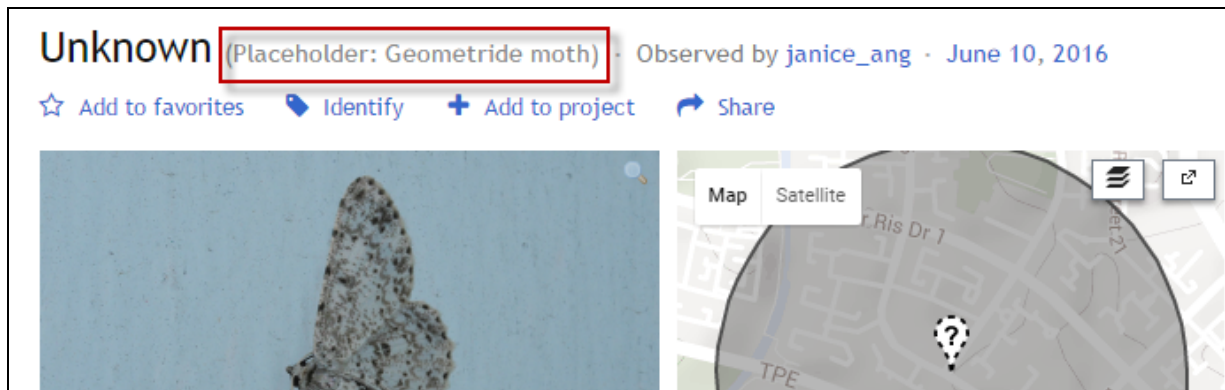


Common Issues with Observations

6/10/2016

Placeholder Name, but no Identification

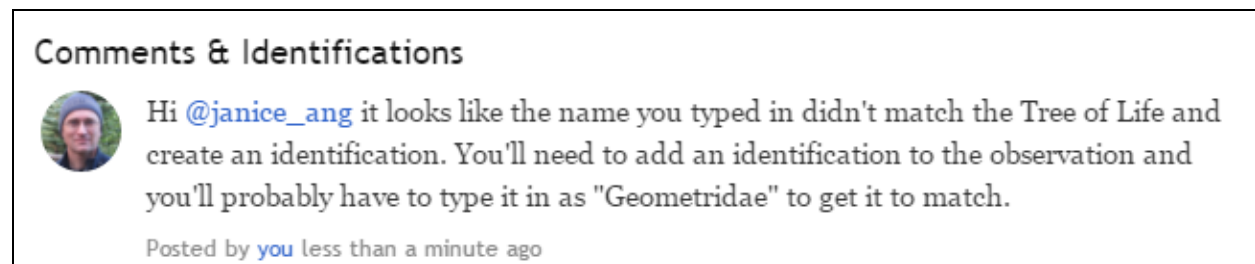
Description: A name appears on the observation as a Placeholder, but the observation doesn't actually get an identification, because the name doesn't link to the Tree of Life.



Causes: Misspelling, no/poor internet connection when selecting a taxon

Remedy:

- Add a comment to the observation to notify the observer that their observation didn't get an identification, offering suggestions if necessary on what might be a valid match

