

**GET INVOLVED
WHERE YOU LIVE!**

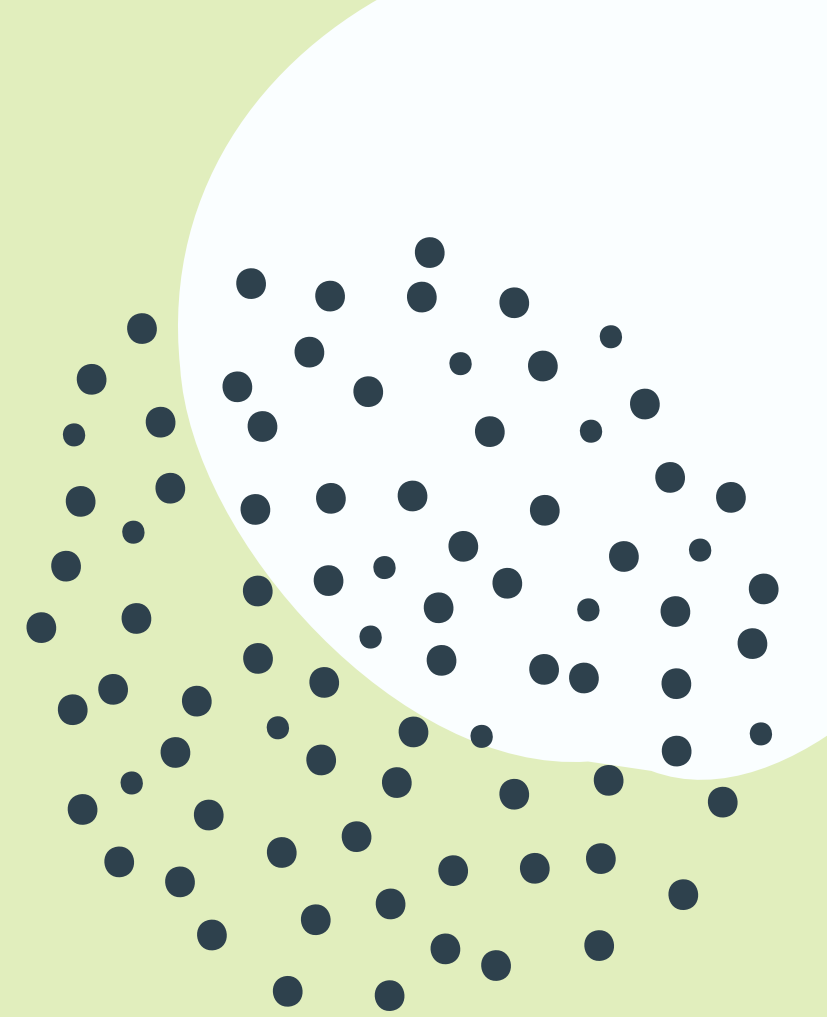
CITY NATURE CHALLENGE

April 24 - May 3, 2020



What we'll go over

- Background on the CNC
- COVID-19
- About WILD
- Who can participate?
- What should you document?
- How do I know my observations were added?
- Using iNaturalist
- Identifying species
- How to take good photos
- Being safe / keeping wildlife safe
- Resources teachers & parents
- The Denver-Boulder CNC
- Additional information



What's the City Nature Challenge?

The City Nature Challenge (CNC) is an ongoing project to document urban biodiversity & engage city residents in the nature around them through the iNaturalist online platform.

The project is framed as a competition* (see the COVID-19 slide) between cities to see which can make the most observations, identify the most species, or have the most participants.

The program was started in 2016 by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles and the California Academy of Sciences.



CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES

NATURAL
HISTORY
MUSEUM
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



APRIL 24 - 27, 2020

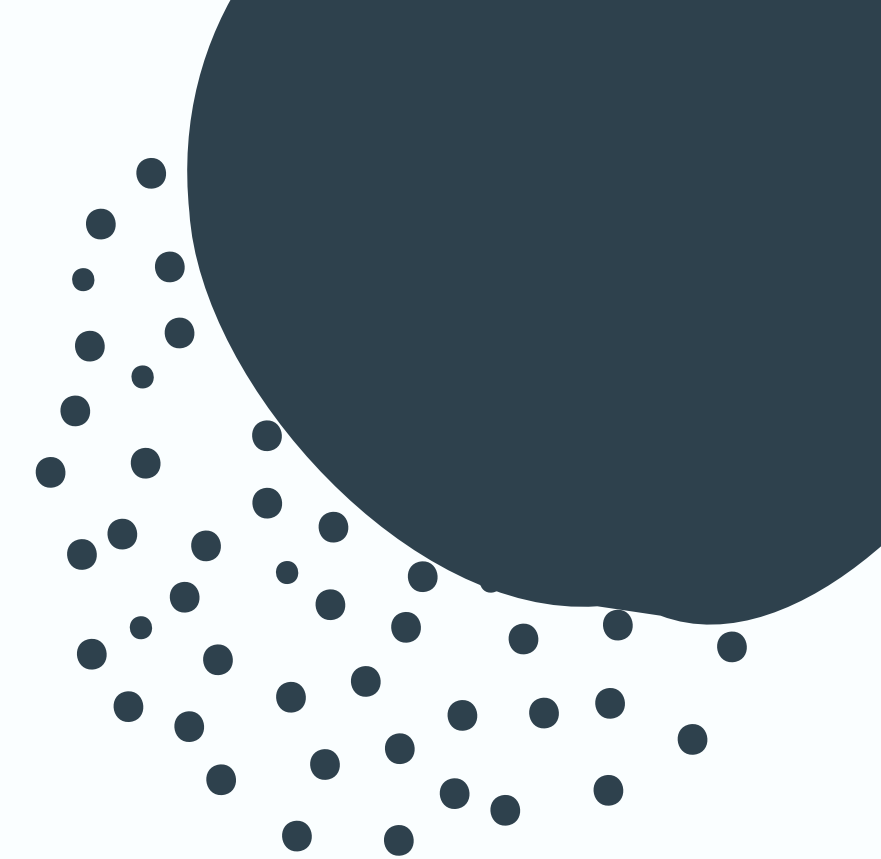
Four-day bioblitz throughout the world when all observations are collected.

APRIL 28 - MAY 3, 2020

Six-day identification period where observations are ID'd and verified. Participants can continue to upload observations to this period (so long as they were taken within the April 24-27 timeframe).

MAY 4, 2020

Results will be announced for each city's total observations, number of species ID'd, and number of people who participated as observers and identifiers.

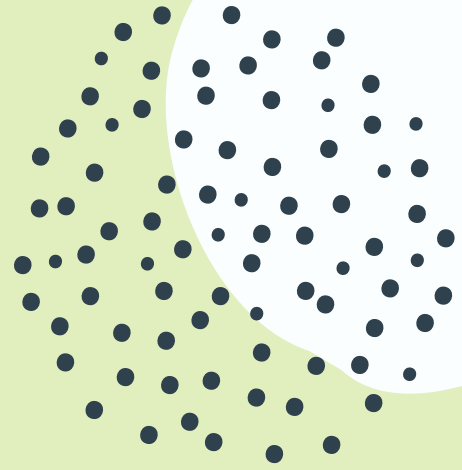


When is the City Nature Challenge?

Why should you participate?



Photo: Melanie Hill



There is nature all around us, even in our cities!

