Introduction to iNaturalist

A tool for conserving New Hampshire's biodiversity

Steven Lamonde
NHACC Annual Meeting
6 November 2021

Moosewood Ecological LLC
Innovative Conservation Solutions for New England

NHACC

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50th New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions
Annual Business Meeting
November 7, 2020

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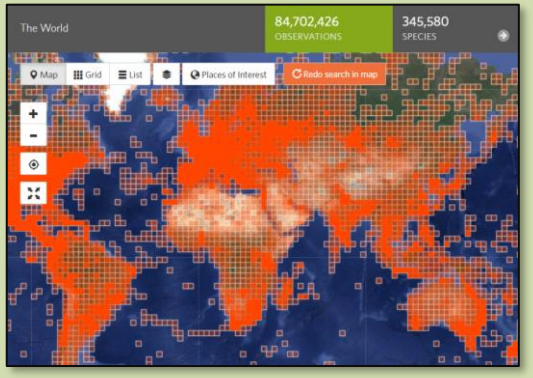
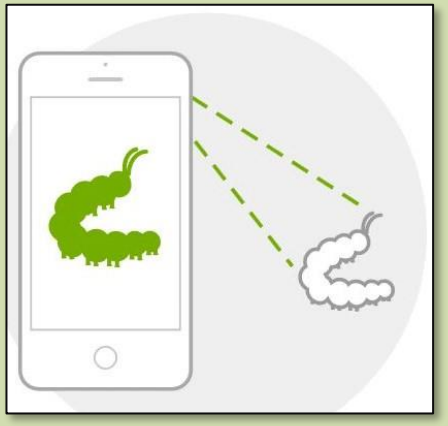
Workshop objectives

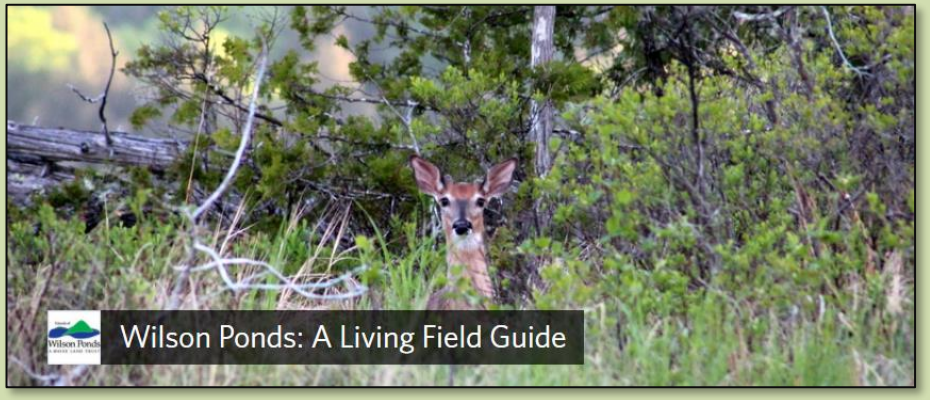
- Become familiar with iNaturalist
- Learn how to explore the database
- Practice making observations
- Understand project types
- Identify applications for your town

Workshop agenda

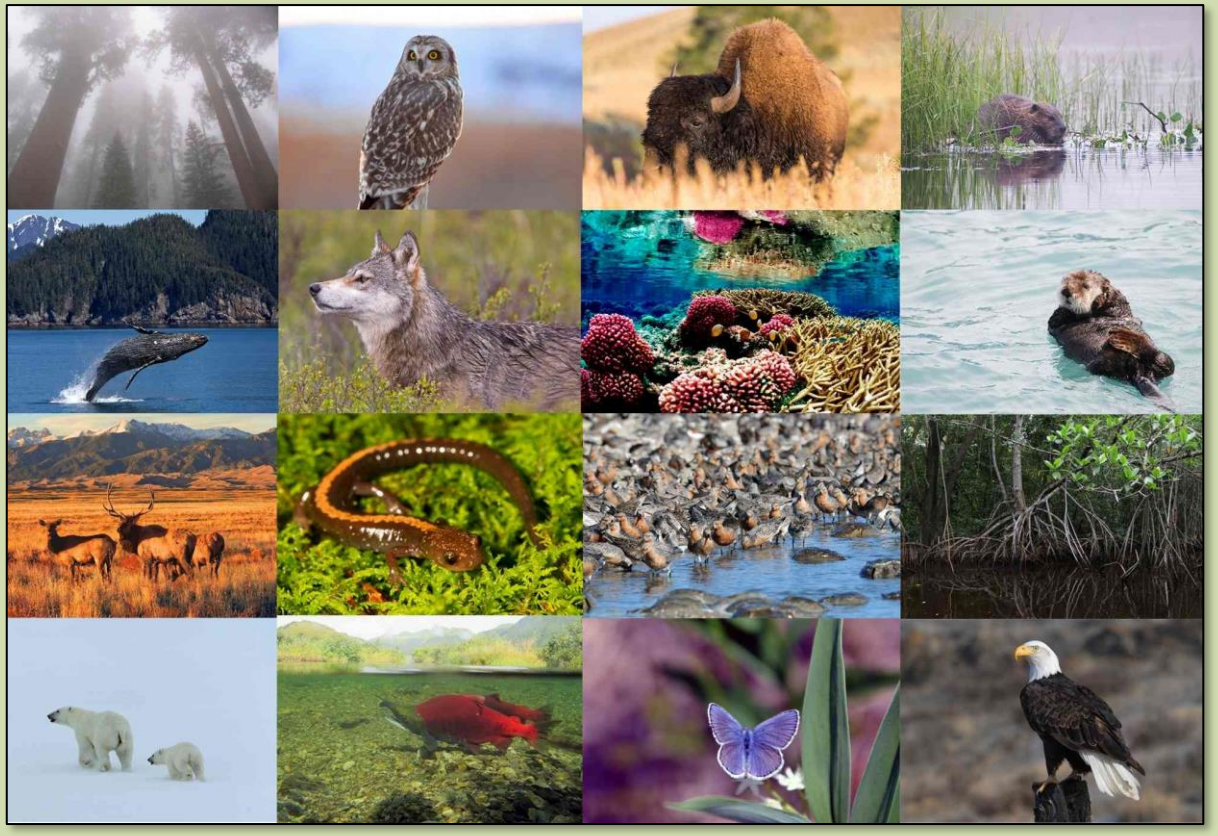
- Conserving biodiversity
- iNaturalist: the basics
- Website exploration
- How to record an observation
- Practice
- iNaturalist projects
- Questions

