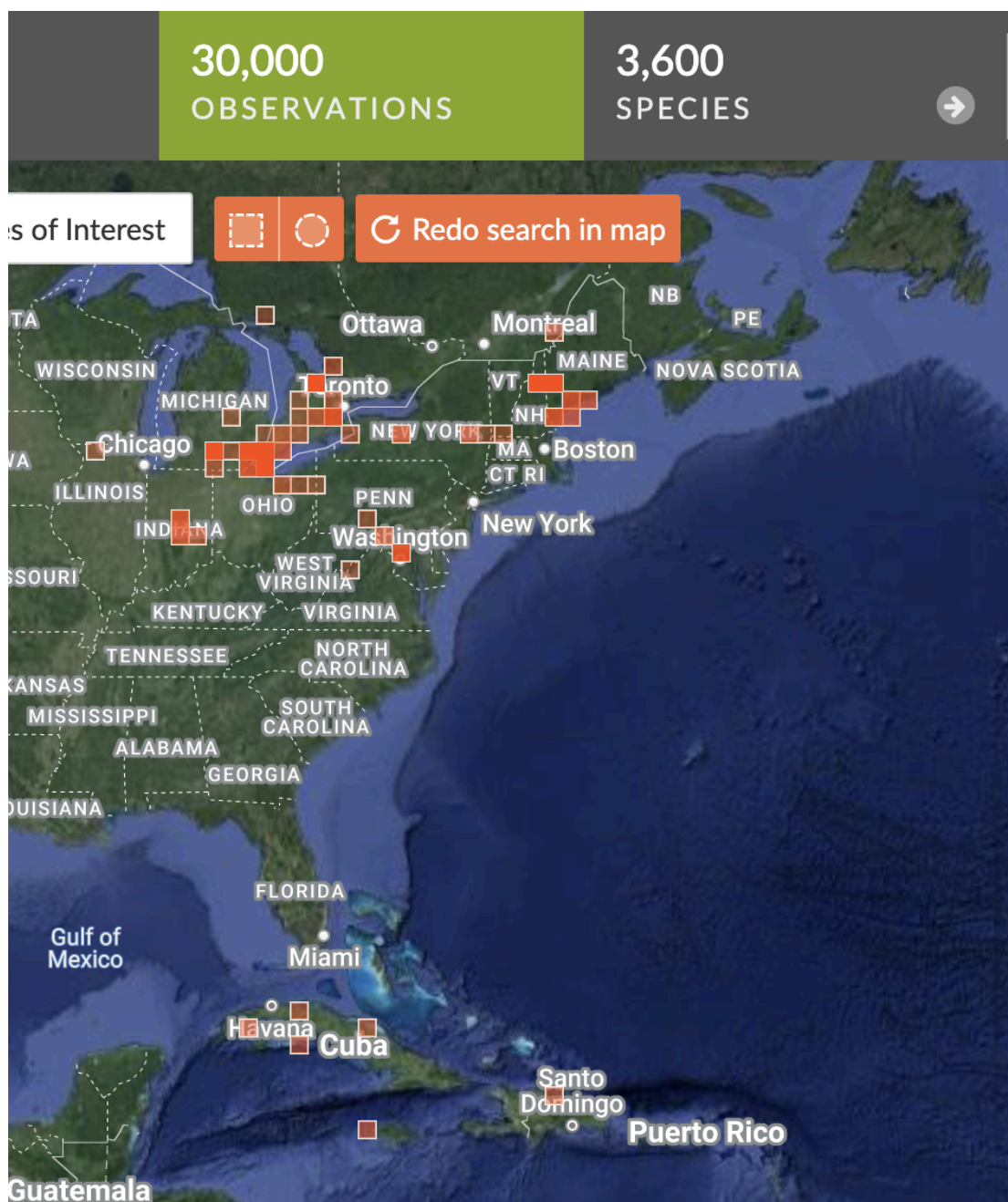


30,000 Observations of Wildlife on iNaturalist

Wildlife Sightings from 1998-2024. A journey in citizen science, utilizing technology to document the incredible creatures that surround us.

Mark Nenadov
LaSalle, Ontario - July 2024





Io Moth (Automeris Io). Essex, Ontario. 2020.

What Is iNaturalist?

iNaturalist is a “nonprofit social network of naturalists, citizen scientists, and biologists built on the concept of mapping and sharing observations of biodiversity across the globe”.

It was founded by Ken-ichi Ueda, Nate Agrin, and Jessica Kline and launched in 2008.. There is a [website](#), as well as apps for [apple](#) and [android](#). Anyone can sign in and submit observations.

What Constitutes an “Observation”?

An observation is a record of a wild plant or animal. It requires some form of documentation, usually a photo or sound recording, a coordinate, and a date.



? Why Do I Do This?

1. I've always been deeply fascinated by the natural world around me.
2. Going for a hike and observing nature is a great way to relax and decompress.
3. Technology has enabled interested people with no scientific training or institutional support to make important contributions to our understanding of the natural world (citizen science).
4. I enjoy collecting data and sharing it.



