

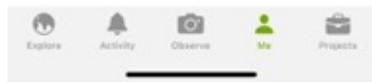
How to Sign Up for iNaturalist



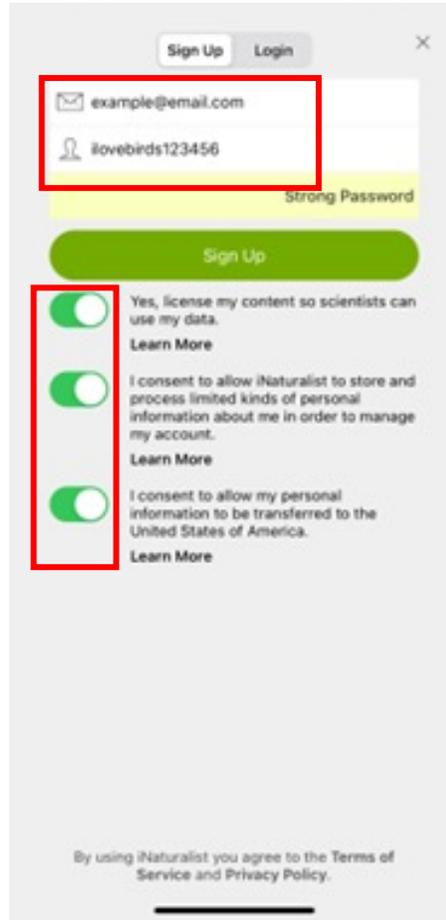
1. Download the free iNaturalist app onto your smart phone



Looks like you have no observations.



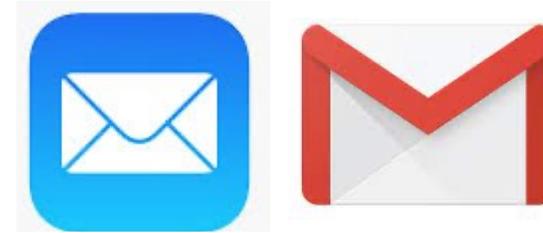
2. Open the app and click "Sign Up"



3. Enter your email

4. Enter a password that you will remember (I suggest writing it down!)

5. Agree to the 3 consent statements (You will not be able to sign up without agreeing)

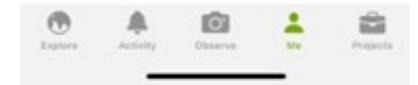


A verification link will be sent to the email associated with your account.

6. Click the link and follow the prompts.



Looks like you have no observations.