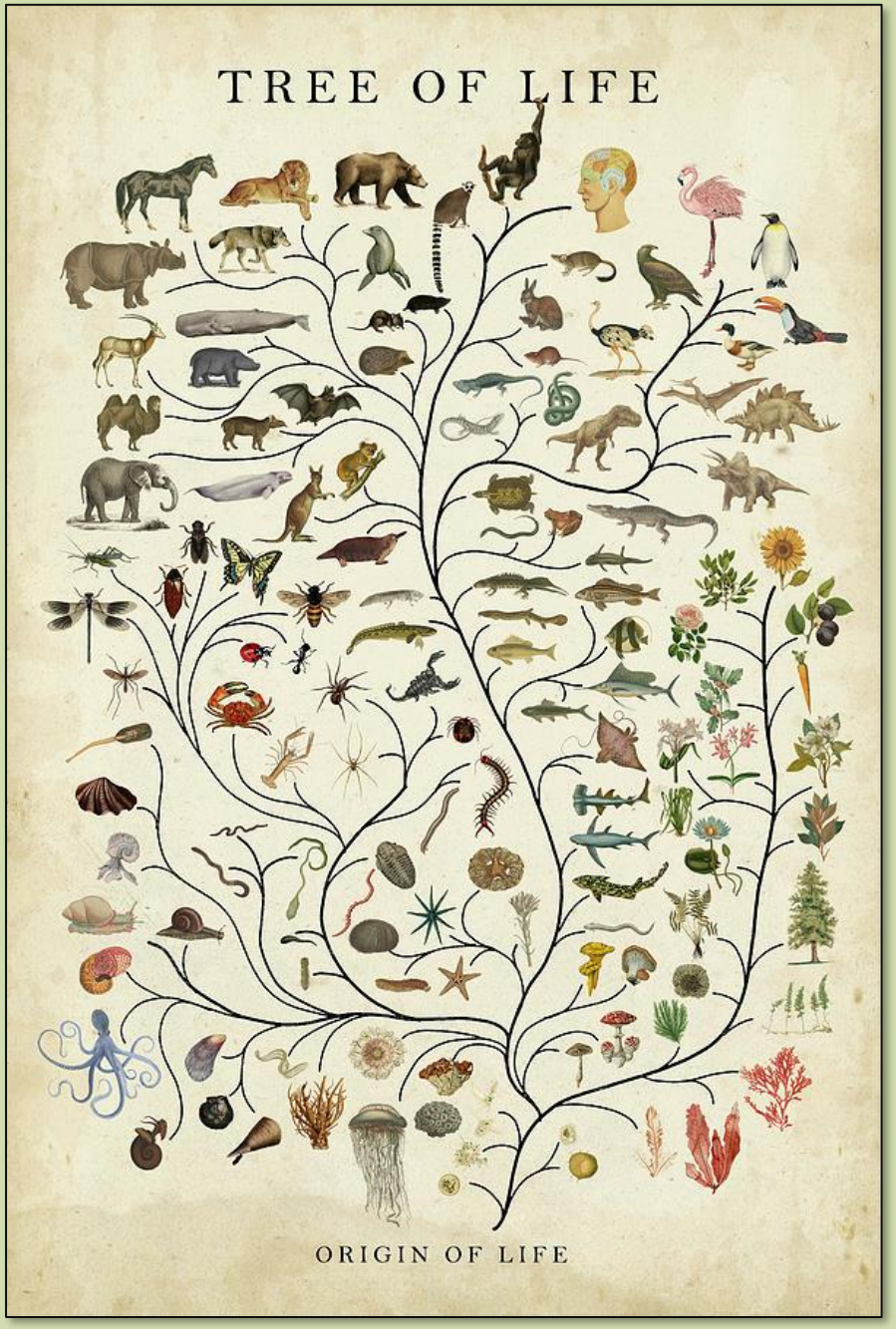






Biodiversity Conservation



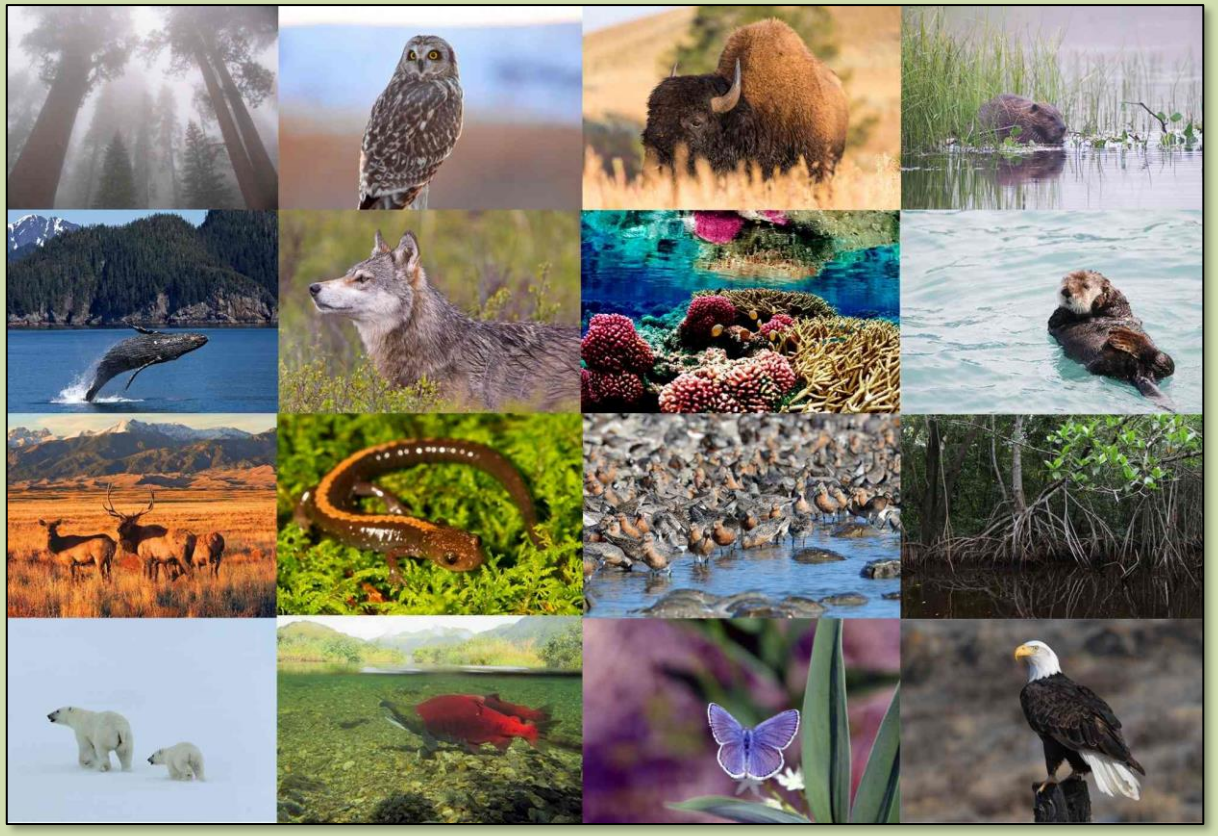