Knowing what species are in our city and where they are helps us study and protect them, but the **ONLY** way to do that is by all of us – scientists, land managers, and the community – working together to find and document the nature in our area.

By participating in the City Nature Challenge, not only do you learn more about your local nature, but you can also make your city a better place – for you and other species!



Photo: Melanie Hill

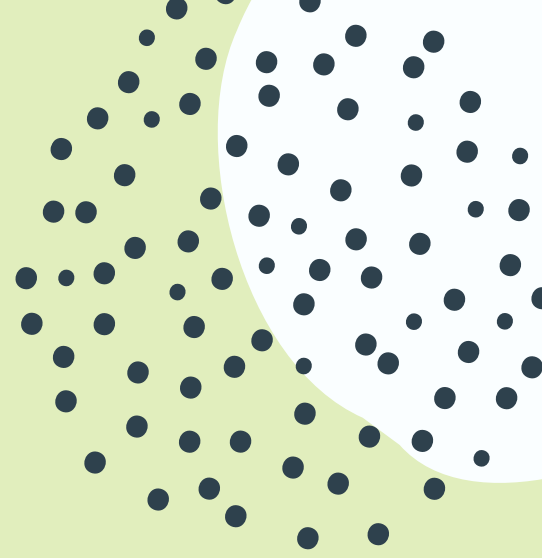
COVID-19 Update

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, CNC organizers have made some modifications to the 2020 City Nature Challenge to help keep organizers & participants safe.

Firstly, this year's CNC is no longer a competition. Instead, we want to embrace the healing power of nature and encourage the collaborative aspect of the CNC. This will allow people to safely document biodiversity in whatever way they can, even from the safety of their own homes if necessary. We urge all participants to carefully follow public health guidelines provided by your local governments, as they are changing in real-time.

For more information on the CNC and COVID-19, visit citynaturechallenge.org/covid19/.

About the WILD Foundation



Mission: Building strong communities that respect and protect nature for the benefit of all life on Earth.

For over 40 years WILD has assembled leaders from all sectors of society and from all over the world to come together for the twin purposes of forging strong policy communities with shared goals and objectives for the protection of nature, and building respect for Earth's wilderness. Putting respect for nature at the center of the leadership community and stewarding coordinated action for her protection is what we do best.

Learn more at wild.org



Photo: Melanie Hill

What nature can do for you

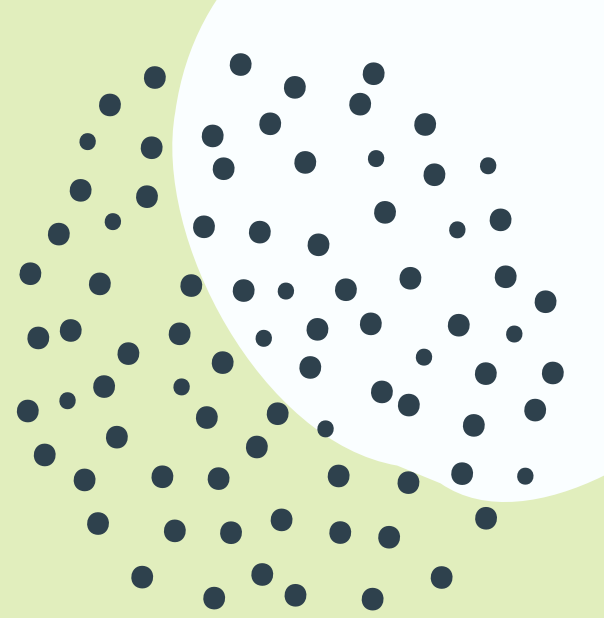
Communities throughout the world are struggling as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to worsen. Feelings of helplessness, fear, loneliness, and uncertainty continue to build. At WILD, it is our belief that people need nature now more than ever. Nature provides us with the essential life-supporting systems like clean air, water, food, shelter, and medicine. And don't forget her healing powers: by spending time in nature, we can feel stronger, calmer, and gain new perspectives on life.

The City Nature Challenge is one way we can help our communities come together and heal from this traumatic time. As you explore, we ask you to be respectful to your fellow neighbors – both wild and human.





Enjoying wild nature during COVID-19



- Enjoy the outdoors regionally, around your backyard, neighborhood, and local park or trails. *Please stay close to home!*
- Maintain social distance from people (6 ft), and wildlife (at least 75-150 ft from large animals).
- Avoid times and places of high use.
- Respect local land and facility closures.
- Wear a cloth mask in public areas.
- Practice good hand hygiene.
- Announce your presence to others to help maintain social distancing.

BY THE NUMBERS: 2019 STATS



963,773

OBSERVATIONS MADE



31,000+

SPECIES DOCUMENTED



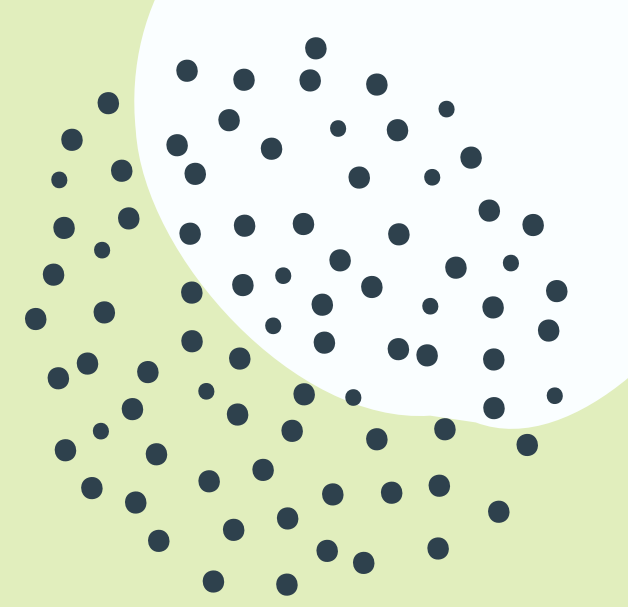
35,126

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED

159 CITIES WORLDWIDE



Photo: Melanie Hill



Who can participate?

Anyone in a participating city!

You don't have to be a professional photographer, naturalist, biologist, etc. to get involved with iNaturalist or the City Nature Challenge. All you need is a way to take photos of plants and wildlife, an iNaturalist account, and the desire to get out into wild nature! Our team and the iNaturalist community will help you with troubleshooting, photo tips, and species identifications.



Photo: Melanie Hill

Where can you go to make observations?

In short: Anywhere wild nature exists!

However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we urge all participants to carefully follow public health guidelines & stay at home orders provided by local governments.

Document wild nature in nearby places such as:

- Your backyard!
- City/neighborhood parks
- Open space, mountain parks, & natural areas
- State parks
- Urban areas
- And more!

Please check the status of all parks and open spaces before visiting

Which species should you document?