7. Navigate back to the app, and click "Log In"

8. Enter the same email and password you signed up with



iNaturalist Crash Course



Swamp Milkweed
- Nick Garnhart



Orchard Oriole
- Patty Lane



Eastern Box Turtle
- Chris Rademacher



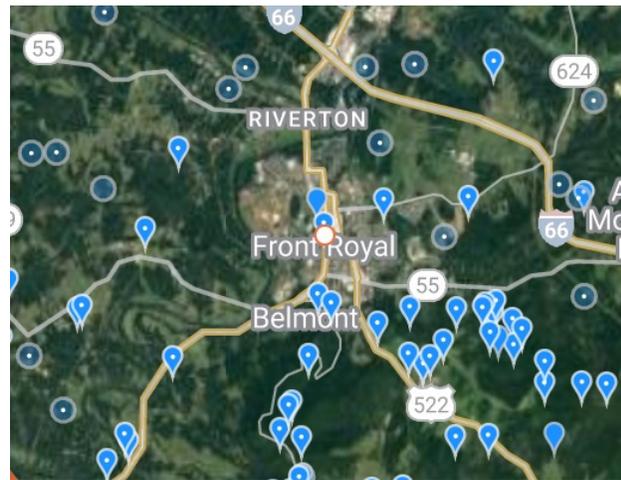
Chicken of the Woods
- Patty Lane



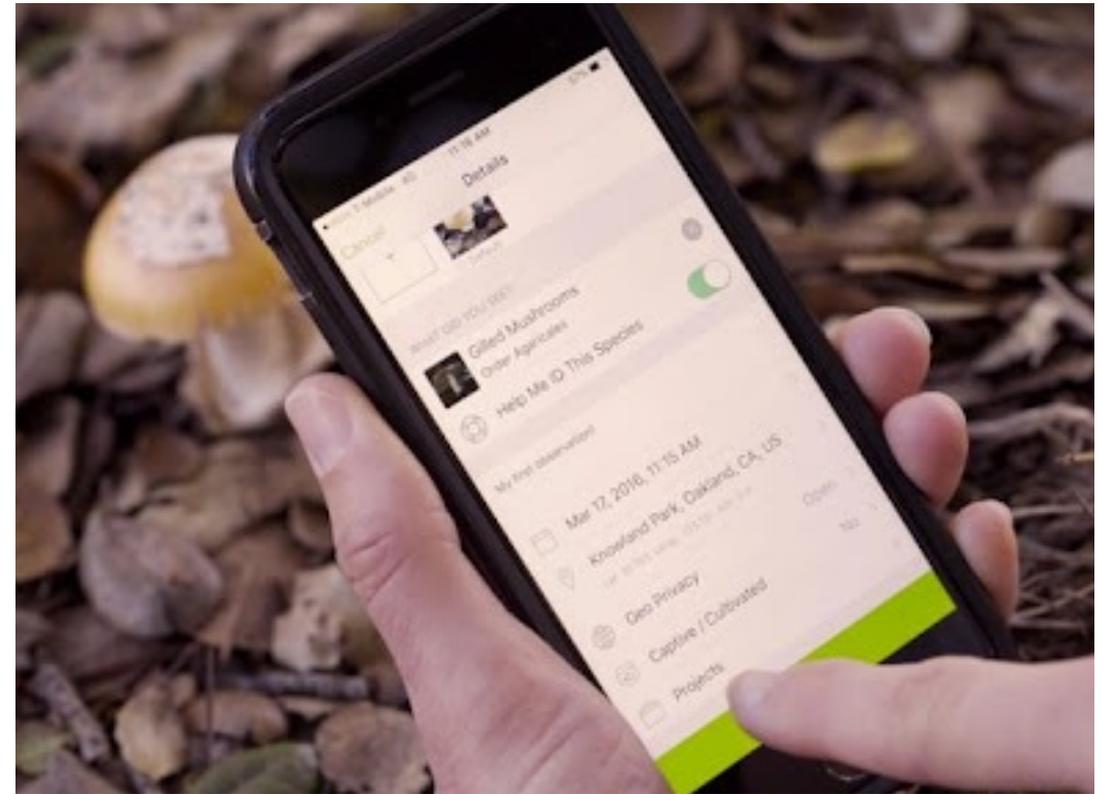
Ailanthus Webworm Moth
- cmsoderholm

What is iNaturalist? Why do people use it?

- Social network for naturalists, community scientists, and biologists to catalog and map biodiversity around the world
- Website and App – each has specific function
- Learn, keep a record, communicate with others, contribute to science!



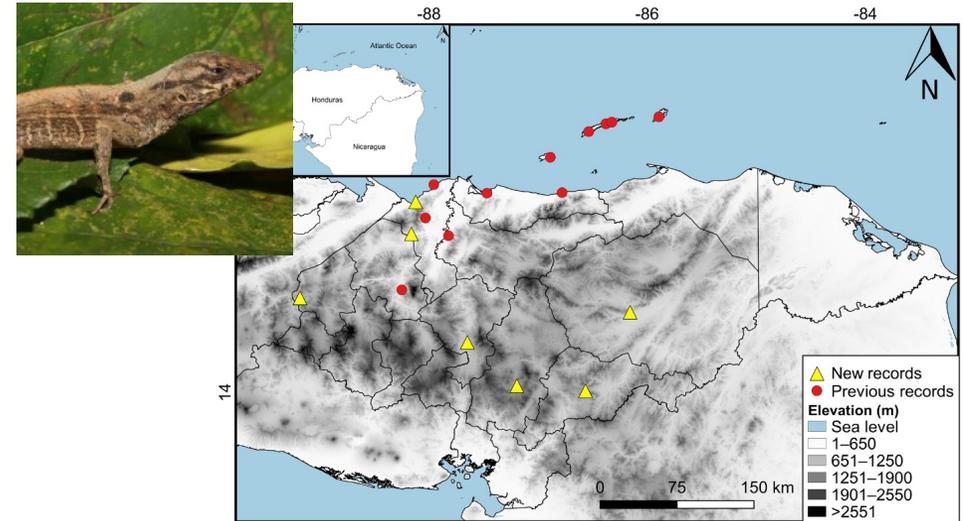
Observations of salamanders



iNaturalist Contributes to Real Science!

- INat helped catalog the expansion of invasive Anoles in Honduras

- Antunez-Fonseca, C.A., Hofmann, E.P., Barahona, A.R., Ordonez-Mazier, D.I., Dubon, F.J., Reyes, H.D., & Townsend, J.H. (2022) New records and range expansion of *Norops sagrei* (Squamata: Dactyloidae) in Honduras highlight the importance of citizen science in documenting non-native species. *17 Caldasia* 44(2): 325–331.



- Spotted Lanternfly Predation in the US

- "Study At Penn State Examines Potential For Birds To Eat Spotted Lanternfly" By Amy Duke, [Penn State News](#)

