**Blog Post 1: Observations**

**Your initial post will describe the area that you have selected to observe. Give a brief physical description of the study area. Include its approximate size and location, and a general picture of its topography (i.e., canyon, flat, rolling hills, mountain slope, river bottom, etc.), vegetation (this can be very coarse, for example forested, grassland, wetland, city street with ornamental trees and shrubs, etc.), and designation, if any (i.e., Provincial or City park, golf course, etc.). Also note, when and at what time you visited the site and give an indication of weather and seasonality. Think about potential subjects that you might want to study for your research project. Based on your observations, list three questions that are interesting or striking and could form the subject of your research project. Support the descriptions above with images from your field journal (if you’re using paper and pen, scan your pages; if you’re using digital technology, save your files and submit those).**

The location I have selected for my field research project is Beacon Hill Park located in Victoria, BC, specifically the Goodacre Lake portion of the park. Located at 48°24’ 54.844”N, 123°21’58.899”.  Beacon Hill Park is approximately 740 000 square metres of nature sanctuaries, tennis courts, sports fields and playgrounds. The park is primarily a Garry Oak Savanna which is composed of woodlands and grassland but it also has a few man made ponds; this includes Goodacre Lake.

The day these observations were documented was March 21, 2024 at 16:07. The weather was 13°C with 6 Km/H winds to the east, 67% humidity, and partly cloudy. The topography of the park is small to medium hills, and a few man-made ponds throughout the park. The park is surrounded by relatively busy streets, on all sides, but on the furthest south boundary the a street separates the park from the Salish sea. The Salish Sea shore that borders the park is sea cliffs covered in roughly three layers of vegetation. The park also has very high human traffic especially off and on pathways within and throughout the park.

In the woodlands area of the park there are approximately five layers of vegetation. In the grassland areas there are between two and three layers of vegetation.