ANY WILD ORGANISMS

Birds

Fish

Reptiles

Amphibians

Mammals

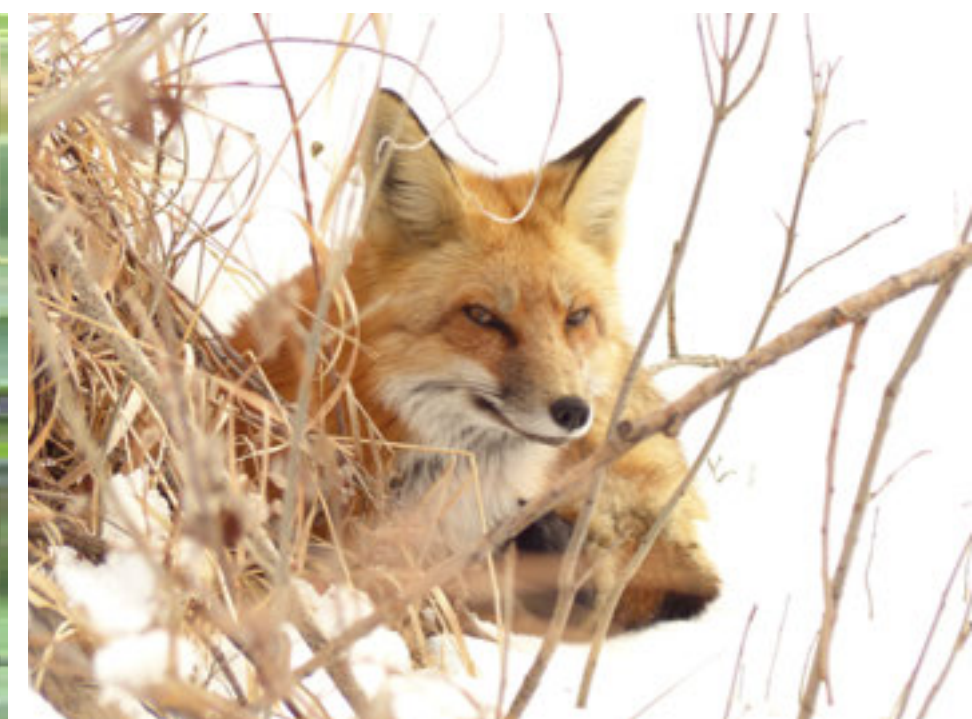
Fungi & lichens

Plants

Which species should you NOT document?

CAPTIVE, NON-WILD ORGANISMS

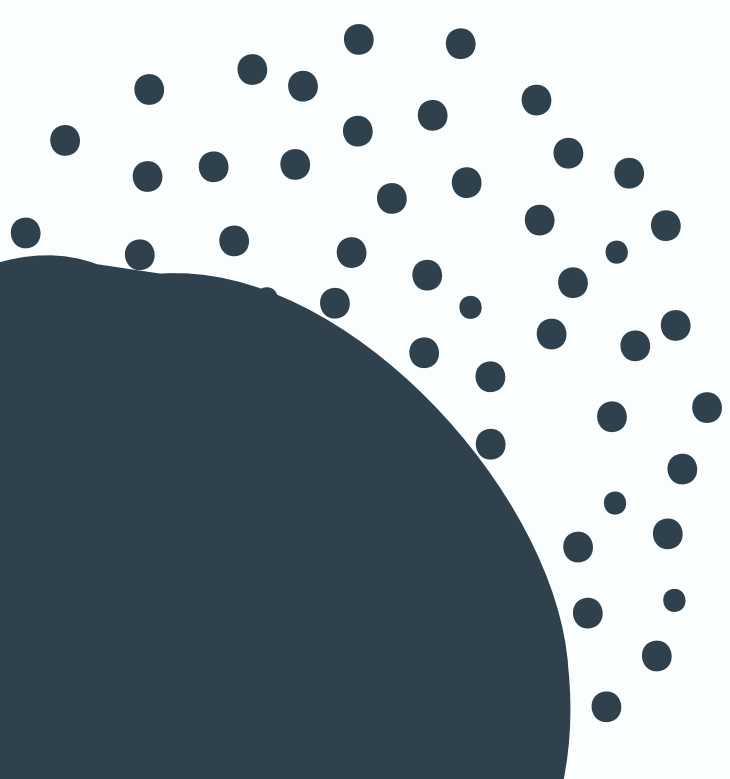
Pets
Humans
Potted plants
Zoo animals



**WILD
ORGANISMS**



How do I know my observations were counted?



As long as your observations were taken within your city/region's set **boundary** between **April 24-27** and successfully **uploaded to iNaturalist by 11:59pm on May 3**, they will automatically be added to the project!

Using iNaturalist

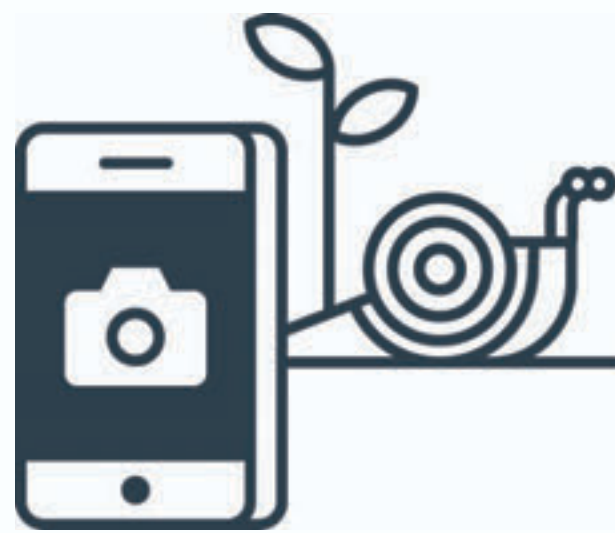


Get started by visiting inaturalist.org, creating your own free account, and signing in. You can download the app to your smartphone from the Google Play Store (Android) or App Store (iPhone), or use the website from your computer.



Find plants & wildlife:

It can be any plant, animal, or any other evidence of life found in your city.



Take a photo

Take a picture of what you find. Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.



Share!

Share your observations through iNaturalist.

WHAT ARE YOU RECORDING?