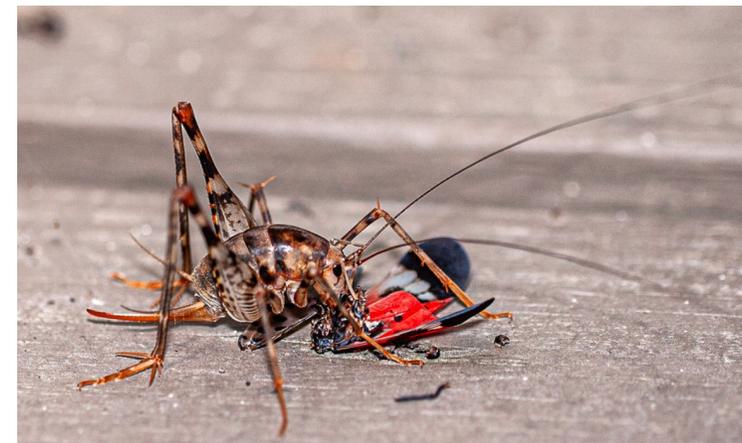
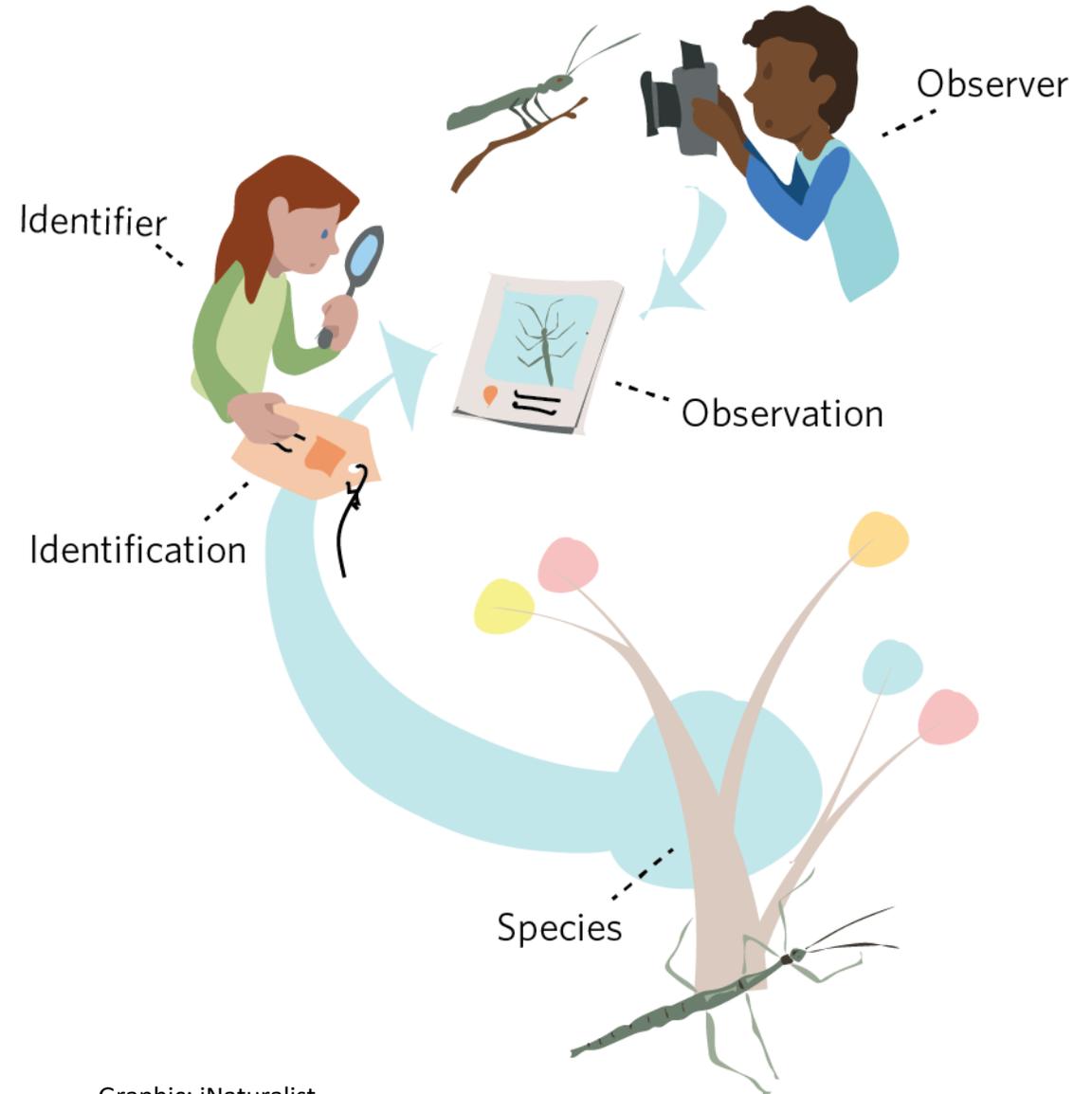


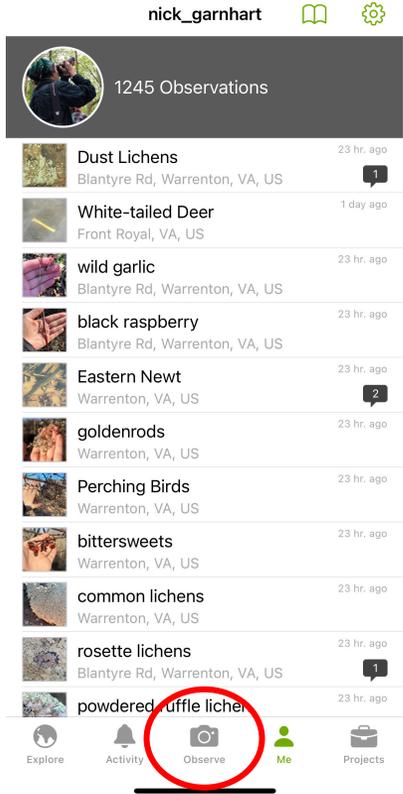
Photo by @sabineart on iNaturalist

How it works:

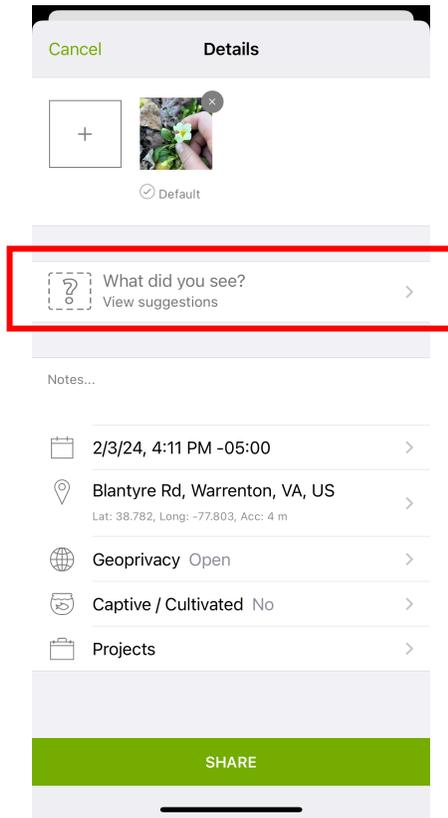
- **Upload** a photo/video/sound recording, or take a photo in the app
- iNat uses AI to suggest an identification for your observation
- You (the observer) select or type in your **identification**
- **Post** it!
- Other users (identifiers) on the platform will suggest an identification for the observation you have uploaded



