MSU Science Festival 2023 BioBlitz Participant's Guide

What is a BioBlitz?

A BioBlitz is a community science-led tally of living things in a given area. MSU Science Festival has partnered with nature centers, natural areas, parks, and other conservation organizations across Michigan to be featured locations for the 2023 BioBlitz during April.

How can I participate?

- Make observations:
    - Visit any of the featured locations listed below with a phone or camera.
    - Take pictures of living organisms you come across.
    - Upload them to iNaturalist using the app or website (internet connection required) - be sure to include location information.

- Identify other people's observations:
    - Visit the iNaturalist projects using the links below and check out other people's observations at a location of interest.
    - Suggest an identification of the organism - if you don't know the specific species, that's ok; any identification is helpful.

Featured Locations:

Ann Arbor Parks (10 locations across Ann Arbor, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Belle Isle Nature Center (Detroit, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Blandford Nature Center (Grand Rapids, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Corey Marsh Ecological Research Center (Laingsburg, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Crosswinds Marsh - Wayne County Parks (New Boston, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve (Rochester, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Fenner Nature Center (Lansing, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Grand Traverse Natural Education Reserve (Traverse City, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Harris Nature Center (Okemos, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Indian Springs Metropark (White Lake, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Michigan & Beyond (anywhere else in Michigan and wherever you are) | iNaturalist Project

Michigan Audubon Capital City Bird Sanctuary (Lansing, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Michigan Nature Association (4 locations: Dowagiac, Springfield Township, Grass Lake, and Ludington, MI) | iNaturalist Project

MSU Kellogg Bird Sanctuary (Augusta, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Nan Weston Nature Preserve at Sharon Hollow (Manchester, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Potter Park Zoo Lansing River Trail (Lansing, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Riverview Natural Area (Midland, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Rogue River State Game Area (Kent City, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Rose Lake State Game Area (East Lansing, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Seney National Wildlife Refuge (Seney, MI) | iNaturalist Project

Woldumar Nature Center (Lansing, MI) | iNaturalist Project

How to use iNaturalist
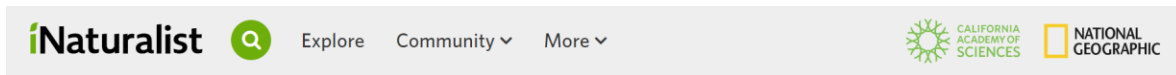
iNaturalist app or on the web

www.inaturalist.org

Android App

Apple App
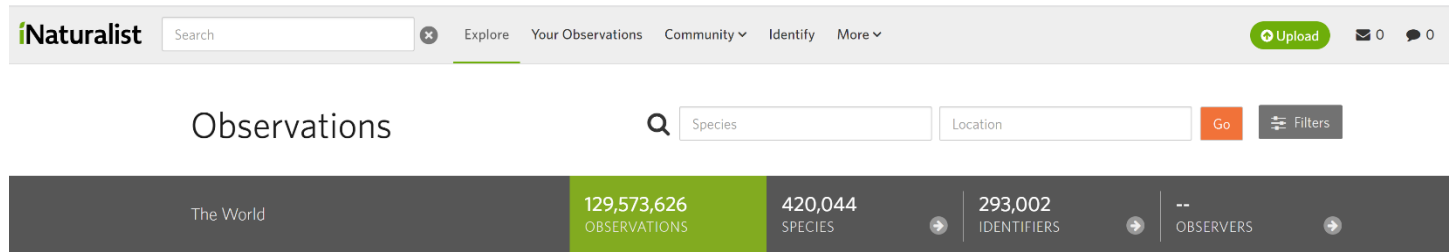
Create an iNaturalist account:

iNaturalist   Explore   Community ⌄   More ⌄   CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES   NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Join the largest group of naturalists in the world!