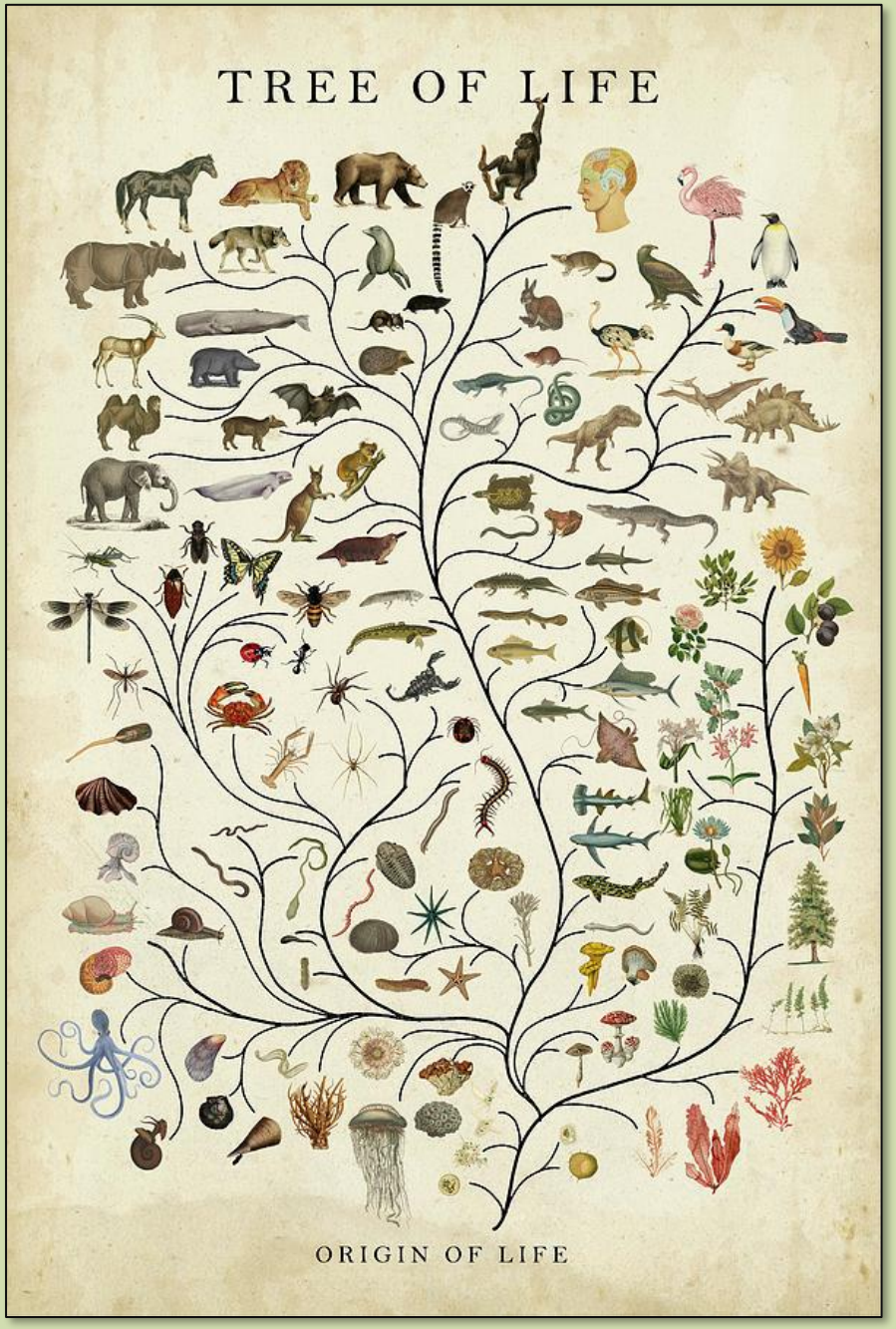
Biodiversity Conservation

Variety of all living things

(genes, species, ecosystems)