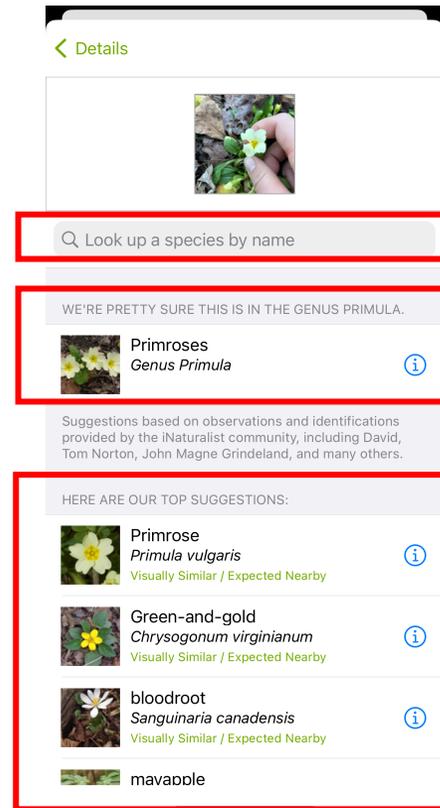
How to Make an Observation:



1. Click "Observe"
2. Select Camera, Photo Library, or Record Sound
3. Upload your media or take a photo* you can upload more than 1 photo

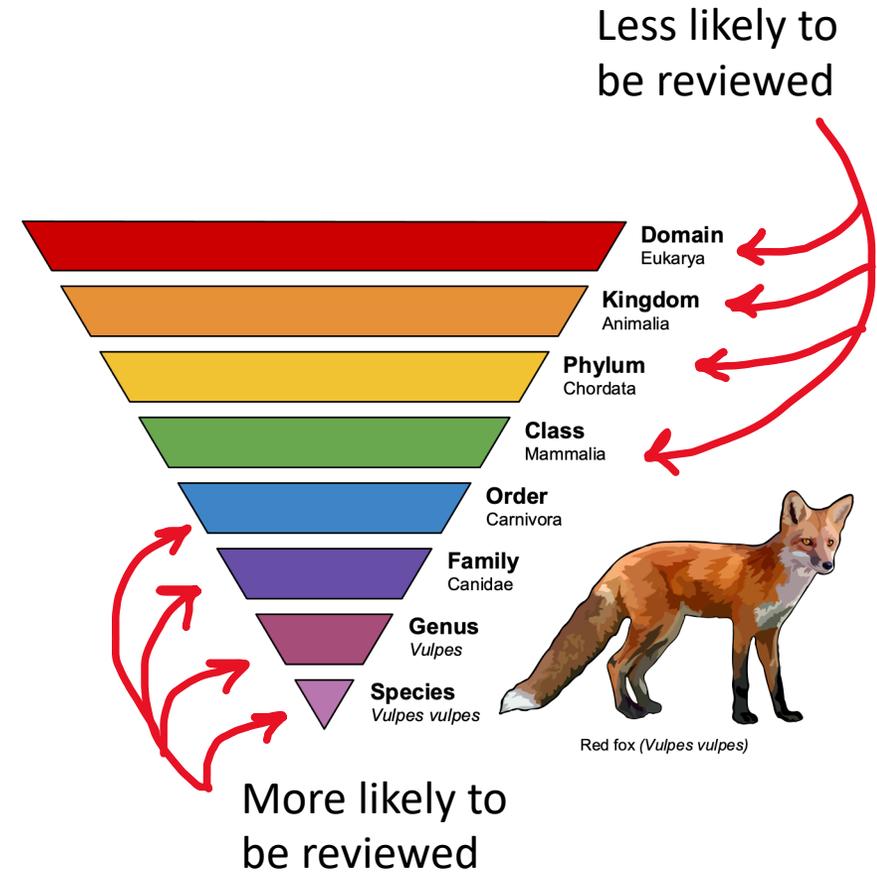


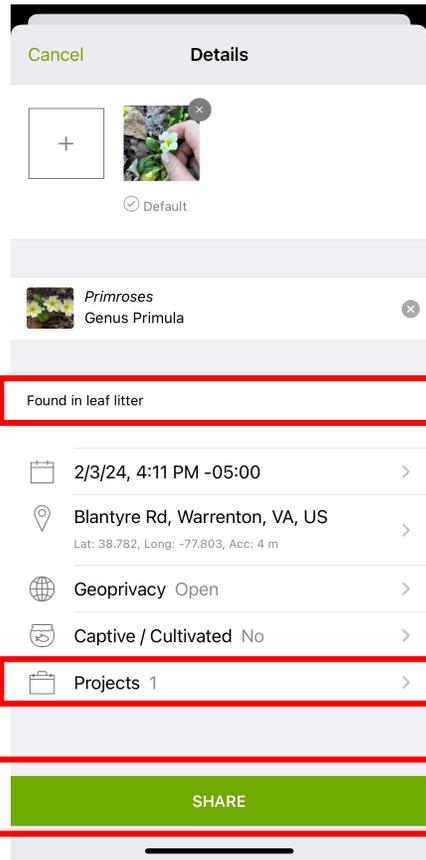
4. Click "What did you see?"



5. Select or Type the taxa that fits your observation*

*The more specific you can be with your identification, the more likely it will be peer reviewed.