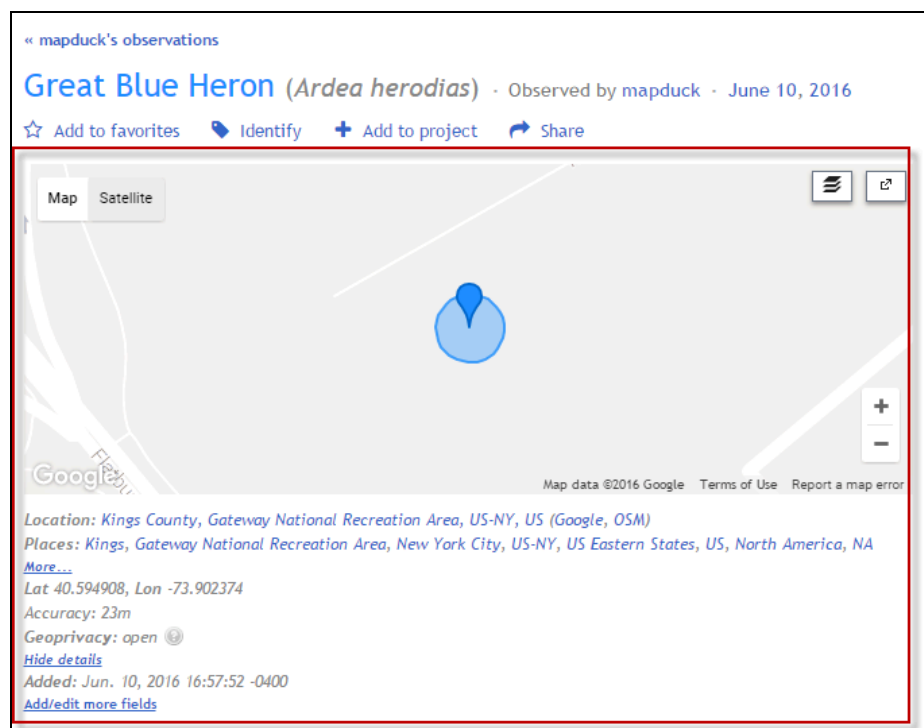


- If you agree with the name in the Placeholder text, add an identification using that name. However, if you don't agree with the name or you don't know, don't add an identification using the Placeholder name.

No Photo or Sound

Description: The observation shows an iNaturalist taxa category icon instead of a photo or a sound icon when viewed in a list and shows no photo/sound section, but an extended map section instead when the observation profile is viewed.

This may be intentional if the observation was made without a photo or a sound recording, which is more typical for birds.



Causes: No photo or sound added when creating observation

Remedy:

- This one is harder to deal with unless you know that a photo or sound was intended to be included in the observation. If that's the case, you should send a comment to the observer reminding them to add the evidence. It's good practice to review your own observations and add the photo or sound where it was unintentionally left out.

Wrong/no Location

Description: The observation shows Map Location, Location text, Places, or Lat/Long that are obviously incorrect when looking at the observation profile page or when viewed in a list. Especially note observations of non-marine species in the middle of the ocean or marine species in the middle of a continent. Also note observations with coordinates 0,0.

« naturalist1633's observations Previous Next

scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*) · Observed by naturalist1633 · June 3, 2016 · 12:11 PM PDT

☆ Add to favorites Identify + Add to project Share





Photo © naturalist1633, all rights reserved

Added: Jun. 09, 2016 19:50:19 +0000

Map Satellite



Google Map data ©2016 Google Terms of Use

Location: North Atlantic Ocean, , , (Google, OSM)

Places: AF

Lat 0.0, Lon 0.0

Geoprivacy: open

[Hide details](#)

naturalist1633's ID:
scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*)
[Agree?](#)

Identotron

Projects


Sunrise Wetland Bioblitz

[View 20 from June 03, 2016](#)

Causes: Poor/no GPS connection when observation made. Failure to fill in location when creating observation in browser. Not enabling mobile device to access locations - see https://docs.google.com/document/d/1E_vYhKGKE5mYHfFIYjdKbOx0_MBIomnI_IU1IBz9DdA/edit

Remedy:

- Add a comment to the observation to notify the observer that their observation appears to have an incorrect location



It looks like your observation got a bogus location of 0,0, which put it in the Atlantic Ocean. You should be able to edit the observation and correct the location by searching for location and dropping the pin on the map in the right spot.

Posted by you less than a minute ago

- Mark the location as inaccurate in the Data Quality Assessment portion of the observation

No Date

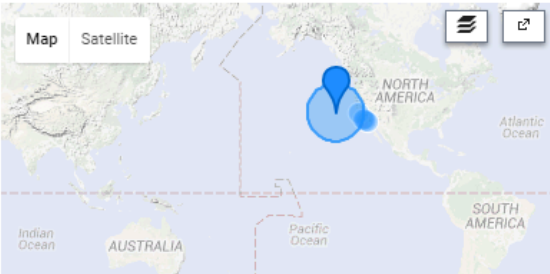

Description: The observation does not show an observation date when looking at the observation profile page or shows “*the past*” when viewed in a list.

org Observations ▾ Species ▾ Projects ▾ Places Guides People 0

« pinky00009's observations Previous

Rudderfish (*Girella nigricans*) · Observed by pinky00009

☆ Add to favorites Identify + Add to project Share



pinky00009's ID: **Rudderfish** (*Girella nigricans*) Agree? Identotron

Projects

S		Scorpions Order Scorpiones	August 21, 2014	38.8225..., -99.492... (Google, OSM)	March 18, 2015 11:54 AM PDT	View »
T		Rudderfish <i>Girella nigricans</i>	<i>the past</i>	36.0313..., -133.24... (Google, OSM)	March 18, 2015 11:53 AM PDT	View »
U		Kenyan Sand Boa <i>Eryx colubrinus</i> ssp. <i>loveridgei</i>	August 21, 2014	-14.604..., 28.4765... (Google, OSM)	March 18, 2015 11:45 AM PDT	View »

Causes: No entry of date when adding observation

Remedy:

- Add a comment to the observation to notify the observer that their observation didn't get a date



Looks like your observation is missing a date. You should be able to edit the observation to add the date you observed the fish.