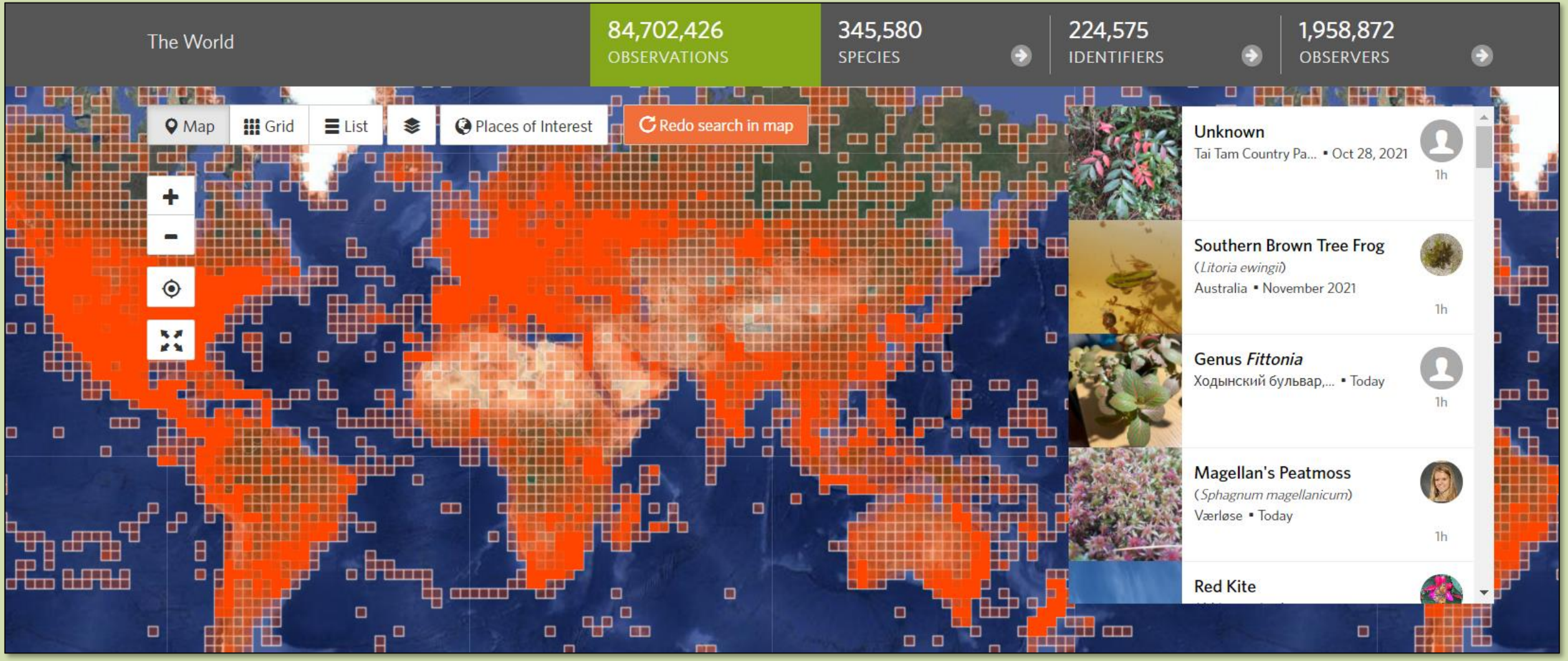
Preservation, protection, or restoration of the natural environment