Optional: Add notes that are relevant to the observation

Optional: Add your observation to a Project*

6. Click "Share" and your observation will become public to the iNaturalist community

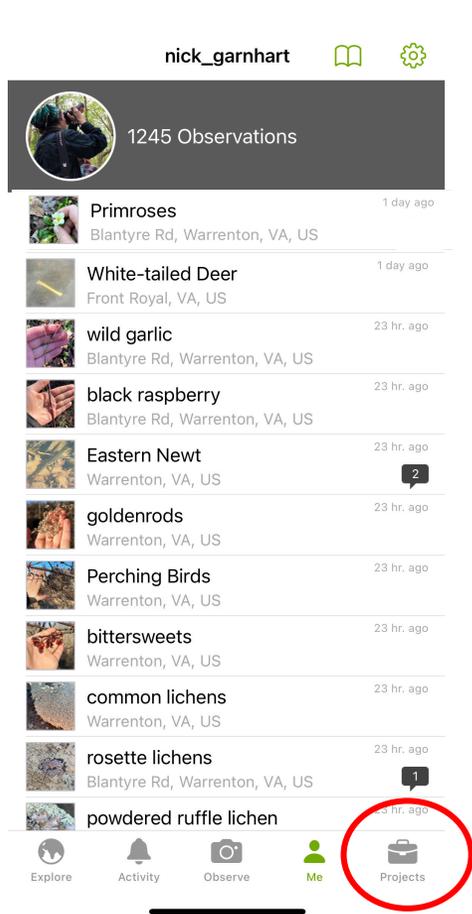
iNaturalist Projects:

- Projects let you share your observations with specific people, organization, or research project
- Can be specific to a location or locations
- Can center around a biome, taxa, species, or behavior:
 - Example: A project only focusing on observations of bird nests
- Allows members of the project to receive and give feedback on a specific topic

VWL's Project:

- Automatically adds all observations made by project members in our 16 county study area
- Allows specific geoprivacy options
- Connects you with other volunteers, landowners, community members, interns and VWL staff
- Give and receive feedback to learn more about taxa identification!

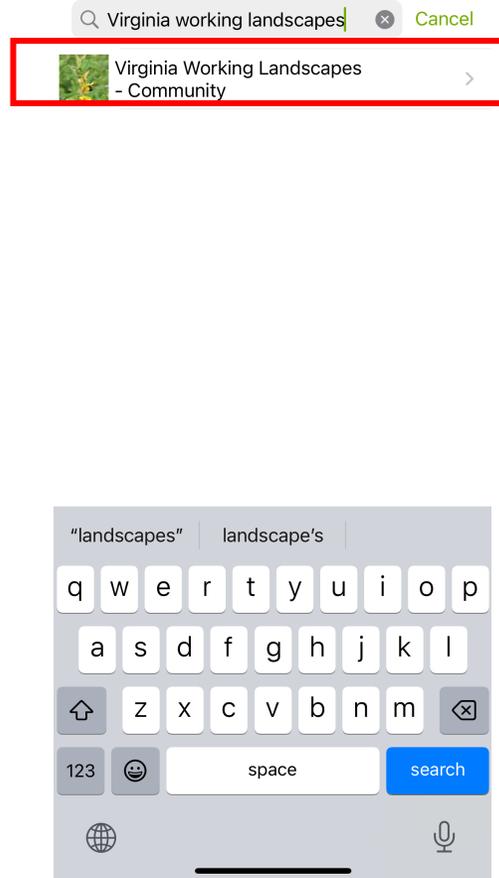
Join Our Project! Virginia Working Landscapes - Community



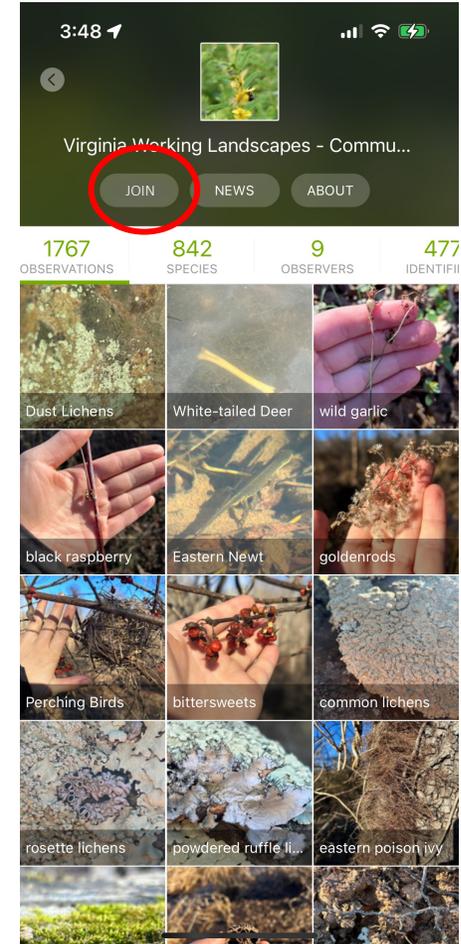
1. Click "Projects" on your home screen



2. Click on the search bar and type "Virginia Working Landscapes – Community"



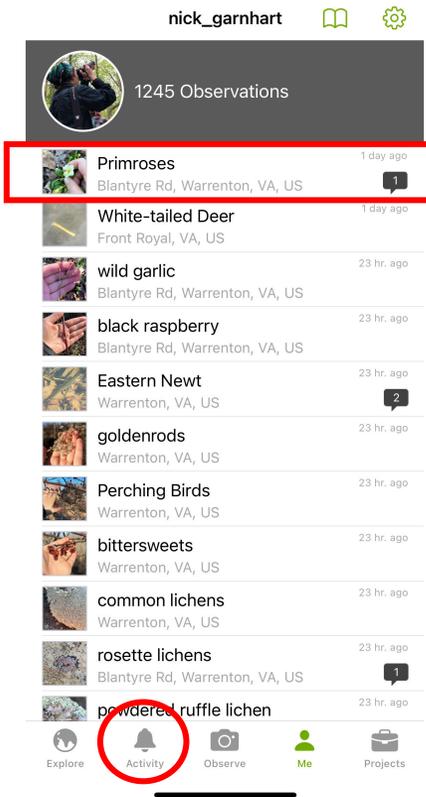
3. Select our project



4. Click Join

You can scroll through other members' observations and suggest identifications!