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

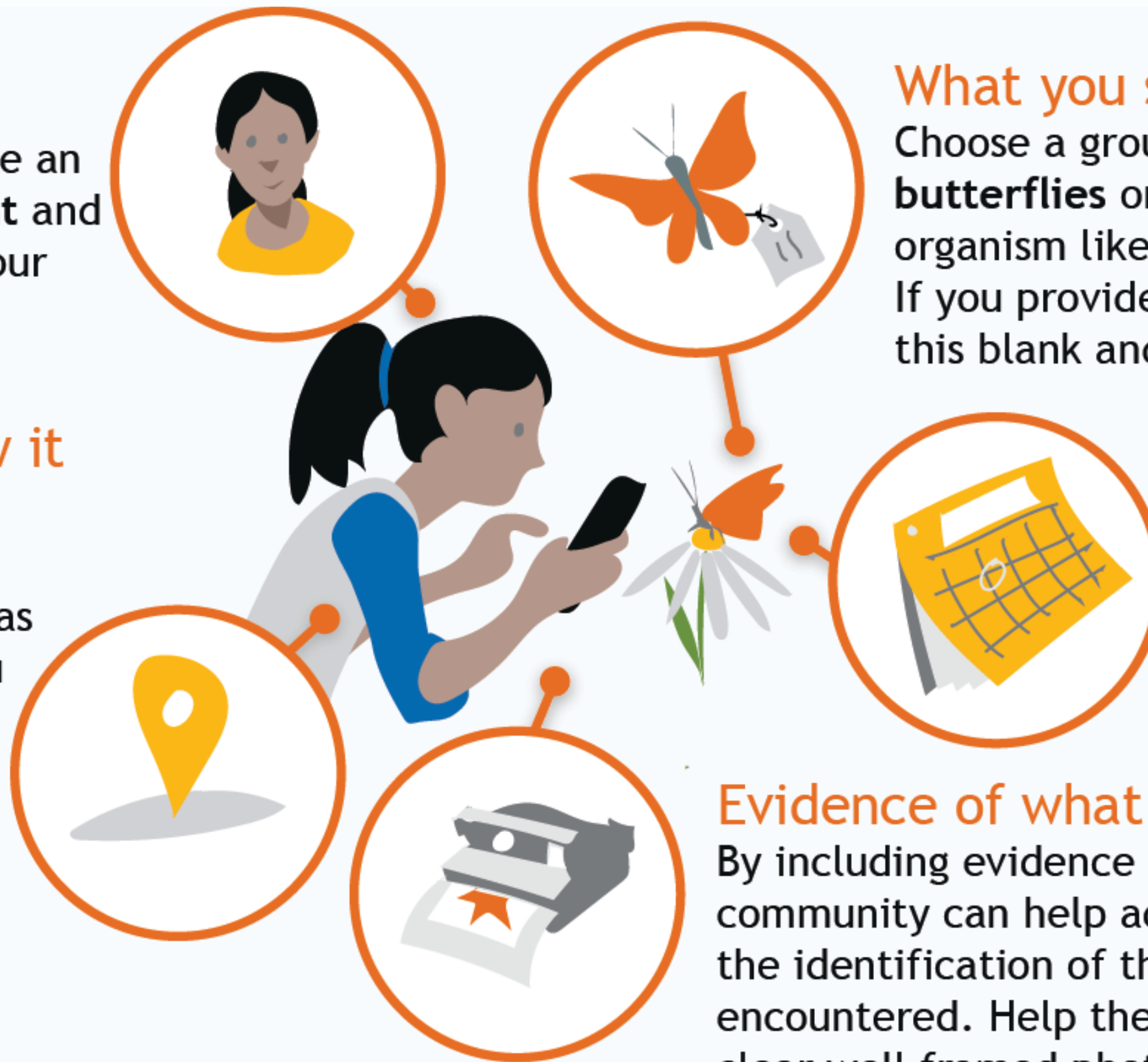
Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**

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



HOW TO: iPHONE

Details

2

What did you see?

3

Notes...

4

5

6

Save

Observations are automatically counted by collection projects and can't be added manually

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

Search: Frog|

iNaturalist

1

2

←

Edit Location

The app should fetch your location automatically and display it on the map. If it doesn't, go to the Settings app and tap Privacy to enable Location Services for iNaturalist

1 Tap **observe**

2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**.

3 Choose **what** you saw.

4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically.

5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If it doesn't, check Privacy in the Settings app.

6 **Save** your observation.

7 **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.

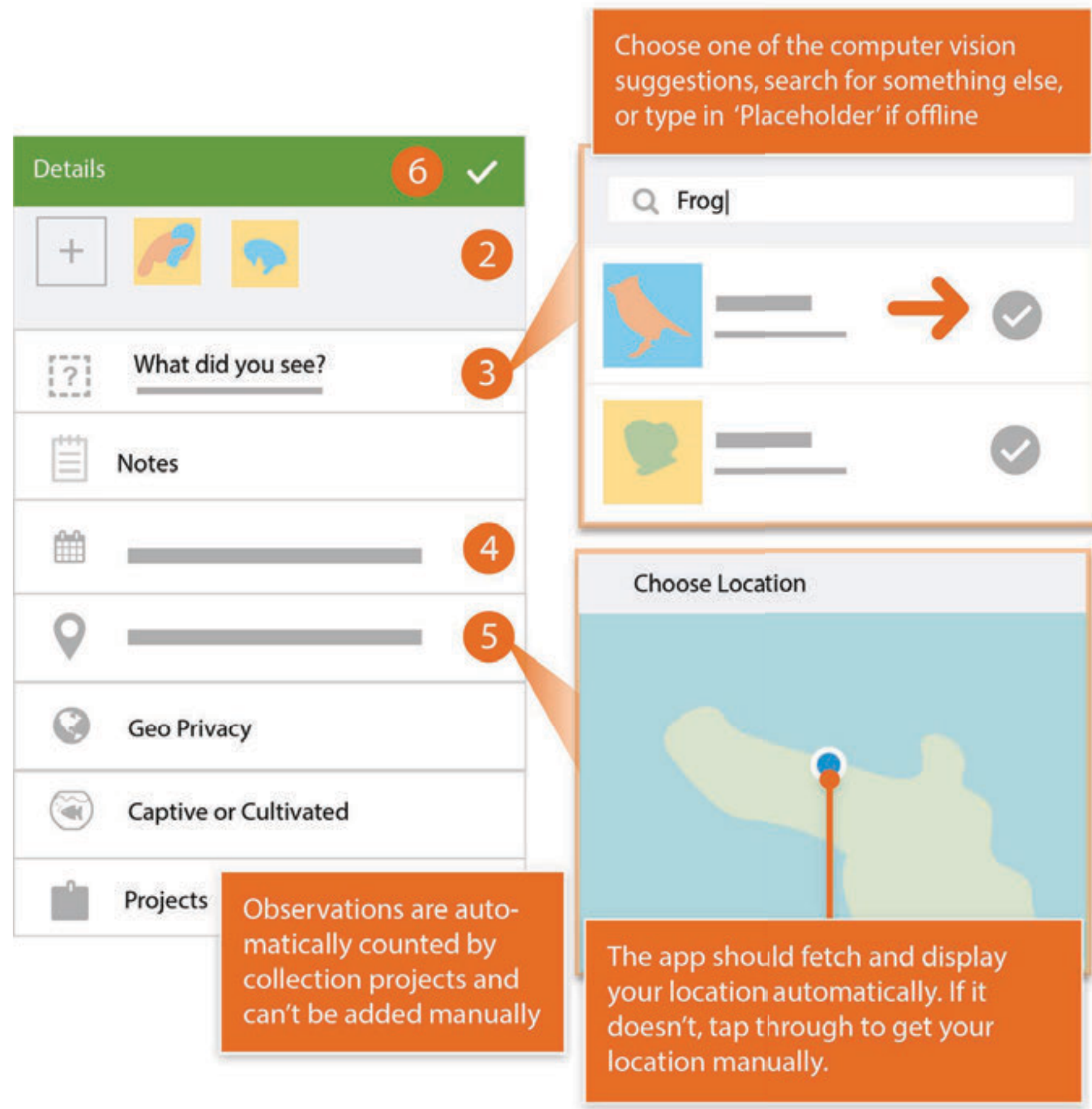
8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.