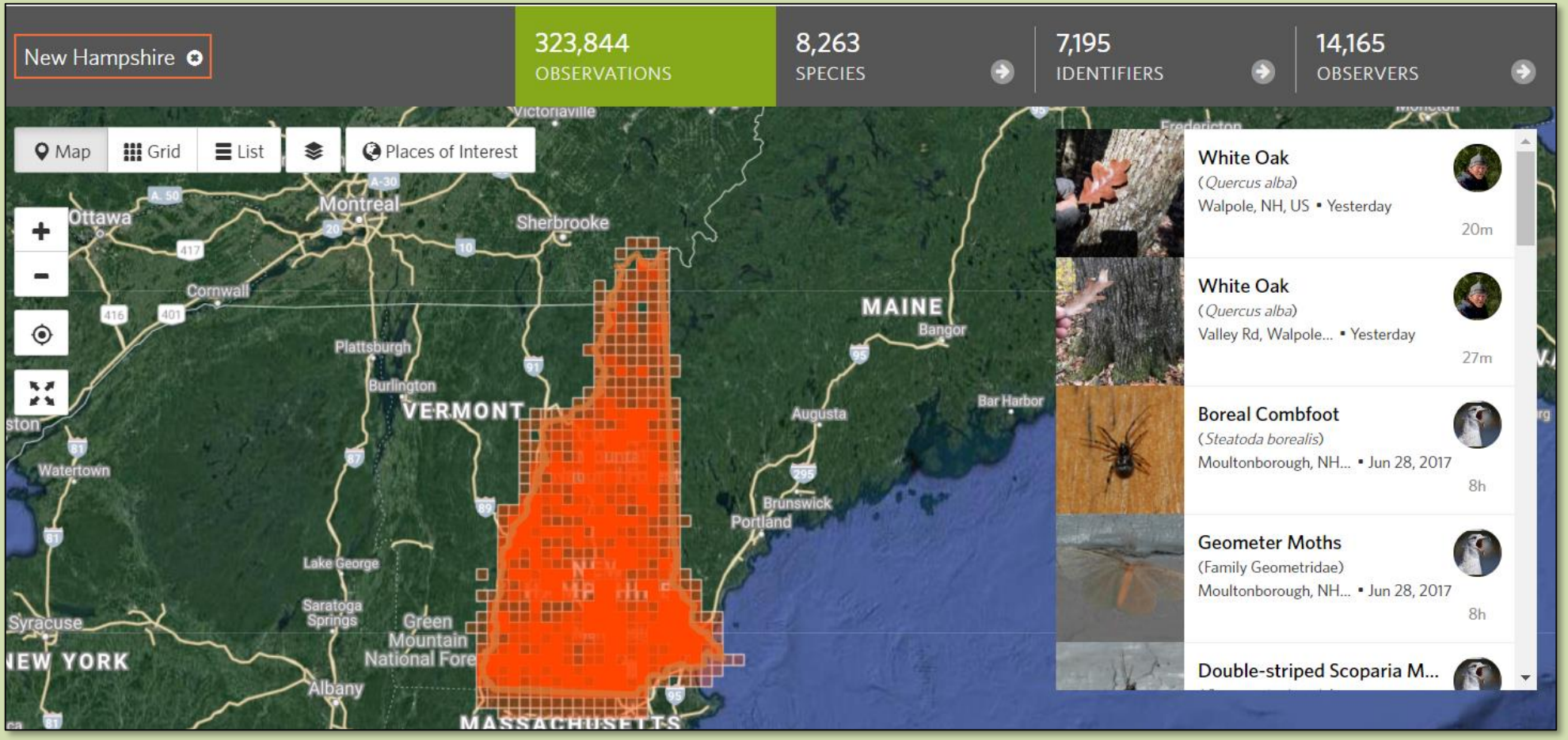
Conserving biodiversity maintains ecosystem services

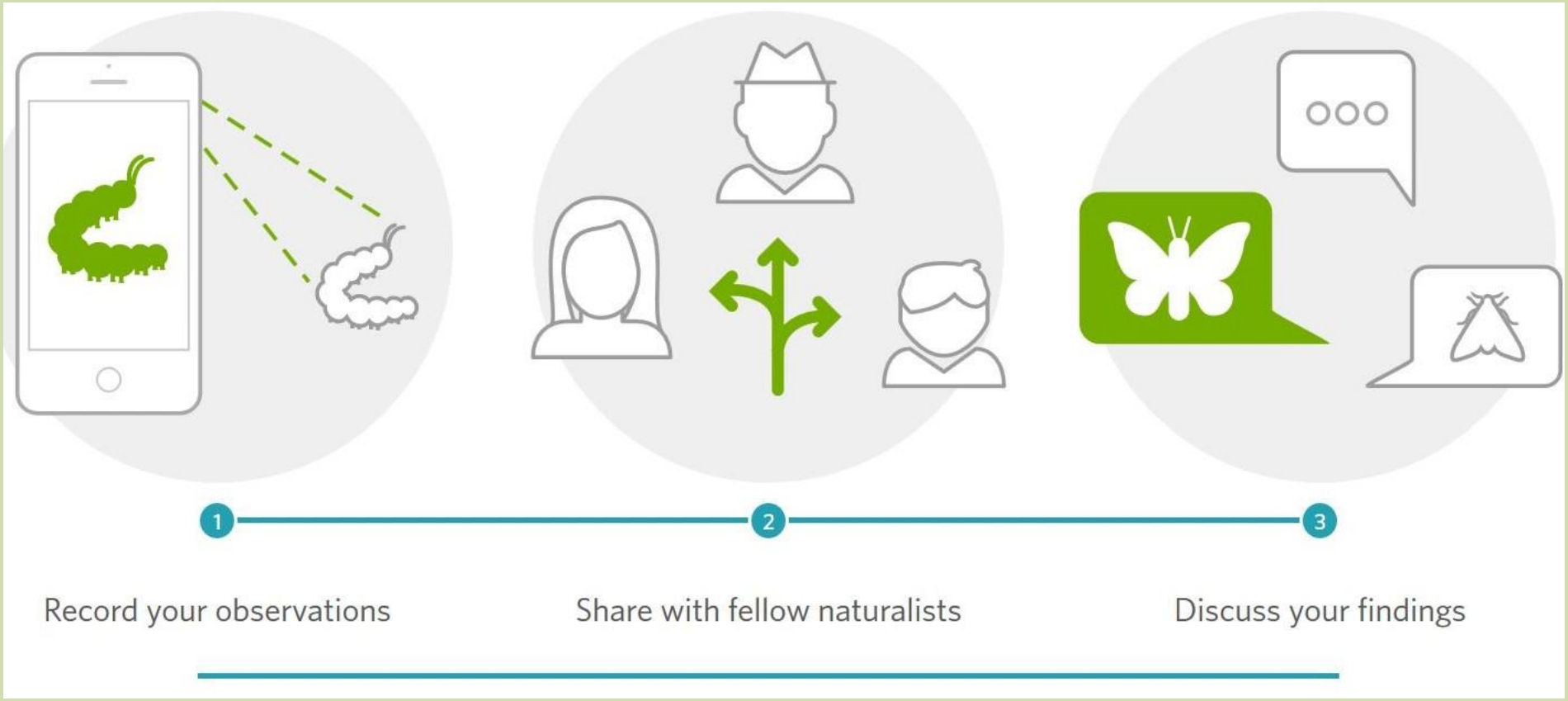
iNaturalist: a worldwide, data-collection platform for the naturally curious.



