

Introduction to iNaturalist

A tool for conserving New Hampshire's biodiversity



Steven Lamonde
NHACC Annual Meeting
6 November 2021





Thank you to our sponsor!



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

Introduction to iNaturalist

A tool for conserving New Hampshire's biodiversity



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NHACC Annual Meeting
6 November 2021



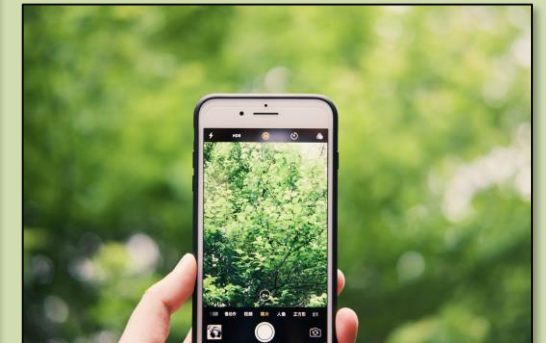
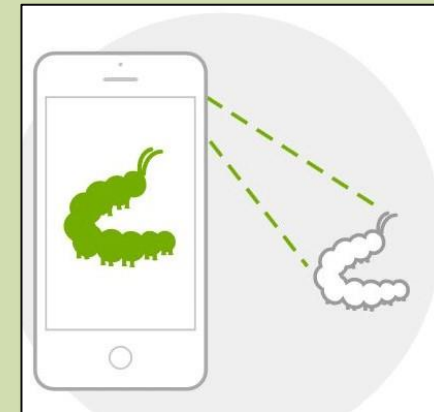
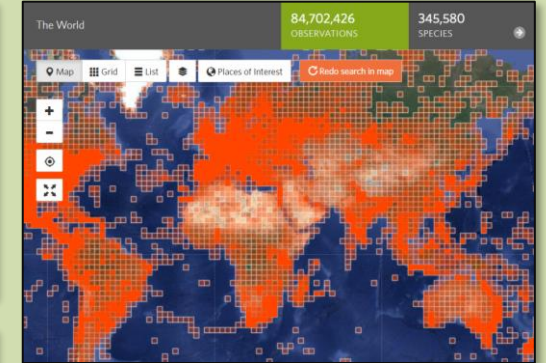
Workshop objectives

