

# What Are Observations?

An observation records an encounter with an individual organism at a particular time and location. This includes encounters with signs of organisms like tracks, nests, or things that just died. When you make an observation, you'll record:

## Who you are

You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations

## Where you saw it

Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public

## What you saw

Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**

## When you saw it

Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist

## Evidence of what you saw

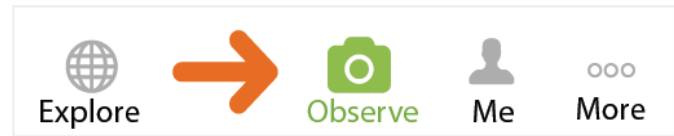
By including evidence like a **photo or sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles

Your observations don't need to include all of these parts, but they do in order to become research quality observations for science. Remember, you should make separate observations for each separate organism you encounter.

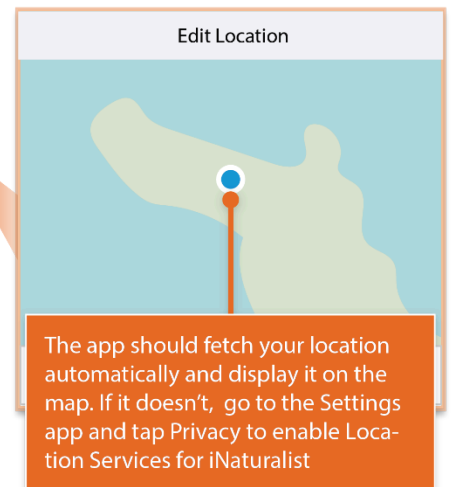
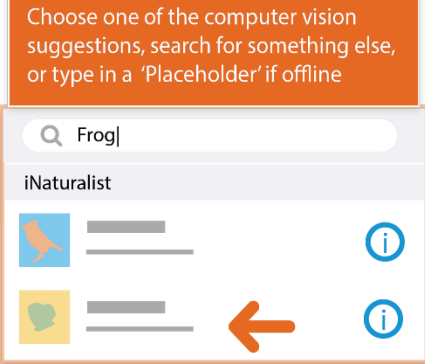
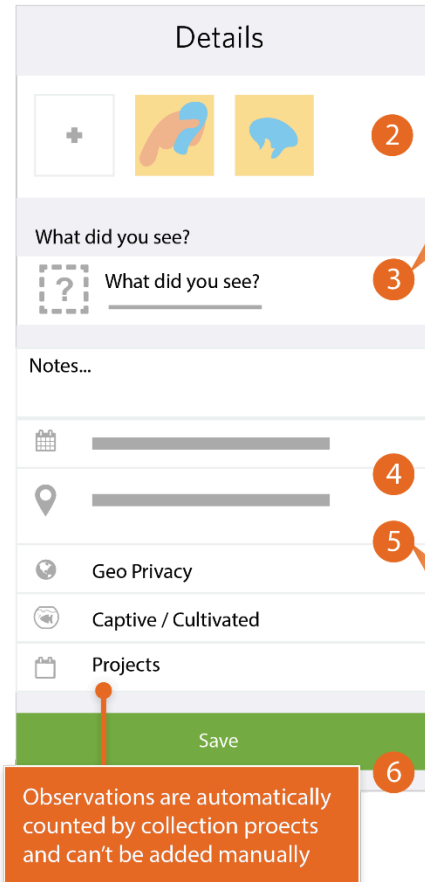
If you observed something that is not wild, like a garden plant or a lion in the zoo, make sure to mark it as [captive/cultivated](#) to prevent it from becoming research quality.

# How to Make an Observation with your iPhone:

- Tap **observe**.



- Add one or more photos as **evidence**.
- Choose **what** you saw.
- **When** you saw it should be added automatically.
- **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. (If it doesn't, check Privacy in the Settings app.)
- **Save** your observation.
- **Note:** Observations are automatically added to the Class project



- **Upload** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the Upload button. You can turn off automatic upload from the app settings from the Me tab.



- Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



# How to Make an Observation with your Android

- Tap the **observe** button from the My Observations tab.



- Add one or more photos as **evidence**.
- Choose **what** you saw.
- **When** you saw it should be added automatically.
- **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If this doesn't happen, check app permissions in the Settings app.

Choose one of the computer vision suggestions, search for something else, or type in 'Placeholder' if offline

The app should fetch and display your location automatically. If it doesn't, tap through to get your location manually.

- **Save** your observation.
- **Note:** Observations are automatically added to the Class project
- **Sync** to share with the community. This should happen automatically. If it doesn't, tap the button. You can turn off auto upload from the Settings tab.



- Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



# Make an observation from the Web

- Start by clicking the green **Upload** button from the header when you are logged in.
- From the upload page, begin by dragging in one or more photos. Each photo will create an 'observation card' that you can edit before submitting. You can also use the 'Add' button in the upper left to create observation cards without photos or the 'More Import options' menu to upload a CSV or import from external sites.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.org web interface for editing an observation. The top header includes the iNaturalist logo, navigation links (Explore, Your Observations, Community, Identify, More), and a green 'Upload' button. Below the header, the interface is titled 'Editing 1 Observation' and features a sidebar on the left with sections for Details, Tags, Projects, and Fields. The main area displays an observation card with a photo of a bee, a search bar for the species name, and fields for Date, Location, and Description. A sidebar on the left contains additional fields and options. A green button at the top right says 'Submit 1 observation'. Numbered callouts (1-5) point to specific elements: 1 points to the sidebar, 2 points to the species name search bar, 3 points to the date field, 4 points to the location field, and 5 points to the 'Submit 1 observation' button. A text box explains that the sidebar includes additional fields and can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. Another text box explains that cards and photos can be dragged to move or combine. A third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A tenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A eleventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twelfth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fourteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventeenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A nineteenth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twentieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A twenty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirtieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A thirty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fortieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A forty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fiftieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A fifty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixtieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A sixty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A seventy-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eightieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. An eighty-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninetieth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-first text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-second text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-third text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-fourth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-fifth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-sixth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-seventh text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-eighth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A ninety-ninth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards. A hundredth text box explains that the side bar can be used to batch edit multiple selected cards.

- Choose **what** you saw from the suggestions or by searching for a name. If you can't find what you're looking for, leave it blank or use some placeholder text. If you entered a scientific name that's not recognized, click 'Search external name providers' to first import the organism from elsewhere. Use the sidebar to let us know if the organism you observed was [captive or cultivated](#).
- Use the calendar to enter **when** you observed the organism
- Type in an address and select from the places offered in order to calculate coordinates and an accuracy circle describing **where** you were. You'll probably also need to zoom into the map and manually adjust the marker position and accuracy circle size.
- **Submit** your observation.
- Check back for **updates** on your observations by the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.