View Your Observations:

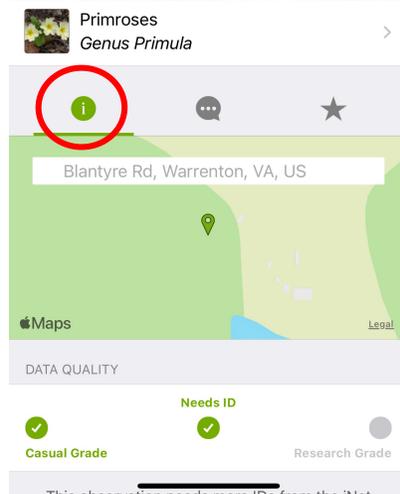
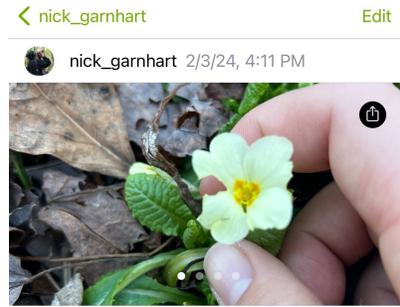


Speech bubble with a number:

Notification that another iNat user has left an identification suggestion or comment on your observation

1. Click on the observation you want to look at

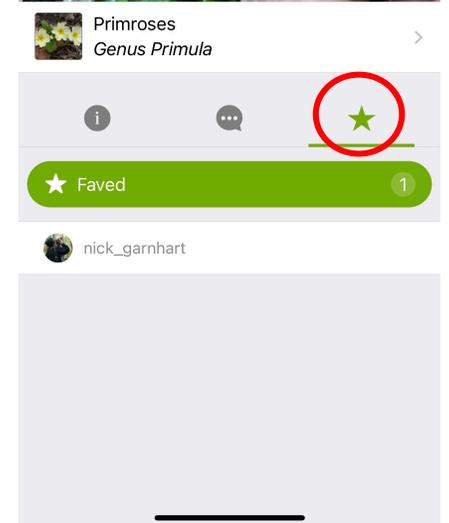
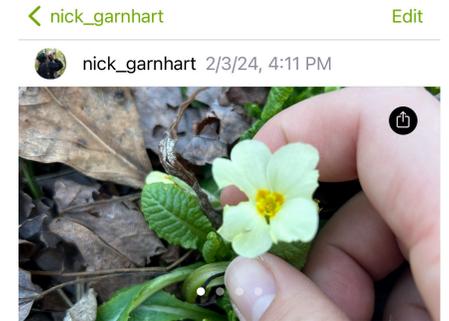
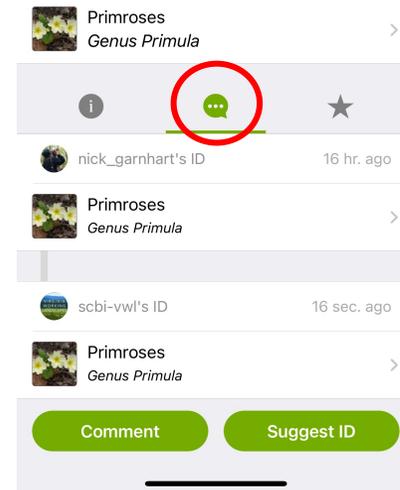
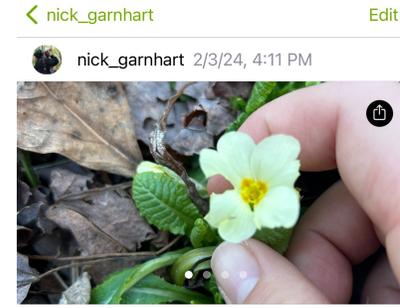
If you have many observations, click the **bell** icon that says **Activity**. This will allow you to see any updates to your observations