Posted by you less than a minute ago

- Mark the date as inaccurate in the Data Quality Assessment portion of the observation

Observation has Location, Date, Photo, and IDs, but isn't Research Grade

Description: An observation appears to have all of the necessary elements, but is still marked as Needs ID or Casual.

Causes:

- There is not another identification to create a Community ID - these observations need more identifications.
- The Community ID is not at the species rank or finer - these observations will need more precise identifications and/or identifications that are in agreement.
- The organism is not wild/naturalized (aka is captive/cultivated) - these observations will remain "Casual"

The image displays three screenshots of iNaturalist observation pages, each illustrating a cause for an observation not being Research Grade.

Top Screenshot: Alkali Buttercup (*Ranunculus cymbalaria*)
Observed by sweatb on June 9, 2016.
The page shows a photo of a yellow flower, a map of the location (south lake tahoe), and a Data Quality Assessment table. The table indicates that the Community ID is not supported (No), and the Community ID is not at the species or lower rank (No). The Data Quality Assessment table is as follows:

Question	Answer
Community-supported ID?	No
Community ID at species or lower?	No
Community can confirm/improve ID?	Yes
Date?	Yes
Georeferenced?	Yes
Photos or sounds?	Yes

Middle Screenshot: Spiders (Order Araneae)
Observed by eraskin on June 10, 2016, 11:04 AM ADT.
The page shows a photo of a spider, a map of the location (Hightower Lake, GA), and a Data Quality Assessment table. The table indicates that the Community ID is not supported (No), and the Community ID is not at the species or lower rank (No). The Data Quality Assessment table is as follows:

Question	Answer
Community-supported ID?	No
Community ID at species or lower?	No
Community can confirm/improve ID?	Yes
Date?	Yes
Georeferenced?	Yes
Photos or sounds?	Yes

Bottom Screenshot: Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*)
Observed by maddusan on May 4, 2016, 12:53 PM AKDT.
The page shows a photo of a cat, a map of the location (Anchorage, AK), and a Data Quality Assessment table. The table indicates that the Community ID is not supported (No), and the Community ID is not at the species or lower rank (No). The Data Quality Assessment table is as follows:

Question	Answer
Community-supported ID?	No
Community ID at species or lower?	No
Community can confirm/improve ID?	Yes
Date?	Yes
Georeferenced?	Yes
Photos or sounds?	Yes

Remedy:

- Review the Data Quality Assessment properties of the observation to see if you can understand why the observation is not Research Grade
- If the observation needs additional identifications, see if you can identify it or notify people you think can help by @ notifying them by iNaturalist user name in the comments of the observation

Observations with Photos of More than One Species

Description: An observation has photos that show several species rather than a single organism.

« jen18's observations

Unknown · Observed by jen18 · May 21, 2016 · 01:53 PM EDT

☆ Add to favorites 📍 Identify + Add to project ➦ Share


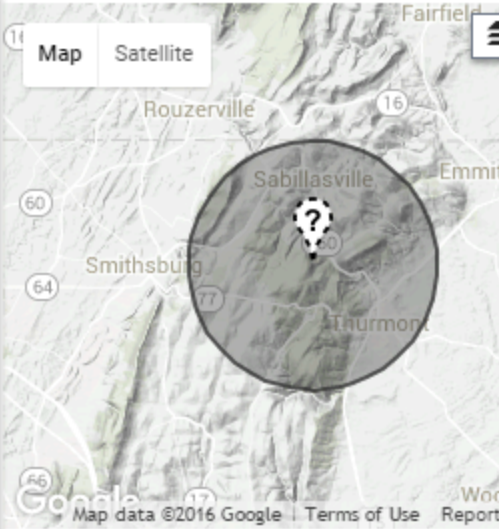


Photo © Jen Hodges Flores, all rights reserved

Map Satellite



Location: Catoclin Mountain Park, Thu... (Go
Places: Frederick, US-MD, Appalachian Mount
Eastern States, US, North America, NA [More...](#)
Lat 39.6541115277, Lon -77.4563933848
Accuracy: 7346m
Geoprivacy: open
[Hide details](#)

Causes: User adds photos of different species to a single observation, either because they don't understand how iNaturalist works or because they didn't realize they were different organisms.

Remedy:

- Comment on the observation to suggest the user edits the observation to separate the photos by species.

Comments & Identifications



I see that this observation has photos of more than one species. If you edit the observation to contain photos of just one species and add the others as separate observations, then others will be able to help add identifications. Thanks for participating in the BioBlitz!

Posted by [carrieseltzer](#) about 1 hour ago ([Delete](#) | [Flag](#))