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

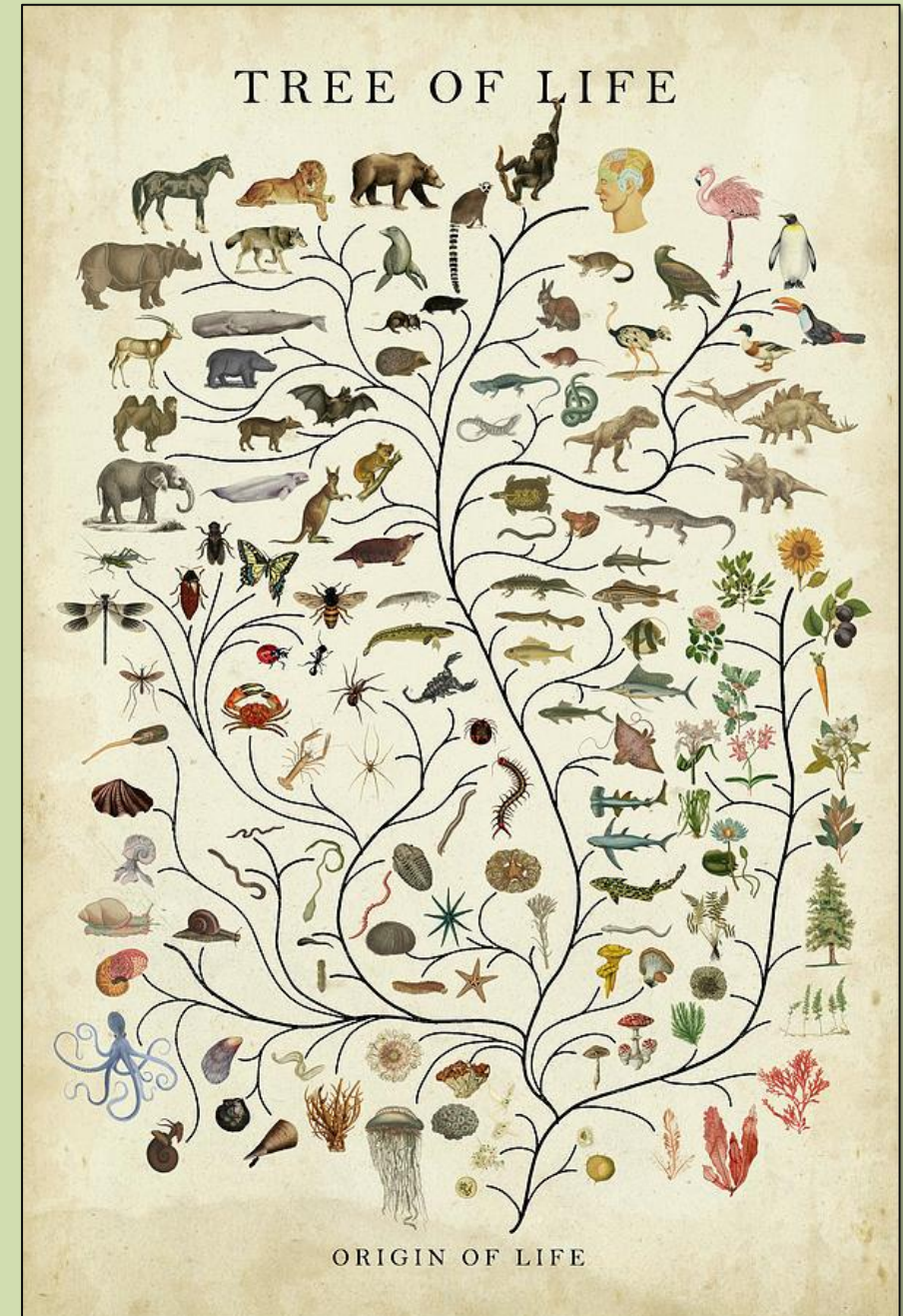
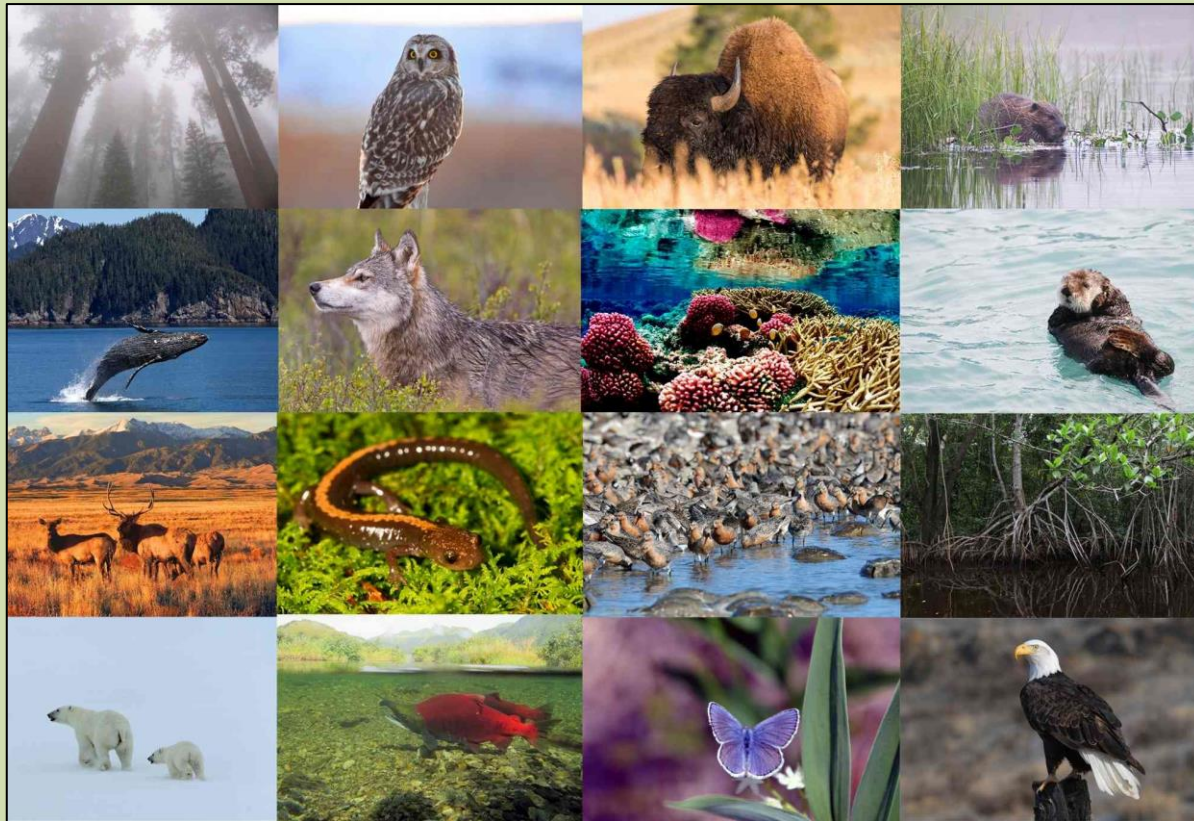