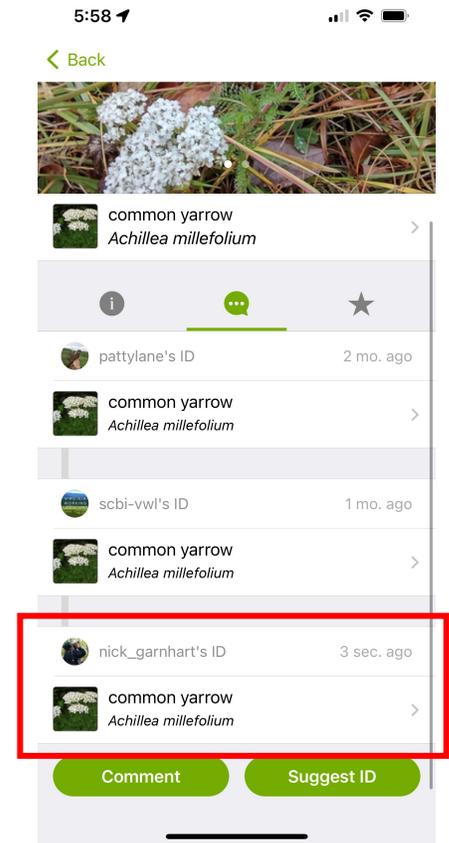
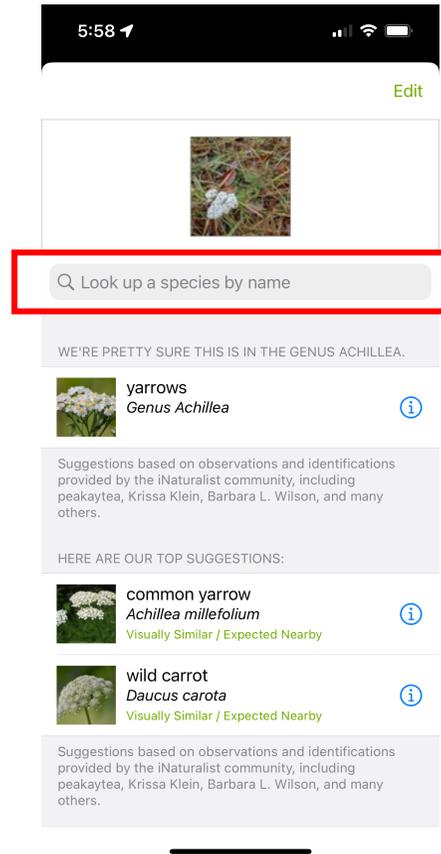
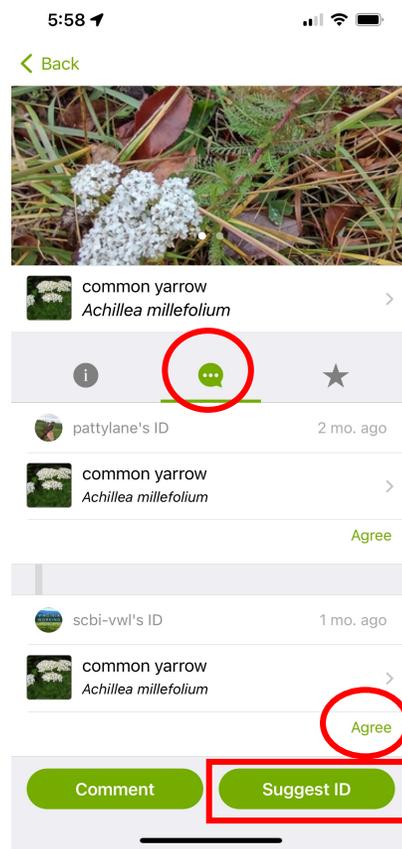
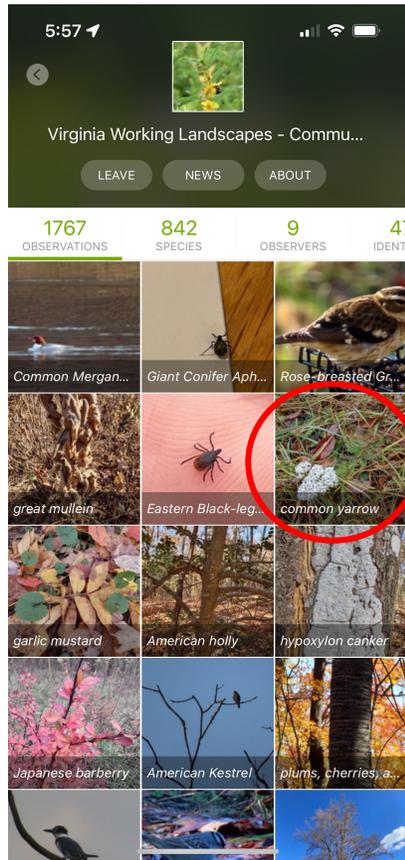
i: Shows the location of your observation

Speech bubble: Shows identifiers' suggestions

Star: allows you to favorite and observation for future personal reference



Make a Suggestion as an Identifier:



1. Navigate back to the VWL projects page from your home screen
2. Click on an observation

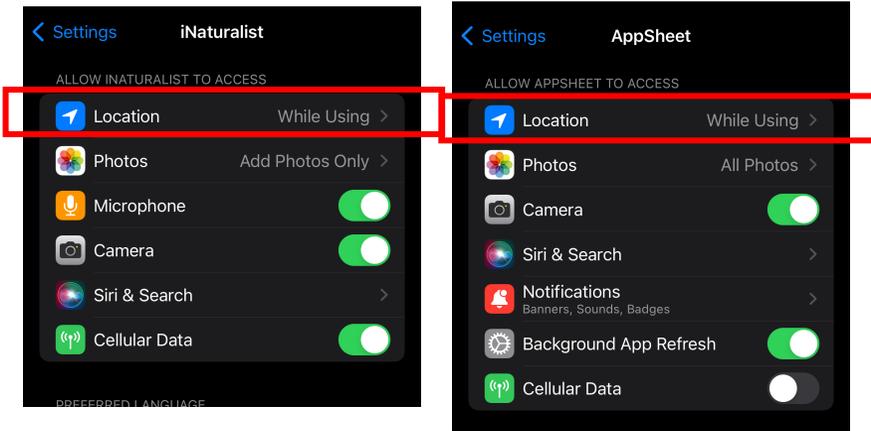
3. Click the Speech Bubble icon
4. You can either click "Agree" or click "Suggest ID" if you disagree

5. If you clicked "Suggest ID" you will have the option to select iNat suggestions, or search for the species by name

6. When you are done, you will see your ID at the bottom of the list

Suggestions:

Make sure your **location services** allow iNaturalist and your camera app to view log your location in your phone's setting app



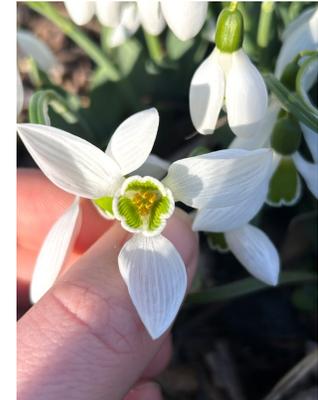
Put your hand, or a solid object behind what you are photographing: this makes it easier for the camera to focus on the subject



Crop your photo to the organism before you upload your photo



Only upload photos that are **clear** (not blurry/fuzzy)



Suggestions Continued



Bee next to a standard ruler

Include something for scale next to your organism.

- Ruler (the most accurate)
- your hand
- a pen
- something that is of a recognizable size.