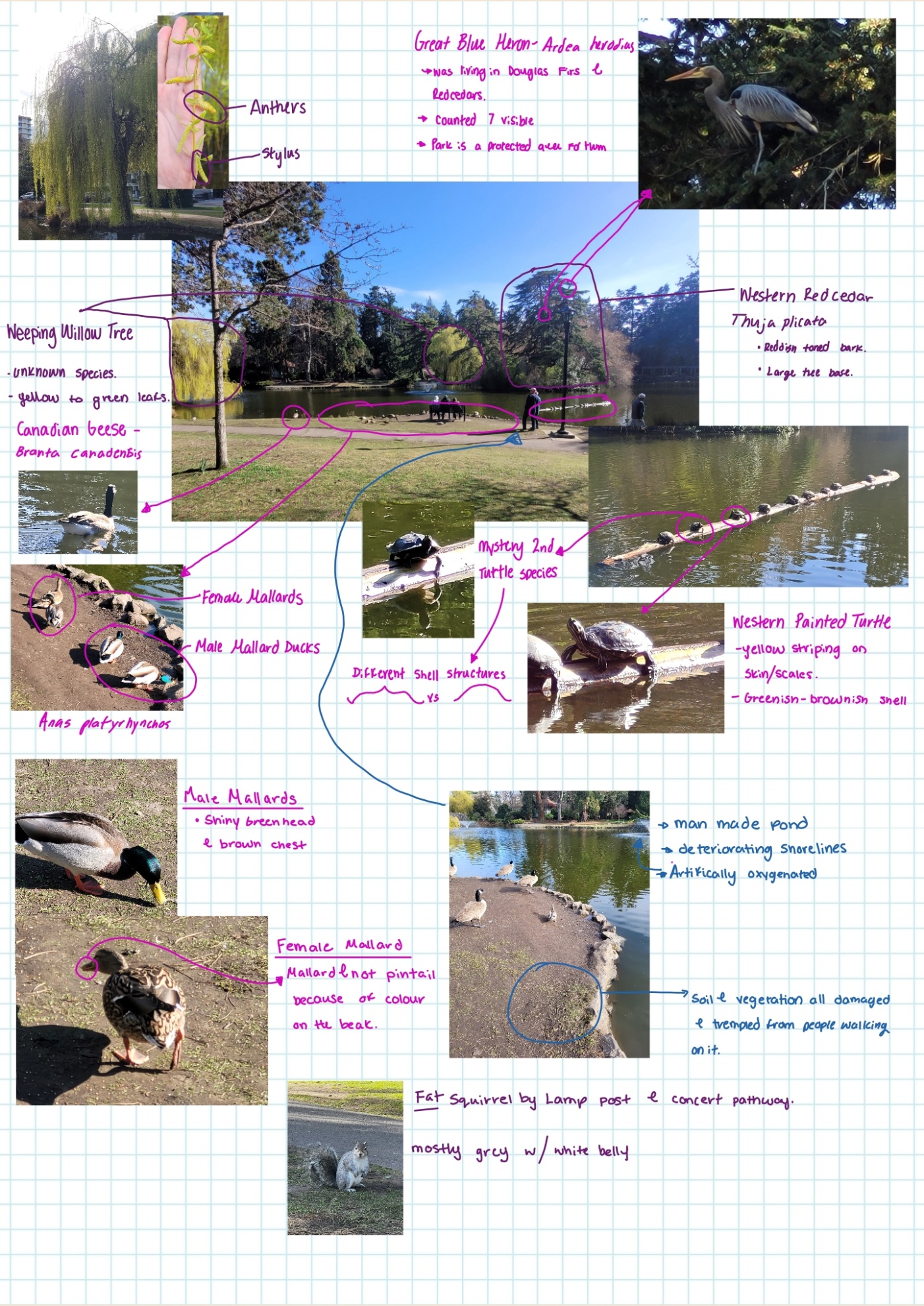
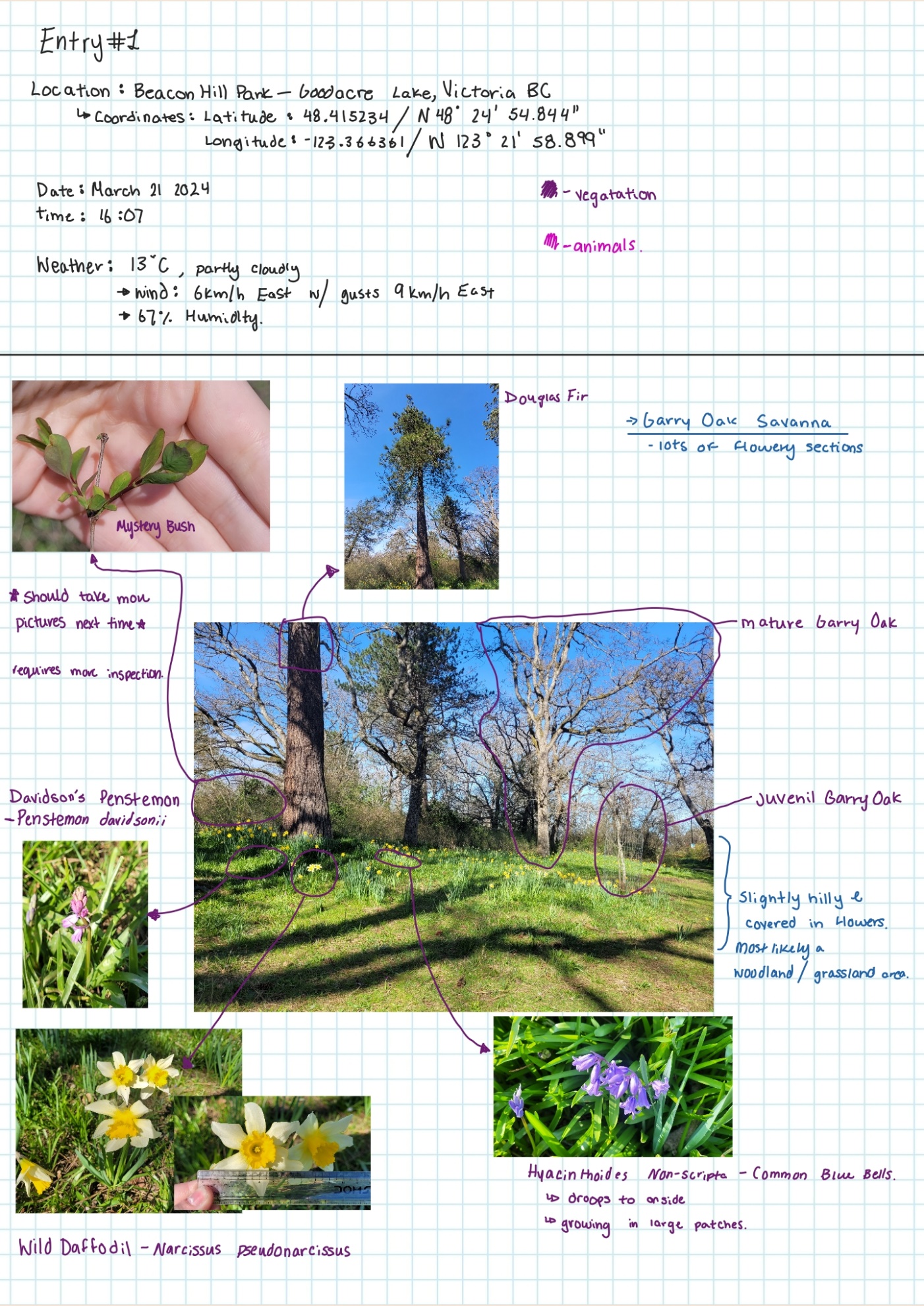
**Species Observed**

* Mallard
* Great Blue Heron
* Canada Goose
* Bald Eagle
* Fox Squirrel
* Painted Turtles
* Wild Daffodils- *Narcissus Pseudanarcissus*
* Bluebell Flowers- *Campanula Rotundifolia*
* Camas- *Camassia*
* Willow Tree (Pacific Willow Tree?)- *Salix lucida ssp. Lasiandra*
* Douglas Fir- *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
* WesternRedwood Cedar- *Thuja plicata*

**Questions**:

1. Why are people trying to feed and pet the animals (i.e. ducks, geese, turtles, etc.) Do they not know that is a bad idea? Should there be signs asking individuals not to feed the animals? Furthermore, why are they feeding them human foods like bread, and fries?
2. How do people feeding the birds, specifically ducks and geese impact their behaviour? Are the birds becoming too reliant on humans feeding them? Would they be able to survive without human intervention?
3. How does people feeding the ducks and geese of Beacon Hill impact their population and what does that mean for the ecosystems carrying capacity?
4. Due to the volume of human activity and interaction does it degrade the ecosystem of the park quicker? In ways such as soil erosion, devegetation, animal behaviour, etc.

**Field Journal Pages Entry #1**

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**A paper with writing on it

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