Explore → Observe Me More

Upload

1

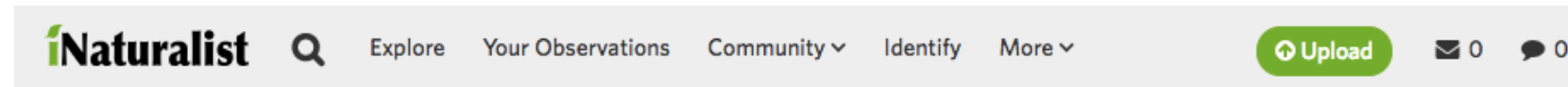
HOW TO: ANDROID



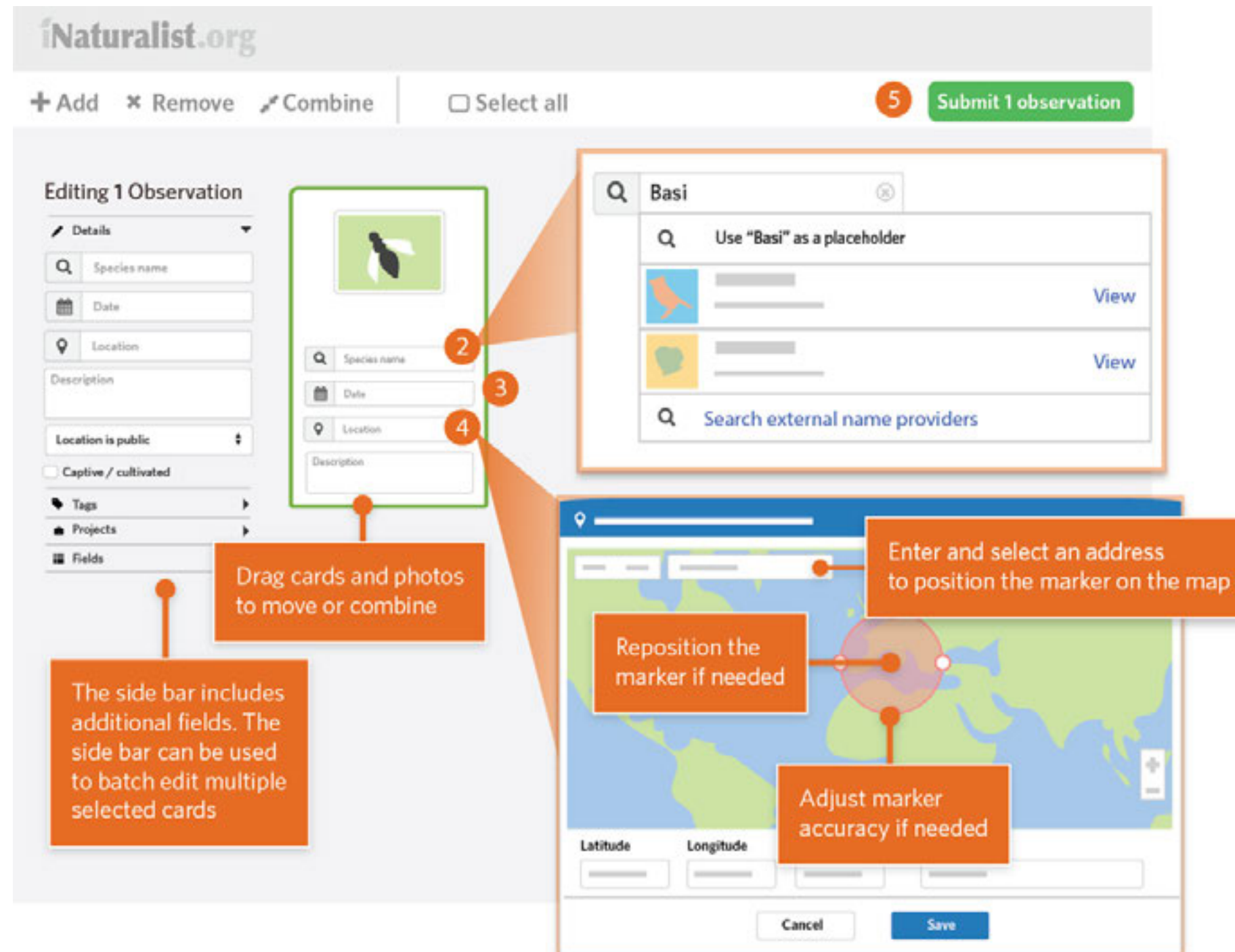
- 1 Tap the **observe** button from the My Observations tab. → +
- 2 Add one or more photos as **evidence**.
- 3 Choose **what** you saw.
- 4 **When** you saw it should be added automatically.
- 5 **Where** you saw it should be added automatically. If this doesn't happen, check app permissions in the Settings app.
- 6 **Save** your observation.
- 7 **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.
→ Sync 1 observation
- 8 Check back for **activity** on your observation from the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



- 1 Click 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.



- 2 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.

- 3 Use the calendar to enter **when** you observed the organism

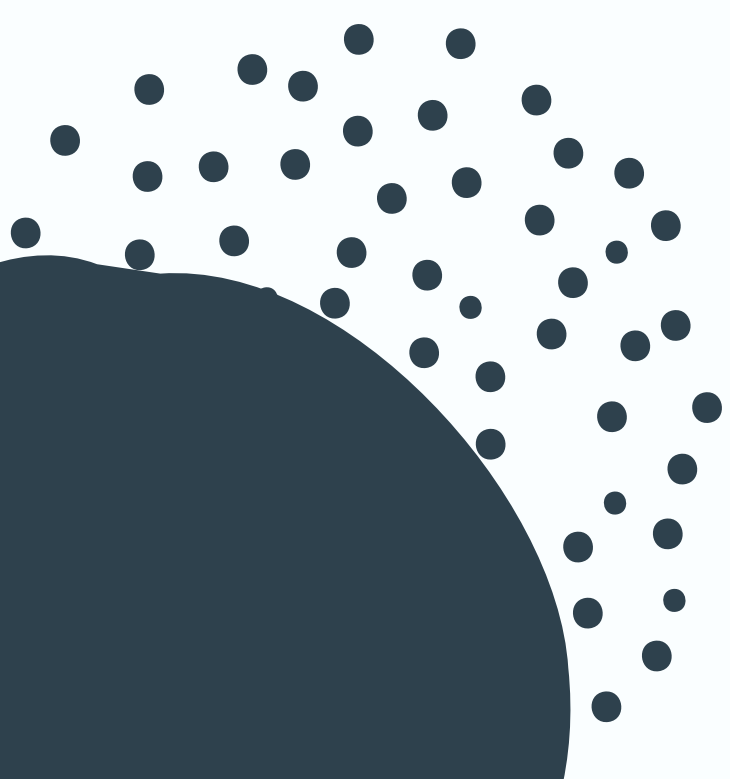
- 4 Type in an address and select from the places offered in order to calculate coordinates and an accuracy circle describing **where** you were. You'll probably also need to zoom into the map and manually adjust the marker position and accuracy circle size.

- 5 **Submit** your observation.

- 6 Check back for **updates** on your observations by the community or be notified by email to the address in your account settings.