Animal track next to hand



Salamander next to a pen

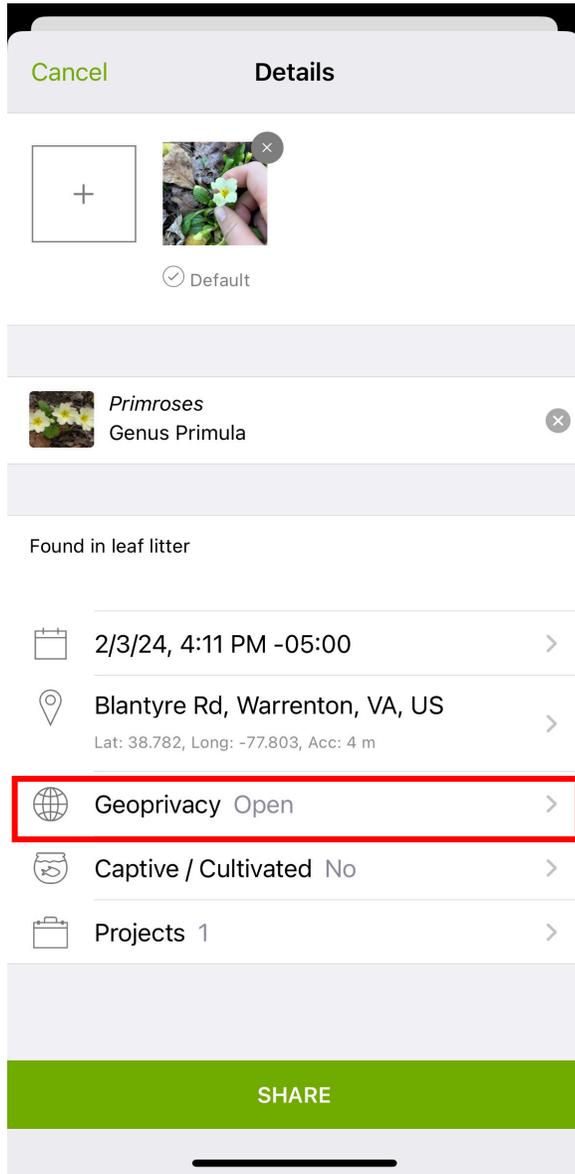
Upload photos of multiple angles and parts of the organism (for plants, show the flower or seed head, leaves, stem, fruit, etc.)



Purple headed coneflower – flower, bud, leaf, stem.



Suggestions Continued: Geoprivacy Settings



When posting to iNaturalist, be aware if the organism you are posting is rare/threatened/endangered.

If the organism meets this status, click "**Geoprivacy**" and change the status from "Open" to "**Obscured**".

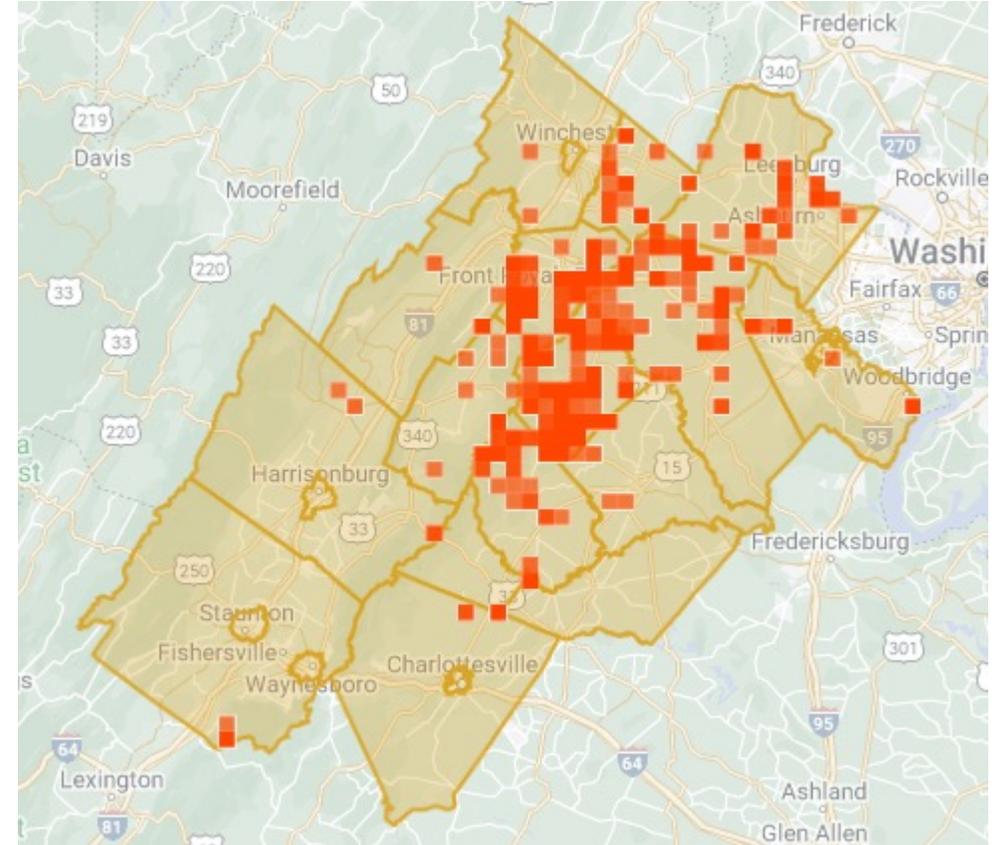
This will allow VWL project admin to see the location of the observation, but not the public.



Purple Fringeless Orchid observed by Patty Lane. Location is obscured from the public due to the plant's status

Let's Practice!

- Make **10 observations** and upload them to iNat
- Join the **Virginia Working Landscapes – Community** project
- **Be an Identifier** for **5** observations submitted to our project



Current Observations Added to the VWL Project