East Point Sanctuary. Biddeford, Maine.

Some Stats

Of these observations..

- 22% were made right in my backyard!
- 88% were within 45 minutes of my house
- 89% were in Ontario
- 90% were in Canada
- 51% have been vetted by others in the iNaturalist community
- 4% are of creatures that are threatened or endangered
- 98.5% include photos.



Luna Moth (*Actias luna*). Colchester, Ontario. 2021.



Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson, NH. 2016.

Taxonomic Breakdowns (Class)

Here is a table of classes represented by more than 100 observations

+-----+-----+		
Class	Number of Observations	
+-----+-----+		
Insecta	18445	
Aves	3943	
Magnoliopsida	2813	
Arachnida	1208	
Liliopsida	911	
Agaricomycetes	647	
Mammalia	235	
Reptilia	196	
Gastropoda	189	
Entognatha	146	
Polypodiopsida	133	
Amphibia	131	
Pinopsida	106	
+-----+-----+		

Taxonomic Breakdowns (Order)

Here is a table of orders represented by more than 300 observations

+-----+-----+	
Order	Number of Observations
+-----+-----+	
Lepidoptera	11787
Diptera	1826
Passeriformes	1612
Coleoptera	1553
Hemiptera	1340
Charadriiformes	1070
Araneae	1061
Hymenoptera	766
Poales	695
Anseriformes	550
Asterales	475
Fagales	428
Rosales	387
Agaricales	334
Odonata	320
+-----+-----+	

Taxonomic Breakdowns (Family)

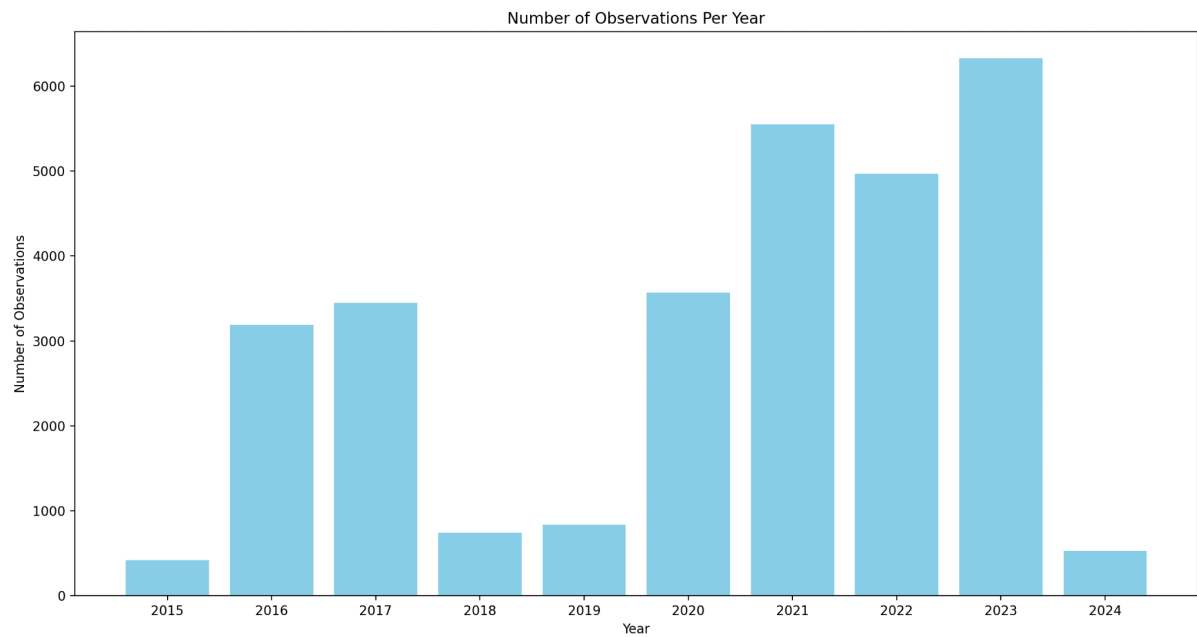
Here is a table of families represented by more than 300 observations

+-----+-----+	
Family	Number of Observations
+-----+-----+	
Noctuidae	2043
Tortricidae	1905
Erebidae	1745
Crambidae	1611
Geometridae	1421
Anatidae	538
Scolopacidae	509
Laridae	485
Cicadellidae	484
Asteraceae	450
Pyralidae	441
Cyperaceae	329
Gelechiidae	280
Fagaceae	275
Poaceae	274
Chironomidae	266
Passerellidae	256
Rosaceae	251
+-----+-----+	



Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*). Kopegaron Woods. May 2019.

Yearly Breakdown (2015-2024)



Raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Leamington, Ontario. 2004.



Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*). LaSalle, Ontario. 2017.



Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Ontario. Feb 2017.