Geoprivacy settings

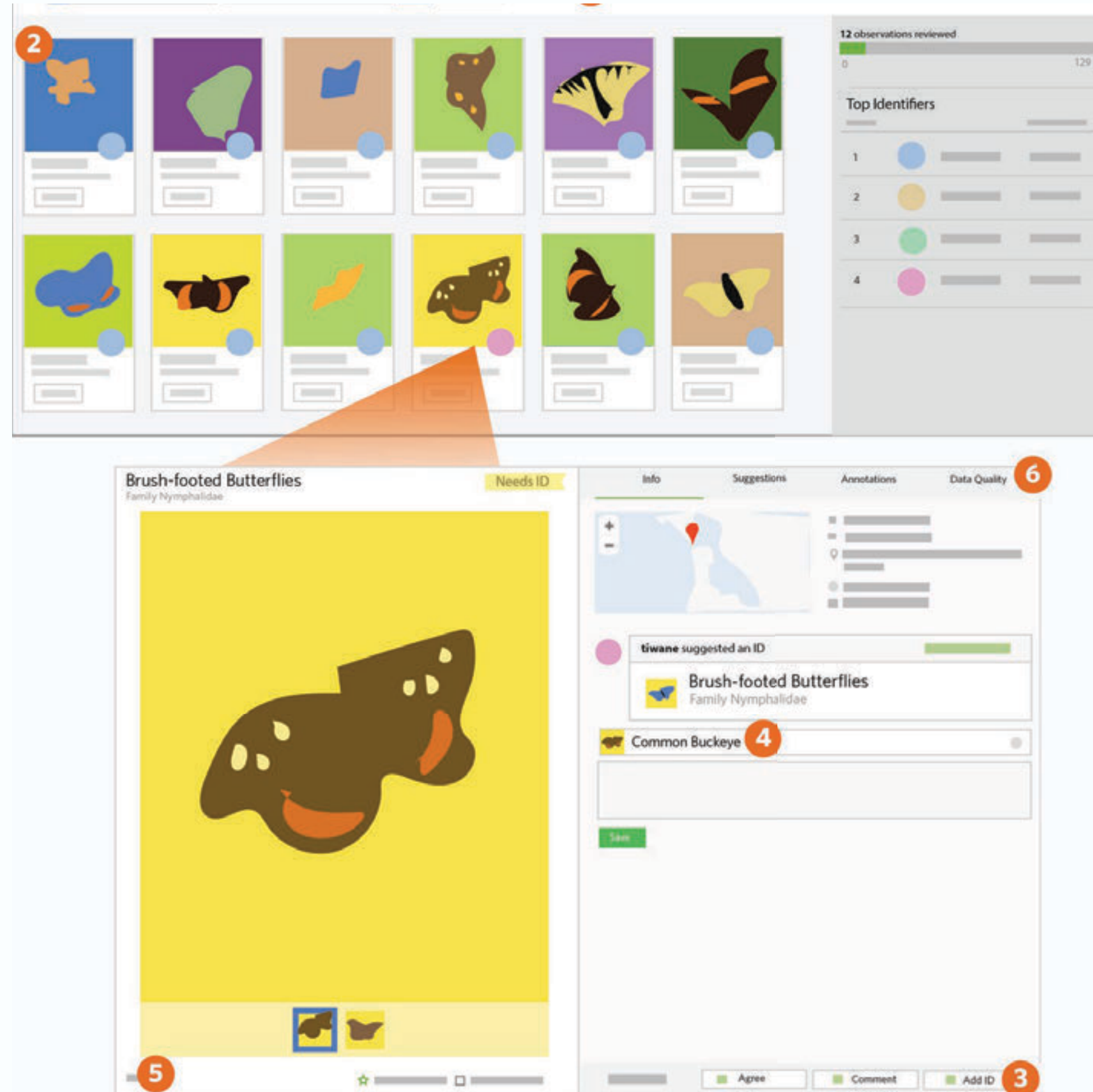


If you are concerned about revealing the location of a sensitive organism, or sharing or where your house is, you can hide the exact location from the public by changing the “**geoprivacy**” of the observation to “**obscured.**”

On iNaturalist, you can weigh in by adding **identifications** to observations. Each ID helps confirm or improve the community's opinion on the organism that the observation represents.

More info:

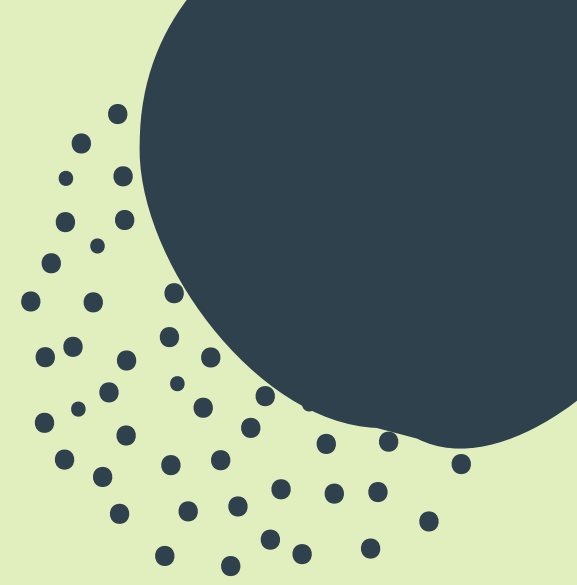
inaturalist.org/pages/getting_started#identify



Species identifications

Identify species

ONCE THE BIOBLITZ BEGINS...



- Visit your city's project page on iNaturalist. Example: [bit.ly/boulderdenvercnc](https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/boulder-denver-co)
- Click the "**Observations**" tab.
- Click the "**Identify**" button.
- Click on the **individual observations** and either confirm the user's ID by clicking "**Agree**" or offer another suggestion by clicking "**Add ID**" and typing in the species name.
- If you prefer to only identify certain species, click the "**Filters**" button to select different taxonomic categories or to only view the observations that are listed as "Casual" or "Needs ID".
- Mark **captive/cultivated observations** via the checkbox underneath the observation photo as you see them.



Photo: iNaturalist user
cnation



Photo: David Lawrance

Tips for taking a great photo

- Photograph the entire organism (plant, animal, etc.) AND take close-ups to show details.
 - If you have a DSLR camera, macro lenses are great for plant close-ups, and telephoto lenses are great for distant wildlife.
- Try to have the sun on your back so you can have the best lighting on your subject.
- Tap on the subject to ensure the focus is clear.
- If photographing wildlife, keep a safe distance to not disturb the animal. This will help keep you safe, the animal safe, and allow you to observe its behavior longer.
- Take multiple photos and choose the best one(s) for upload. This also allows the iNat community to provide ID's!
- Be patient, and have fun!



Be safe / keep wildlife safe

When observing wildlife, please always remember to:

Follow all rules and regulations posted at each property.

Never publicly post or share the locations of wildlife nests or dens. Set the location to "obscured" in iNaturalist.

Observe animals from a safe distance. If the animal appears nervous, points its ears toward you, or runs away, you are too close!

Do not feed or approach animals, or call animals to you. Try to avoid eye contact, especially if they get alarmed.

Do not disturb nesting birds, which may cause them to abandon their nest.

Respect all wildlife closures, posted on trailhead kiosks and in brochures.

Social distancing isn't just for humans during pandemics!

