the tree branches. Out of my fear of spiders, I was unable to identify what type of spider this was. The web is pictured about the spider. It is very intricate and spans across several branches.
4/28/2020	<b>House Finch:</b> perched on the tree right above the peach tree and then took off flying as it saw me. It had orange feathers on its head and neck. It flew extremely quick.
4/28/2020	<b>Monarch Butterfly:</b> flew around the peach tree several times while I was standing and observing the tree. It did not stop on the peach tree but it went to pollinate another bush. This was the only butterfly that I observed today.



# Development and Transitions

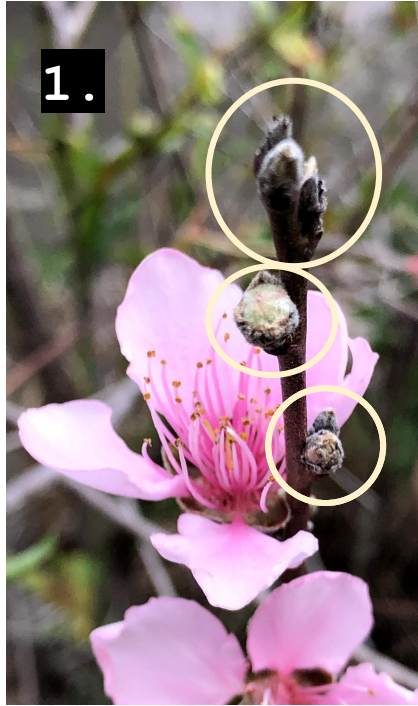
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As a biological approach to observing a peach tree, I photographed small scale and large scale changes over time. I identified and defined stages of development and captured changes in the same branch every two weeks.

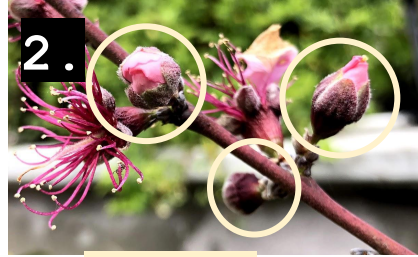
03



# Changes Observed: Development and Transitions



1. Swollen buds indicate that tree has left dormancy and that growth is beginning



2. Bud burst occurs when bud splits open



3. Bloom occurs when the majority of the buds have opened and the tree is covered in open blossoms



4. Petals fall but the stem remains on



5. Fruit set occurs after the blossom is pollinated



6. Fruit development continues as the peaches grow



7. Tree starts leafing once weather gets warmer, causing leaves to form



# Changes Observed: Bigger Picture



3/31/2020: Many buds on branches are waiting to blossom. The blossoms are very new and vibrant.



4/9/2020: Most of the remaining buds have started to blossom and this branch has many more blossoms.



4/21/2020: Many blossoms are gone or drying up. Leaves and small peaches are growing.



5/5/2020: All blossoms are gone and leaves are covering the tree! There are 2 peaches on this branch.