Email

Username

Password

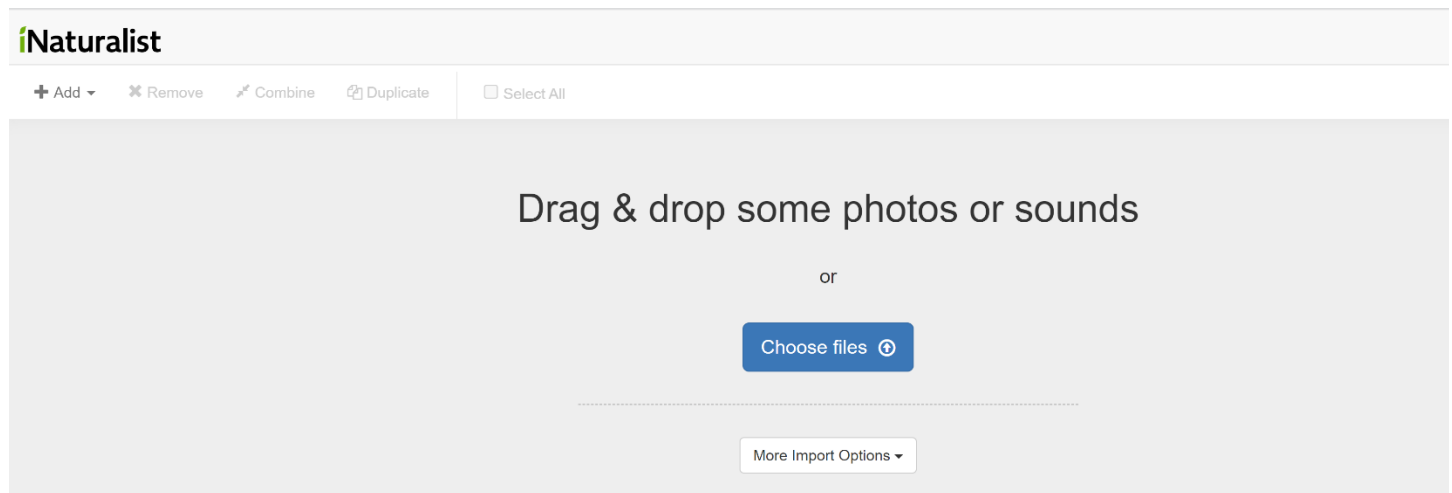Password confirmation

I'm not a robot   reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

☑ Yes, license my photos, sounds, and observations so scientists can use my data (recommended). Learn More

☐ I consent to allow iNaturalist to store and process limited kinds of personal information about me in order to manage my account Learn More

☐ I consent to allow my personal information to be transferred to the United States of America Learn More

☐ I agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy, and I have reviewed the Community Guidelines.
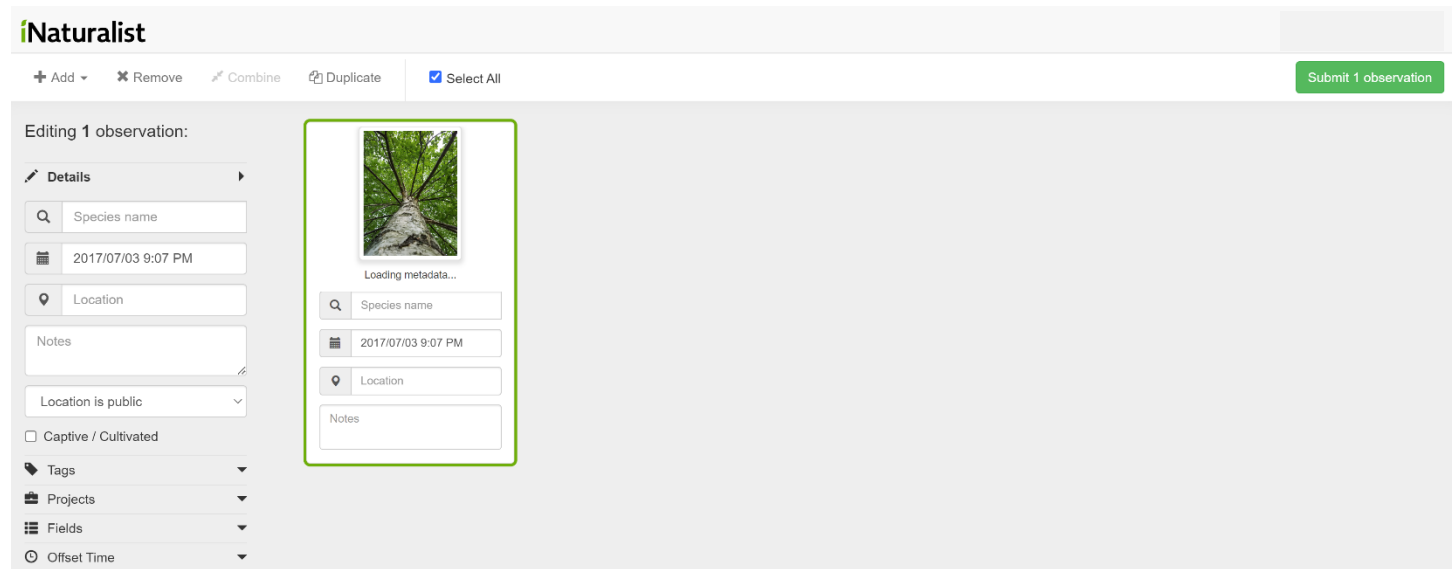
Create an Account