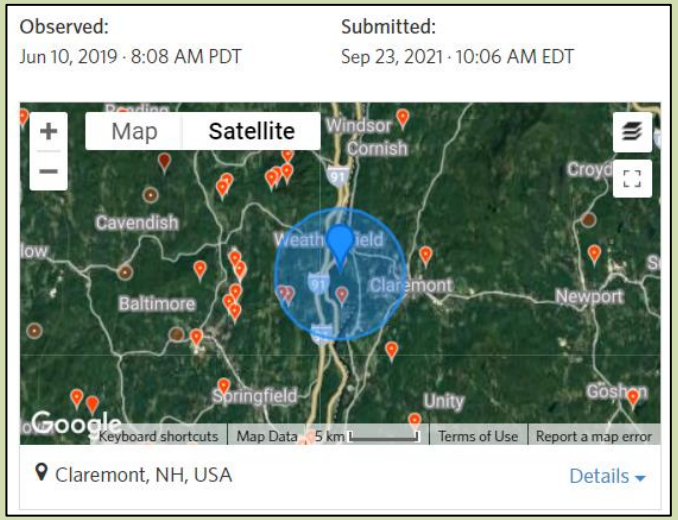
iNaturalist website exploration

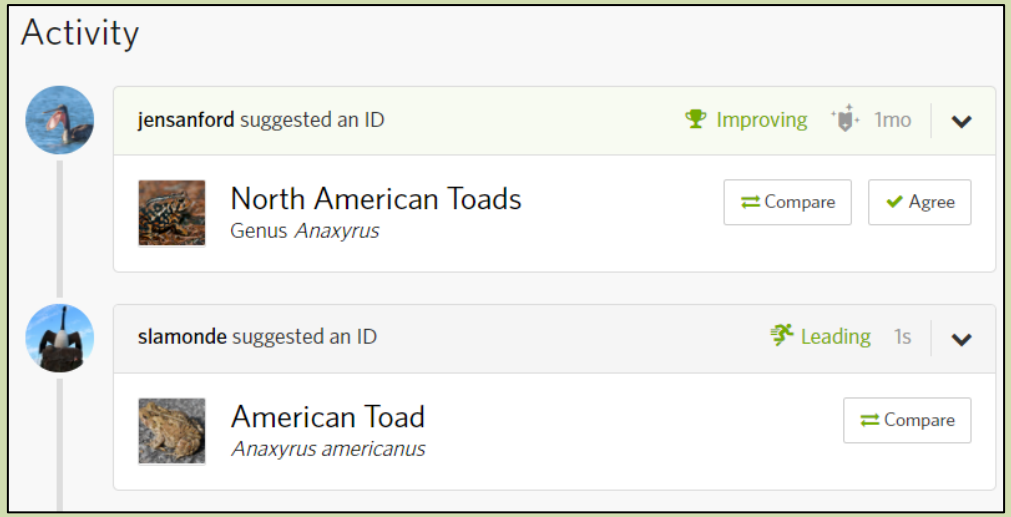
www.inaturalist.org/observations




1
2
3
Record your observations
Share with fellow naturalists
Discuss your findings

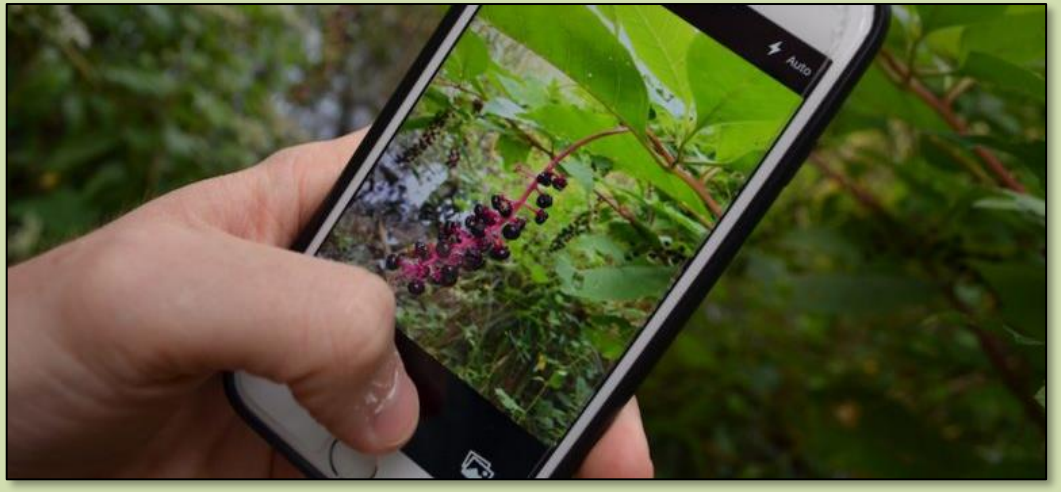
@jensanford


Observed:
Jun 10, 2019 · 8:08 AM PDT
Submitted:
Sep 23, 2021 · 10:06 AM EDT
Map
Satellite
Windsor
Cornish
Cavendish
Baltimore
Claremont
Newport
Springfield
Unity
Google
Keyboard shortcuts
Map Data
5 km
Terms of Use
Report a map error
Claremont, NH, USA
Details