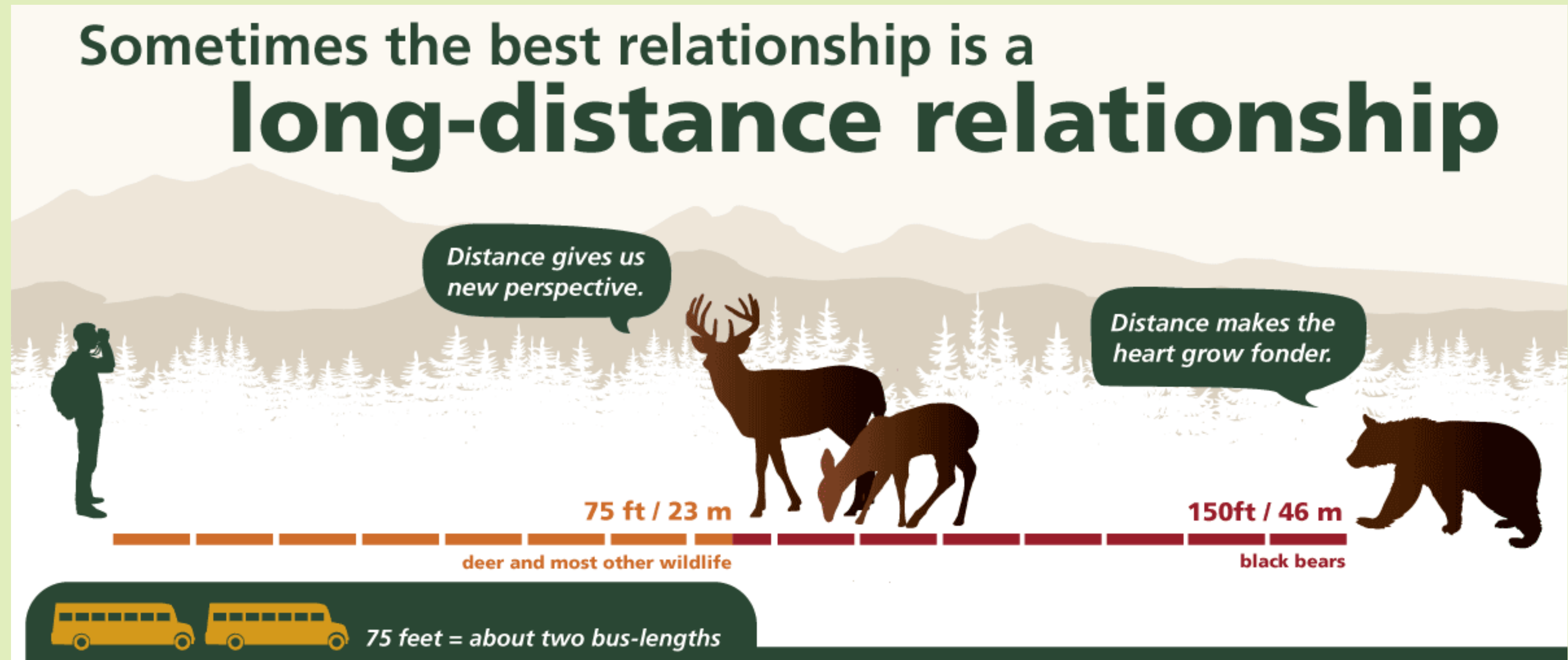


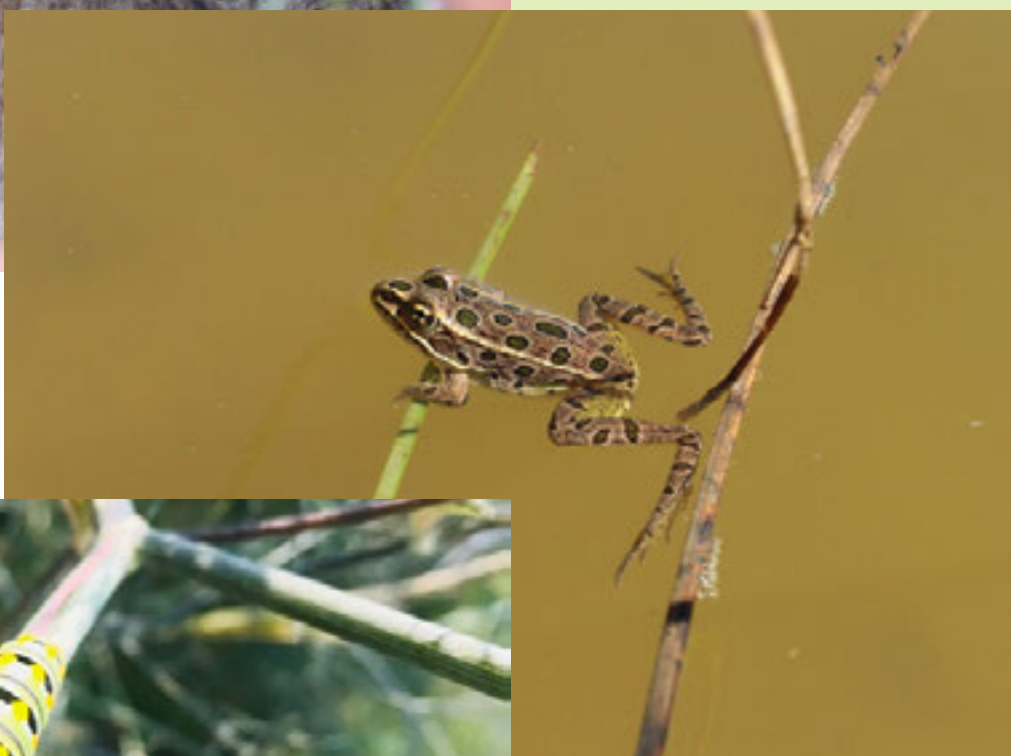
Photo courtesy of Colorado State University

Get your students & children involved!

With the stay at home orders in effect for the foreseeable future, **it's important for each of us to find ways to stay connected with Mother Nature - especially our youth.** Read on to learn about some valuable iNaturalist and City Nature Challenge resources that parents and teachers can utilize as important learning tools and activities. What's great is you don't even need to look further than your own backyard or neighborhood!



Photo: Scott Dressel-Martin



iNaturalist Age Requirements

Teachers working with younger kids need to keep in mind that the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 means iNaturalist can't allow people **under the age of 13** in the United States to create accounts without parental approval. As of June 2019, we do have a pathway for parental approval for accounts of children under 13, but it requires a small donation to verify identity. Visit the following page for more info: inaturalist.org/user_parents/new.

Another common workaround is for a teacher to add observations on behalf of the students, without including any personally identifiable information.



Learning resources

iNATURALIST TEACHER'S GUIDE

inaturalist.org/pages/teacher's+guide

CNC EDUCATION TOOLKIT

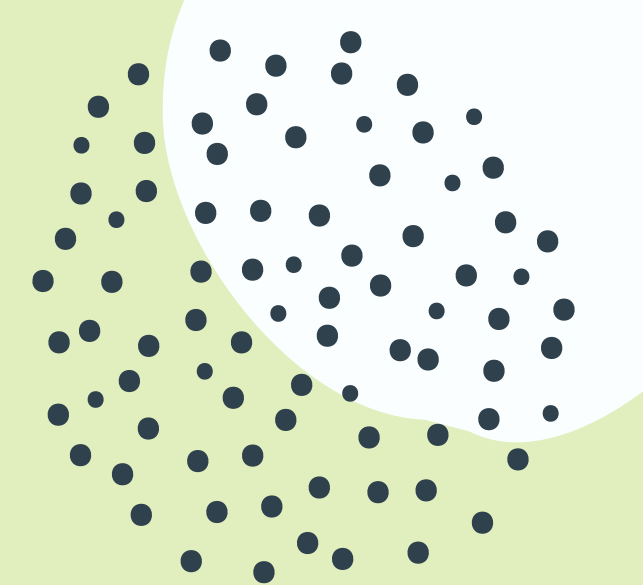
citynaturechallenge.org/education-toolkit/