Make an observation on the web:
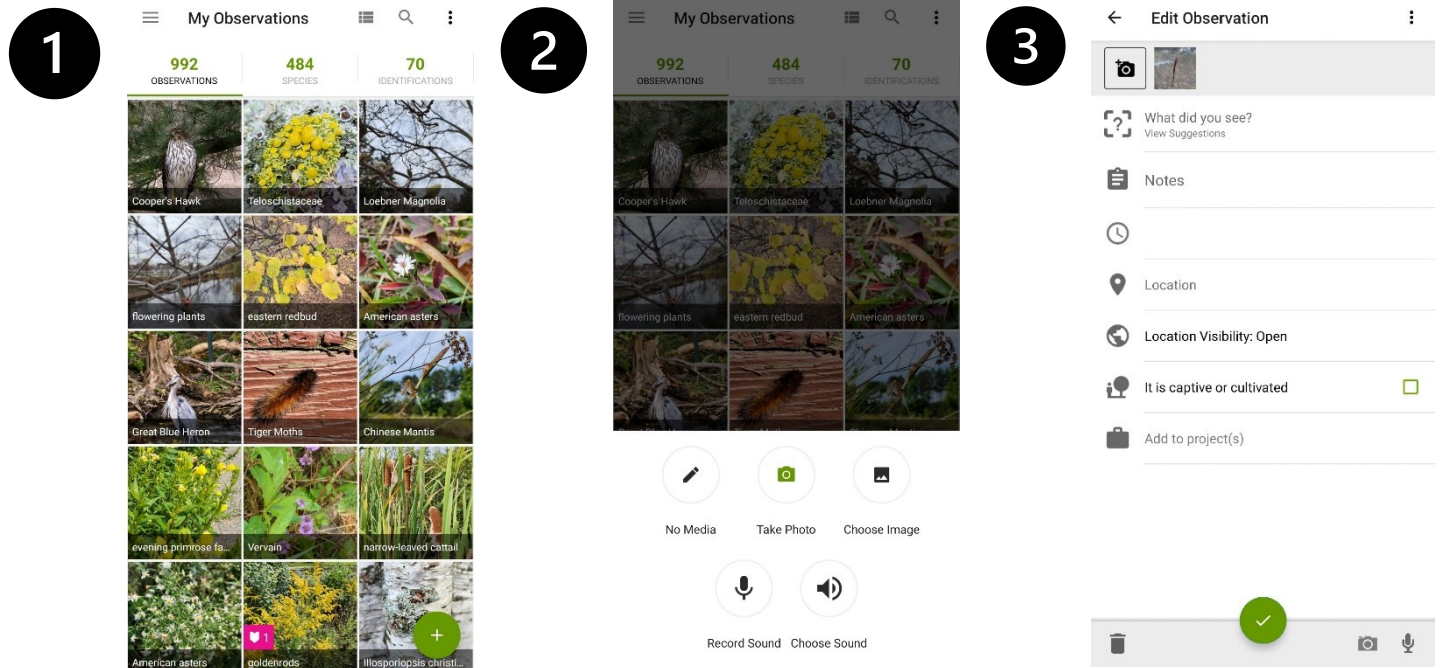

1. Locate and click on the green Upload button.
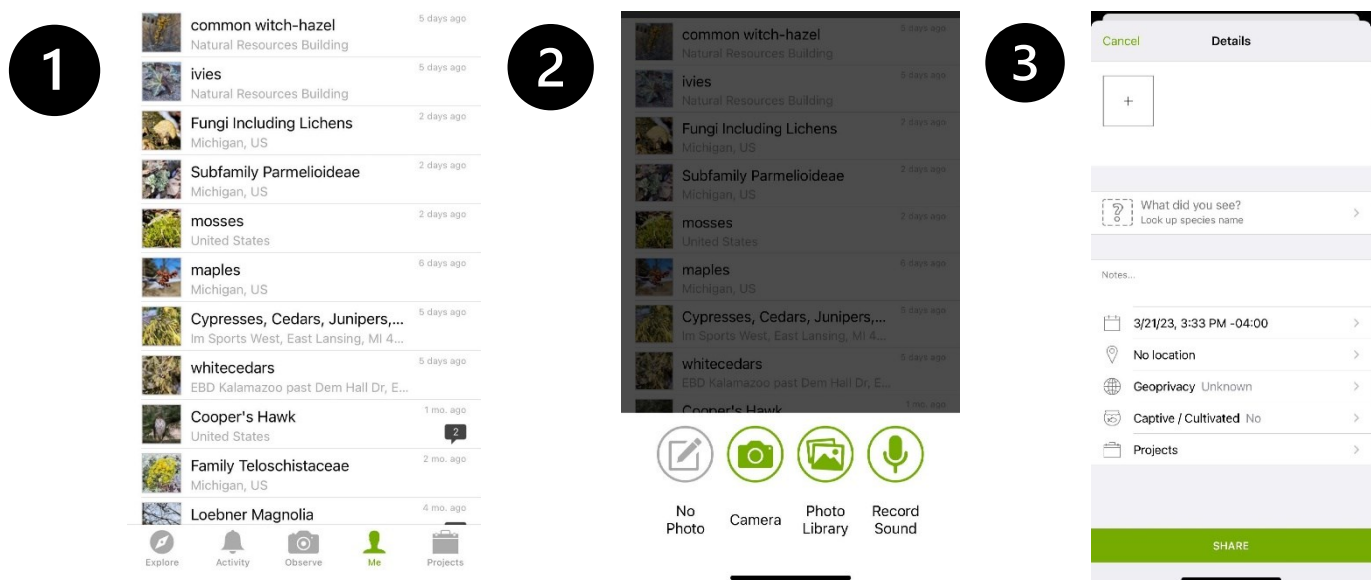

2. Choose the photo(s) you want to upload.

3. Fill in the species name, location, and other details to submit your observation.

Make an observation on the Android App:

1. Locate and select the green plus sign.
2. Select your image(s) or take a photo.
3. Fill in what you saw, the location, and other relevant details.
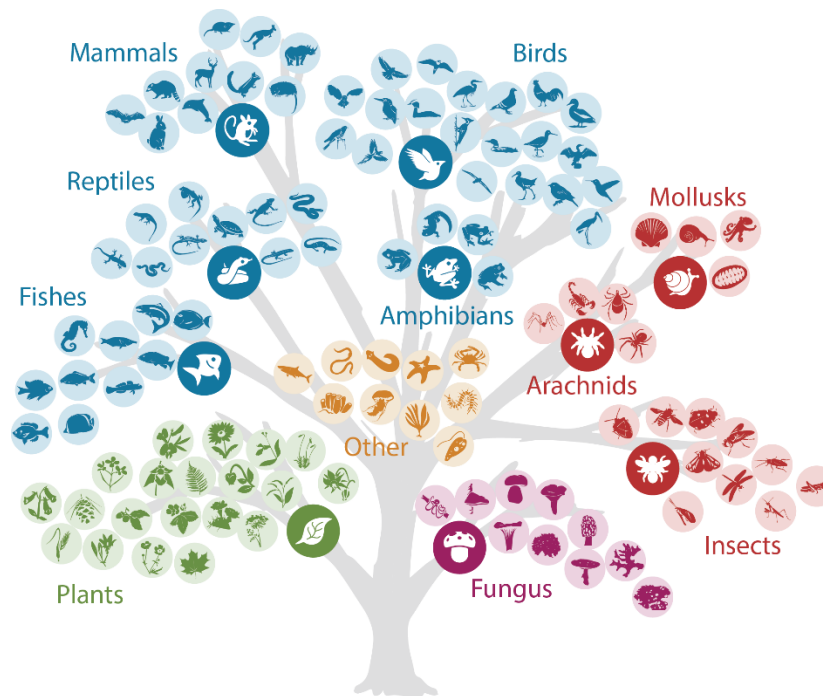
Make an observation on the Apple App:

1. Locate and select the Observe icon at the bottom.
2. Select your image(s) or take a photo.
3. Fill in what you saw, the location, and other relevant details.

Useful Links

- [Getting Started with iNaturalist](#)
- [Video tutorials](#)
- [Getting Good Photos for Identification](#)
- [Identification tips](#)

What should I look for?

There are so many different organisms all around you: birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, amphibians, plants, fungi, insects, arachnids, and more!

Observation Tips & Tricks

- Take identifiable photos - fill the frame with your subject and don't be afraid to zoom in to get a better image.
- Take multiple photos - it is easier to identify many organisms with multiple angles and/or multiple features. For example, a tree is much easier to identify with photos of leaves, branches, and bark; a flowering plant is much easier to identify with photos of leaves and flowers.
- Be sure to add the location of your observation. If you are worried about privacy, change the location visibility to obscured.
- If possible, use a hand or other object like a pencil to showcase the scale of the organism.
- Don't photograph people's faces, especially children.
- See [iNaturalist Photo Guide](#)

Identification Resources

Michigan species:

- [Field Guide for Michigan birds, trees, insects, wildflowers, mammals, and more](#) | MSU Fisheries & Wildlife Department Graduate Student Organization
- [Learn about Michigan's species](#) | Michigan DNR
- [Guide to Common Wetland Birds of Southern Michigan](#) | Michigan DNR
- [Guide to Insects on Your Hike](#) | Michigan DNR
- [Guide to Spring Wildflower Hikes](#) | Michigan DNR
- [Guide to Mushrooms](#) | Michigan DNR
- [Michigan's Rare Animals](#) | Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- [Michigan's Rare Plants](#) | Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- [Michigan Invasive Species](#) | State of Michigan
- [A Field Guide to Invasive Plants of Aquatic and Wetland Habitats for Michigan](#) | MSU Extension
- [A Field Guide to Invasive Plants in Michigan's Natural Communities](#) | MSU Extension
- [Common Aquatic Plants of Michigan](#) | EGLE
- [Michigan Flora](#) | UM Herbarium
- [Field Guide to Michigan Crayfish](#) | Michigan DNR
- [UP Tree Identification Key](#) | MSU Extension
- [Identifying Trees of Michigan](#) | MSU Extension
- [Michigan Herp Atlas](#)
- [Know Your Insects](#)

United States Species:

- [BugGuide](#)
- [Butterflies of America](#)
- [Guide to identifying trees by their bark](#) | MSU professor Lars Brudvig and Ben Knapp
- [Merlin Bird ID](#)
- [All About Birds](#) | Cornell Lab
- [Birds of the World](#) | Cornell Lab
- [Guide to North American Birds](#) | Audubon
- [What Tree Is That?](#) | Arbor Day Foundation
- [Nature Tracking](#)
- [Animal Diversity Web](#)
- [U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Find a Species](#)