Activity
jensanford suggested an ID
Improving
1mo
North American Toads
Genus Anaxyrus
Compare
Agree
slamonde suggested an ID
Leading
1s
American Toad
Anaxyrus americanus
Compare

Video summary: making observations

1. Install app & create free account
2. Find a living organism (or sign of one)
3. Tap “observe”, then choose observation type (photo or sound)
4. Take a photo, choose one from photo gallery, or record sound
5. Identify what you found
6. Share your observation



Video summary: taking better photos

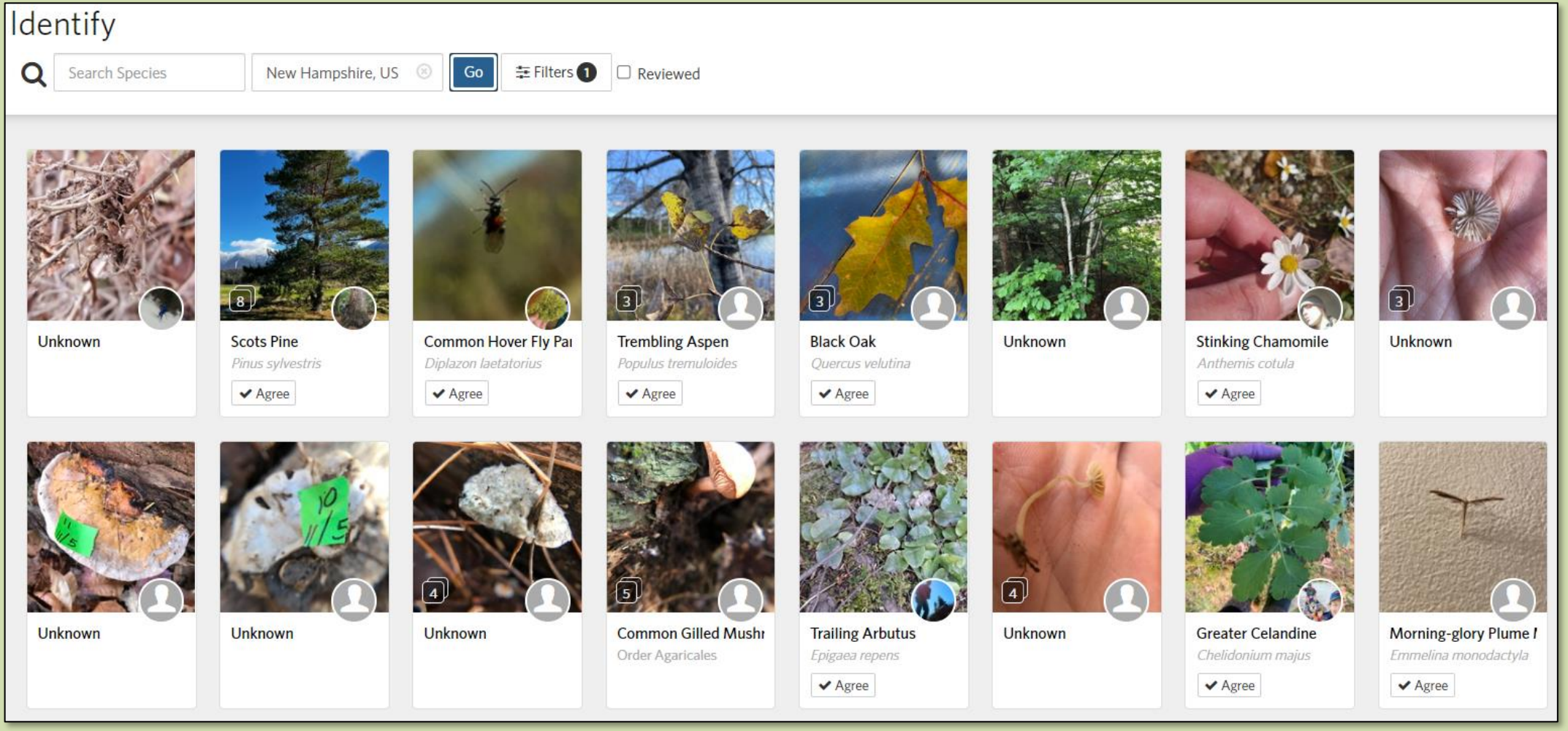
1. Get closer (but not too close)
2. Take photos from multiple angles
3. Make sure photos are in focus

Practice with iNaturalist (20 minutes)

- Make ≥3 observations using the app
- Try to find a plant, an animal, and a fungi
- Each organism should be a separate observation
- Identify your observations as best you can
  - High-level identifications (e.g., “plants” or “woodpeckers” are perfectly acceptable)
- Anything that has been planted should be marked as Cultivated

Practicing with identifications

www.inaturalist.org/observations/identify



Town of Chesterfield Living Field Guide

About

Members 21

Welcome to the living, community-driven, field guide of Chesterfield's flora and fauna! From moose to mice and spruce to spleenwort, all observations of living organisms in Chesterfield are collected through this project. Want to get involved? It's simple! Set up a free iNaturalist account today, and submit your findings through

