



## iNaturalist Activity - Documenting Regional Biodiversity!



iNaturalist is a global social network of naturalists and scientists working together to better understand species in our environments. iNaturalist employs a smartphone app that allows you to take and upload images in nature, it is also a website that lets you easily keep track of your observations, participate in projects and interact with other naturalists.

There are over 1.2 million people worldwide that have documented species for plants, fungi, invertebrates, and vertebrates around the globe. iNaturalists have contributed to the conservation of threatened species and provided early warning of invasive species.

**This is a great activity to engage children in the wonders of species diversity! It is a lot of fun to take pictures of plants, insects, or other animals, upload these images to your personal account, and wait for an expert to identify your findings.**

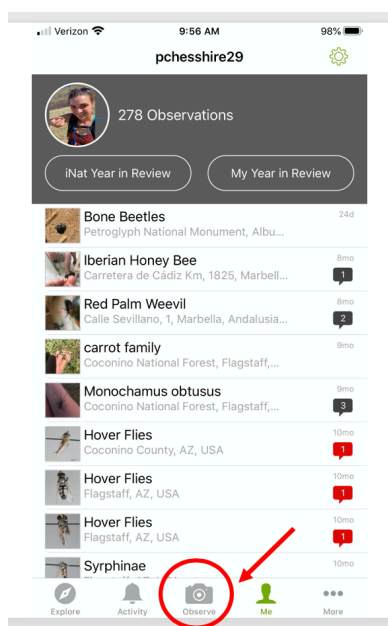
**Anybody with a smartphone can download this app and upload photos of local species. You can also access this database on a Mac or PC to explore the site, however uploading photos is much easier to do on a phone. <https://www.inaturalist.org>**

### Steps to Get Started:

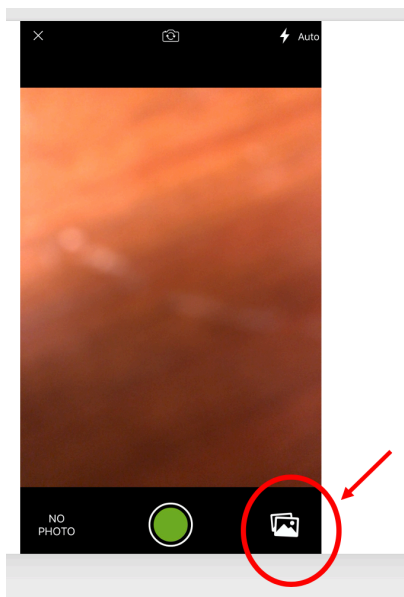
1. Go to the app store and download iNaturalist
2. Create an account with a username and password
3. To upload observations, click “observe” and allow



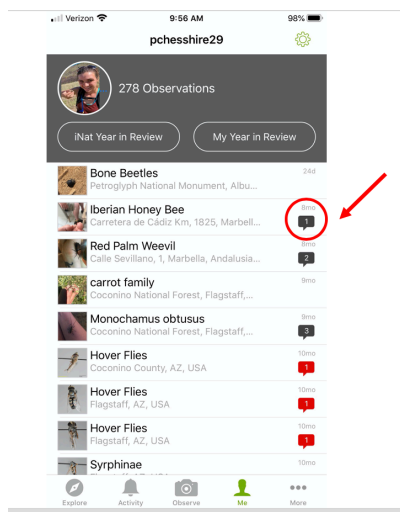
iNaturalist to access your phone’s camera



4. You can take a photo directly from the app, or you can click on the button that allows you to choose photos from your camera roll



5. If you know the species name, you can add it, or you can leave this area blank
6. As long as your location data is linked to your camera (should be automatic on smartphones), the exact latitude and longitude of where you observed the species will be uploaded alongside the photo
7. Hit “share” and your pictures will be uploaded!
8. Later, you can go to your observations and it is likely that somebody will have identified your specimen for you! (You will see a little comment bubble icon next to your upload)



**YouTube Video Resource about iNat:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJS63hdWGvs&t=302s>