Getting Started

1. Create an account.

Sign up at inaturalist.org, or install the mobile app so you can submit observations offline.

Google play App Store

2. Join nearby projects.

3. Tap Observe to start making observations.

4. Add photos.

5. Enter what you saw, or view suggestions and choose the best match.

6. When and where you saw it will be added automatically.

7. Save your observation.

8. For more information, visit inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started

Taking Photographs

- Be a safe, respectful naturalist—do not touch wild animals or poisonous plants, and stay on trails.
- You can upload several pictures per observation.
- Take photos that are sharp and in focus.
- Try to take a well-lit photo—keep the sun at your back.
- Get close, but not too close so neither you nor the animal is harmed.
- Make sure phone location services are on to record the exact location (longitude and latitude) of the photo.
- You can make observations in airplane mode then upload them later; original time and location will upload automatically.
- Never touch a dead animal.

Plants

- Photograph the entire plant.
- Take close-up photos of the top and bottom of a leaf or leaves with hand or this ruler in photo for scale.
- If in bloom take photos of flowers from different angles: top, side, and bottom.
- Take photos of fruits and seeds if available.
- Use only one plant per observation.
- 4 - 6 photos per observation is best.



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Birds

- Photograph the enitre animal.
- Take photos from different angles: side view and close-ups of head and beak are helpful.
- Take photos of surrounding environment.

Insects

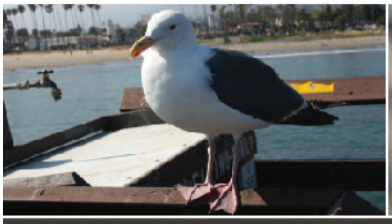
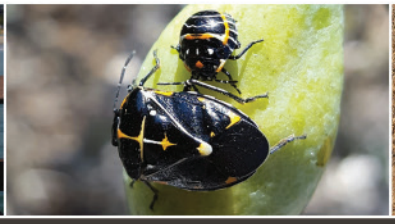
- Photograph the entire animal.
- Take photos from different angles: top, side, and close-up of face are helpful.
- Take photos of the surrounding environment.
- If it has visible or spread wings, photograph its wing veins.

Reptiles and Amphibians

- Photograph the entire animal.
- Take photos from different angles.
- Take photos of the surrounding environment.
- If it is a snake, try to get close-up pictures of its head and tail, but put safety first as it could be venomous.

Mammals

- Photograph the entire animal.
- Take photos from different angles.
- Take photos of the surrounding environment.
- Photos of tracks and scat (animal poop) are helpful.
- If you find bones, take a photo with your hand or this ruler for scale.



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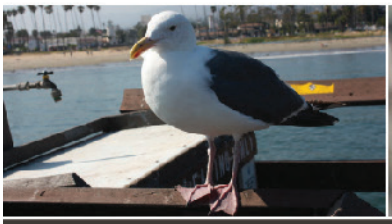
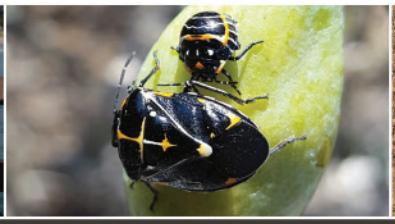
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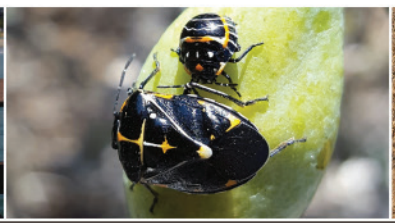
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