iNATURALIST VIDEO TUTORIALS

inaturalist.org/pages/video+tutorials



Photo: Scott Dressel-Martin



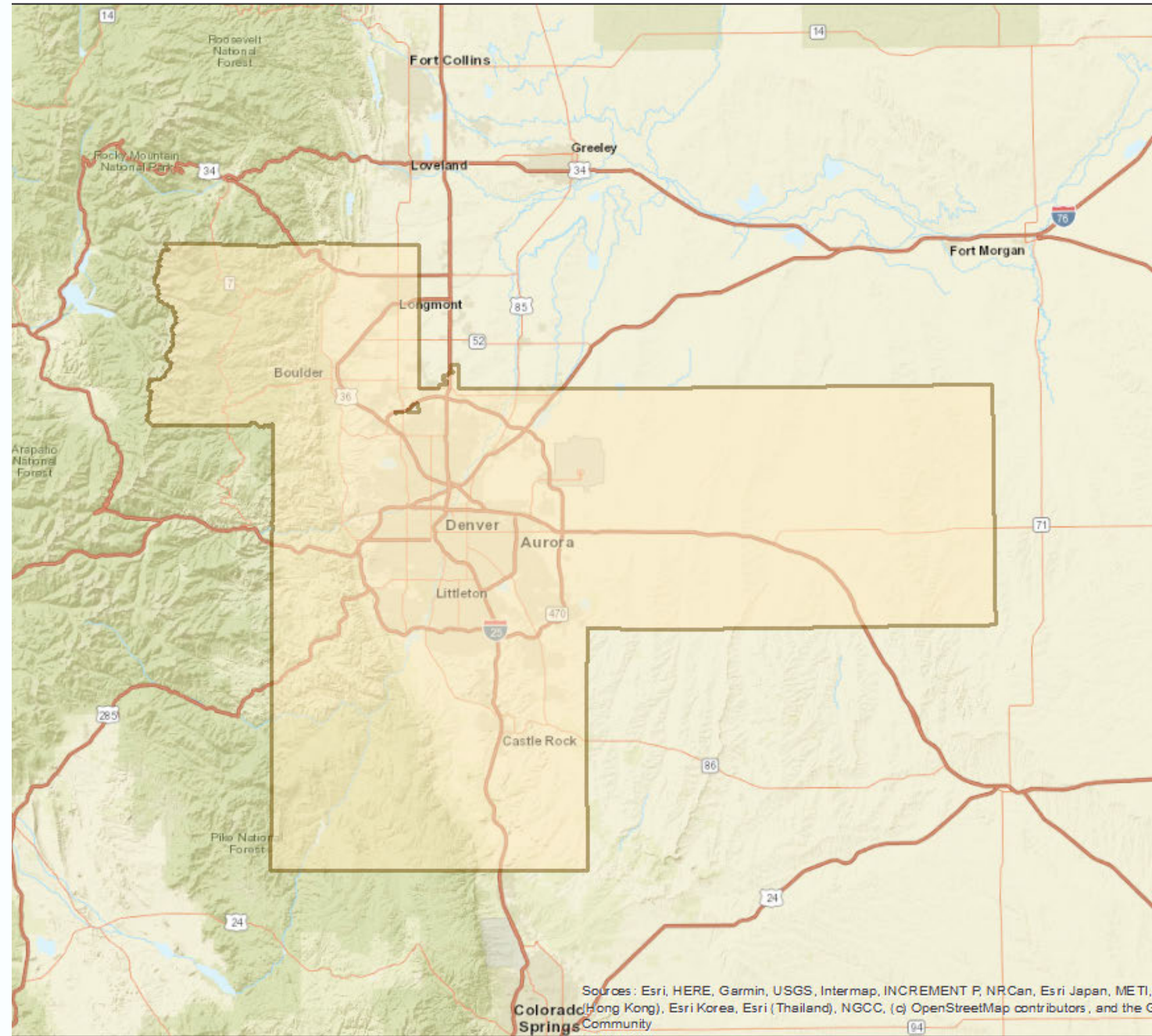
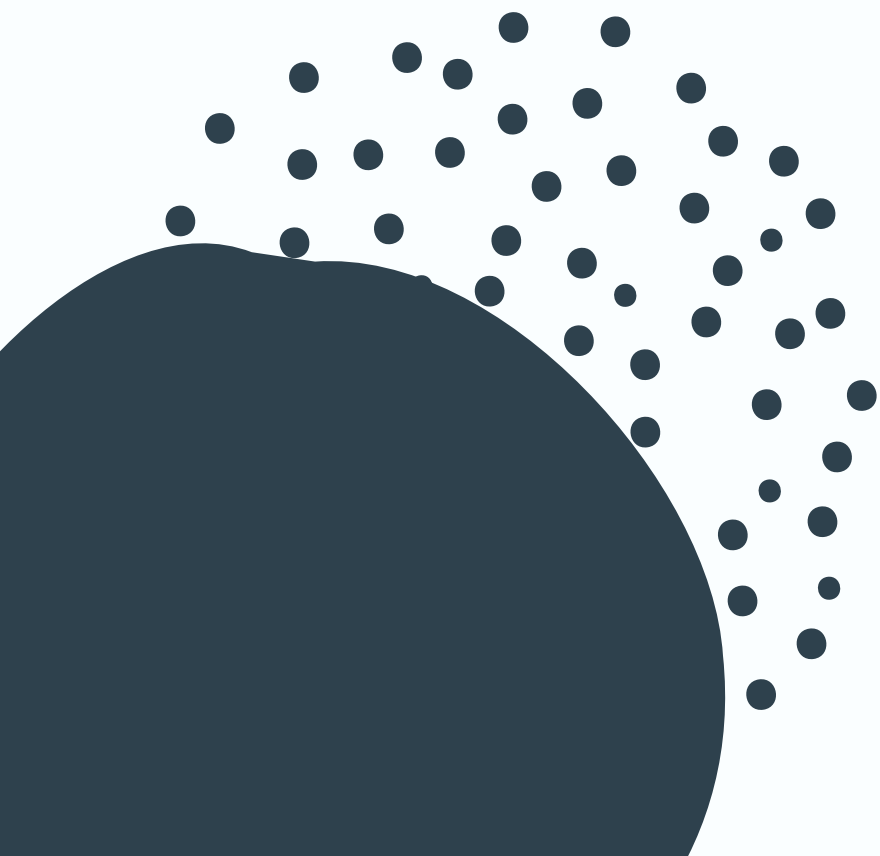
Learn about WILD's efforts with the

Denver-Boulder City Nature Challenge

wild.org/naturechallenge



The Denver-Boulder
Metropolitan Area City
Nature Challenge
encompasses Adams,
Arapahoe, Boulder,
Broomfield, Denver,
Douglas, and Jefferson
Counties.



Denver-Boulder Boundary

Long-eared owl taken by Melanie Hill in her **backyard** in Boulder!



One last reminder

With the stay at home orders in place, we encourage all participants to explore nature close to their homes. If you have trails and open space nearby, that's great! Please be respectful of all people and wildlife nearby, follow all social distancing requirements, and abide by local land and facility closures. **Please avoid overcrowded areas.**

And remember that your own backyard is teeming with wild nature! Your home is a complex ecosystem and contributor to the larger landscape. Be sure to spend lots of time in your yard and/or neighborhood exploring the diversity of plants, birds, insects, mammals, and other wildlife coming through at all hours. **Have fun, and be safe!**



Photo: Dave Sutherland

Learn more about the City Nature Challenge

Visit citynaturechallenge.org to learn how you can
get involved where you live

For details on the Denver-Boulder CNC,
visit: wild.org/naturechallenge

For more info contact Melanie Hill: melanie@wild.org