Read More ›

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

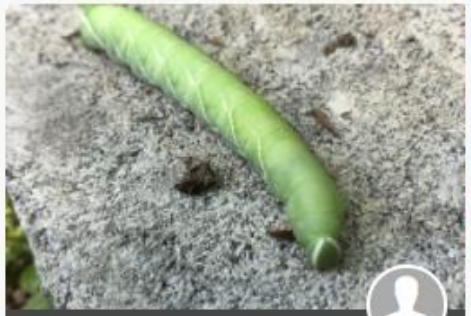
Overview

3,381	917	504	157
OBSERVATIONS	SPECIES	IDENTIFIERS	OBSERVERS

Stats

Recent Observations

View All



Subtribe Sphingina

1 a day ago

Allegheny Blackberry

Rubus allegheniensis

2 days ago

Blusher

Amanita rubescens

2 days ago

American Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

2 days ago

Example Project Goals

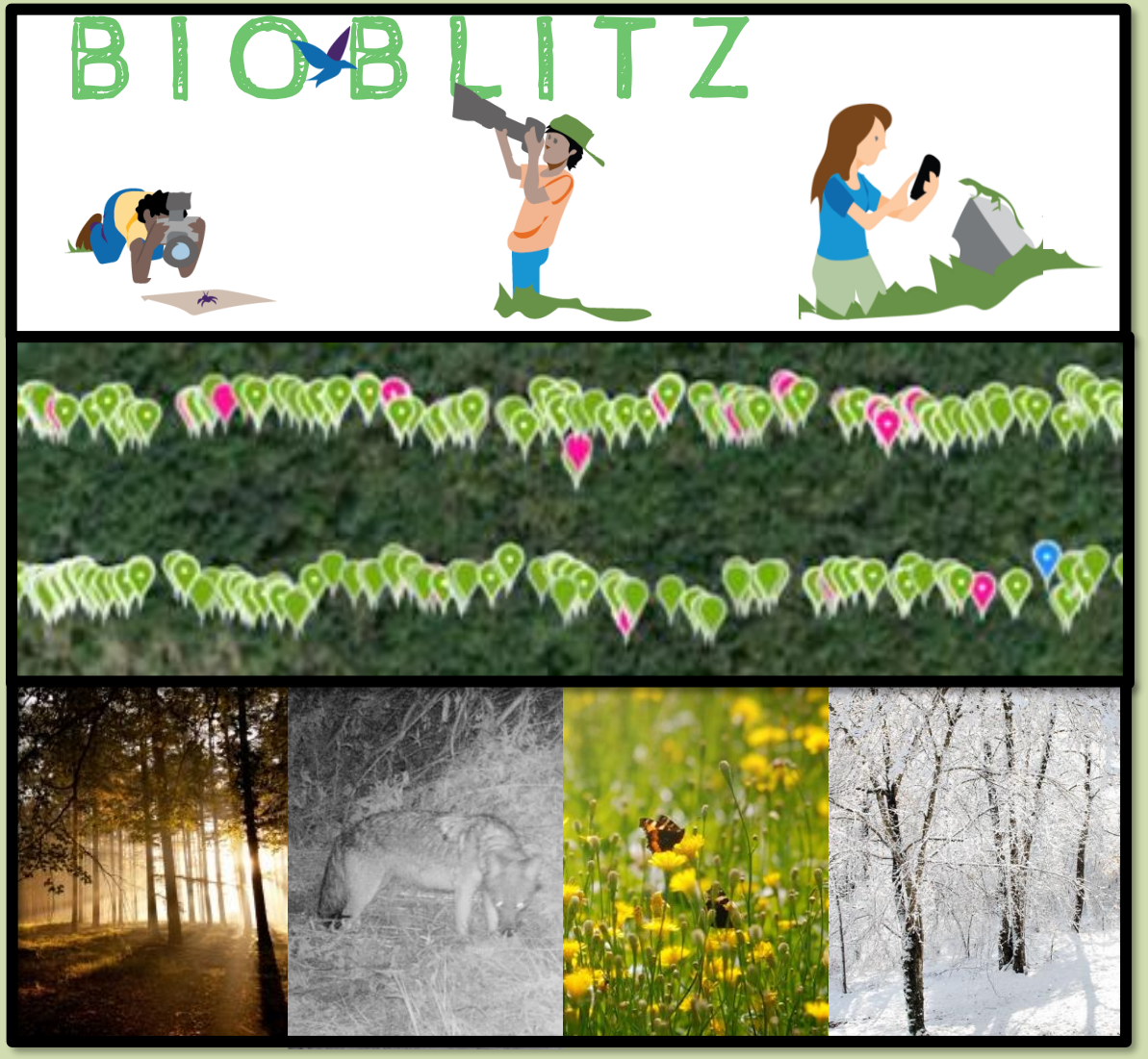
1. Identification
2. Inventory
3. Research support
4. Education

What can conservation commissions do with this data?

- Categorize species as locally common, uncommon, or rare.
- Target invasive species for removal.
- Monitor climate-driven arrivals and departures.
- Prioritize areas for conservation.
- Inspire deeper connections with nature.

Common steps to achieve project goals:

- Host a bioblitz (or multiple!)
- Design standardized surveys
- Diversify sampling time
- Encourage student projects



Helpful iNaturalist Links

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/video+tutorials

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/managing-projects

https://www.inaturalist.org/pages/teacher's+guide

"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."
- Baba Dioum, 1968

Moth-lighting by car

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facebook.com/moosewoodecological

Contact

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iNaturalist