Crested Sedge (*Carex cristatella*)



Bold Jumping Spider (*Phidippus audax*). Essex, Ontario. 2020.



Ornate-stalked Bolete (*Retiboletus ornatipes*). Bryant Pond, Maine. 2018.



Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*). Essex, Ontario. 2017.

Group Surveys I've Participated In

- 2015: Ojibway Prairie Complex Bioblitz
- 2018: Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count
- 2019: Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count
- 2021: Jack Miner Bioblitz
- 2021: Holiday Beach Christmas Bird Count





Ice formations at 2019 Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count.



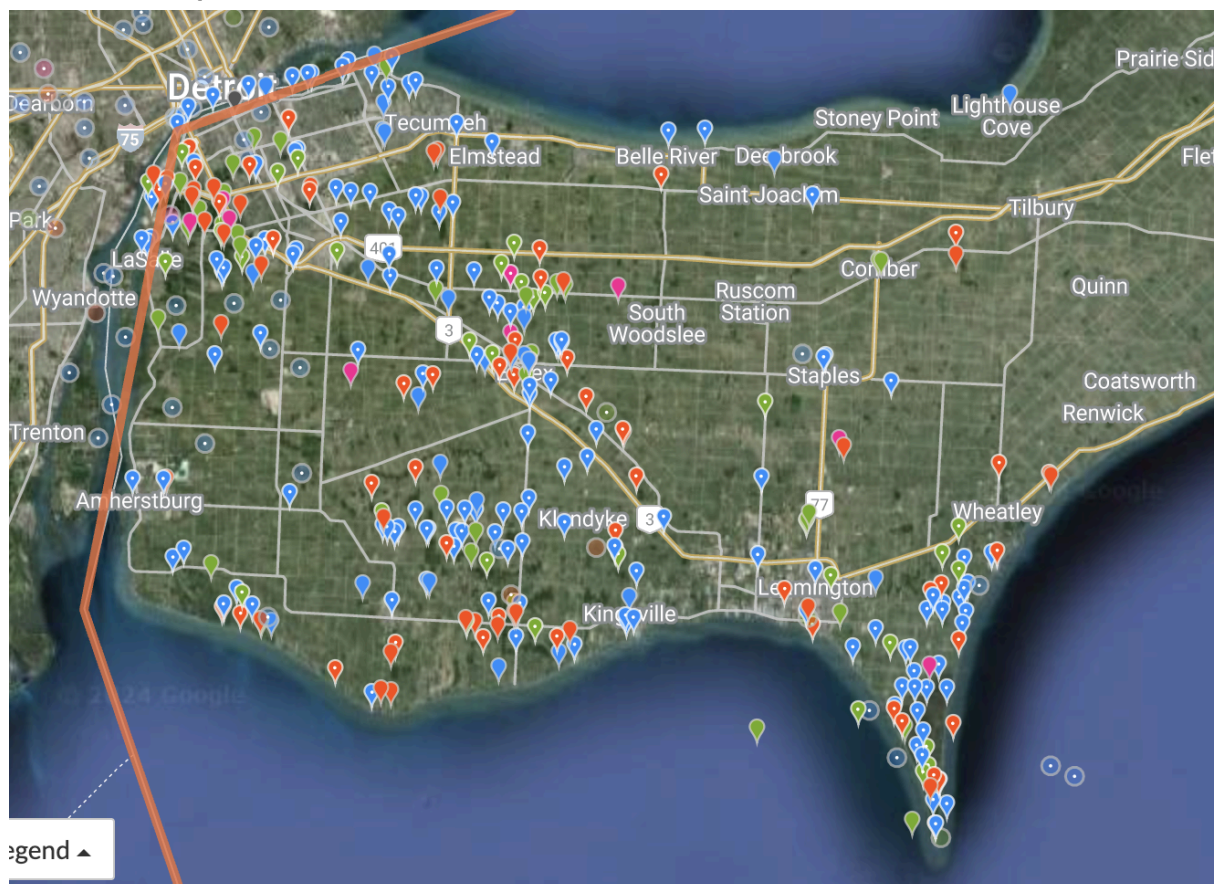
Long-tailed ducks at the 2019 Point Pelee Christmas Bird Count

My Observations in Ontario

Ontario overall:



Essex County:



So, What Was Observation #30,000?

It was a Hermit Sphinx Moth (*Lintneria eremitus*) found in high quality prairie habitat in Windsor's Ojibway Prairie Complex. The species is listed in Ontario as S3 (which means it is considered to be vulnerable to further decline).



Hermit Sphinx Moth (*Lintneria eremitus*). Windsor, Ontario. 2024.



Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve. Windsor, Ontario.

The Most Memorable Moment

I was hiking Albany Mountain Trail in Bethel, Maine when the bog tried to eat me. Here is how far my rubber boot sunk into the bog:



👋 Thank You For Viewing! 👋



Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*). Windsor, Ontario. 2017.

? What's next? ▶▶ This is just an initial draft.

🤖 I still have a lot more data wrangling to do! 🤖

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