Workshop agenda

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



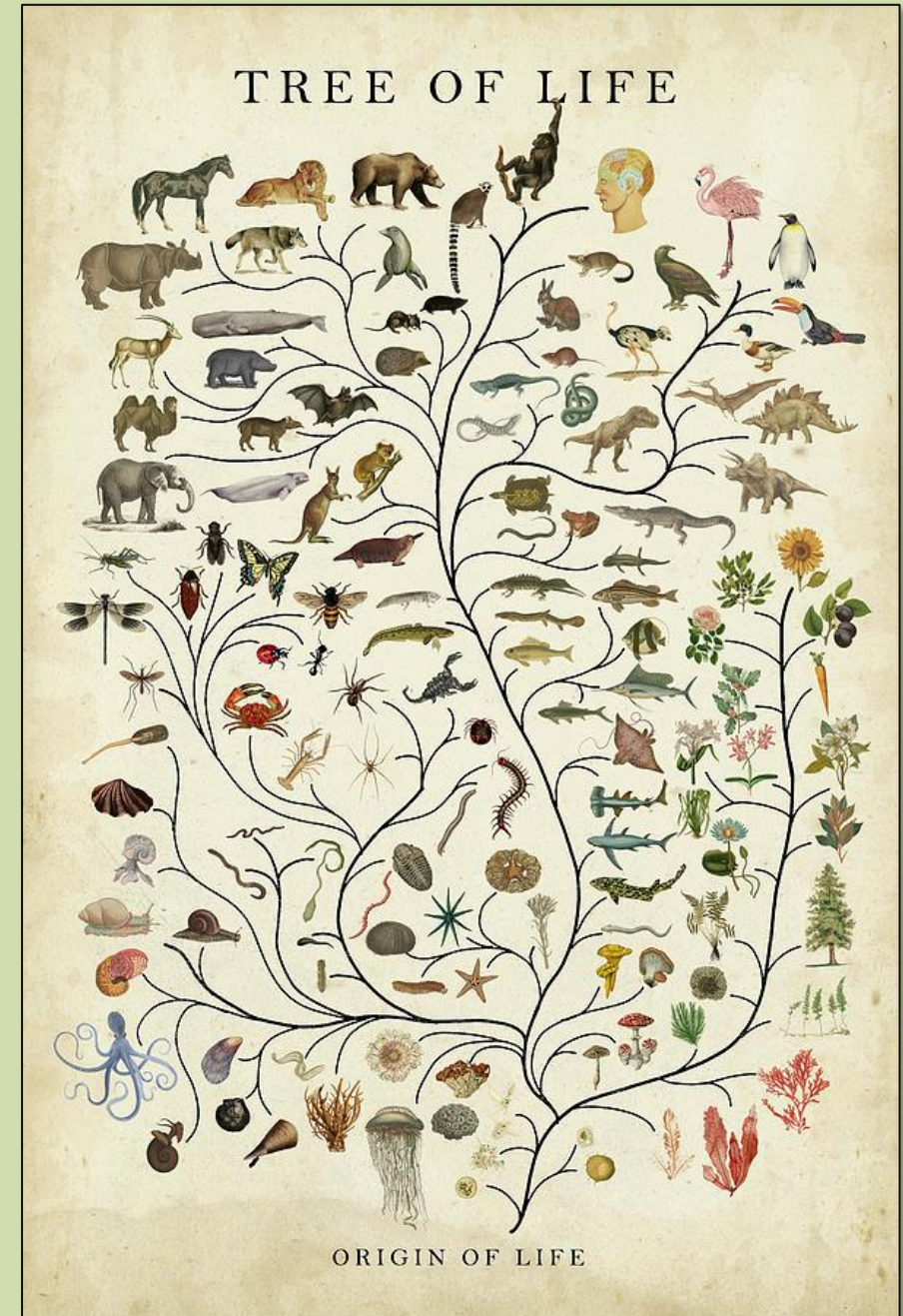
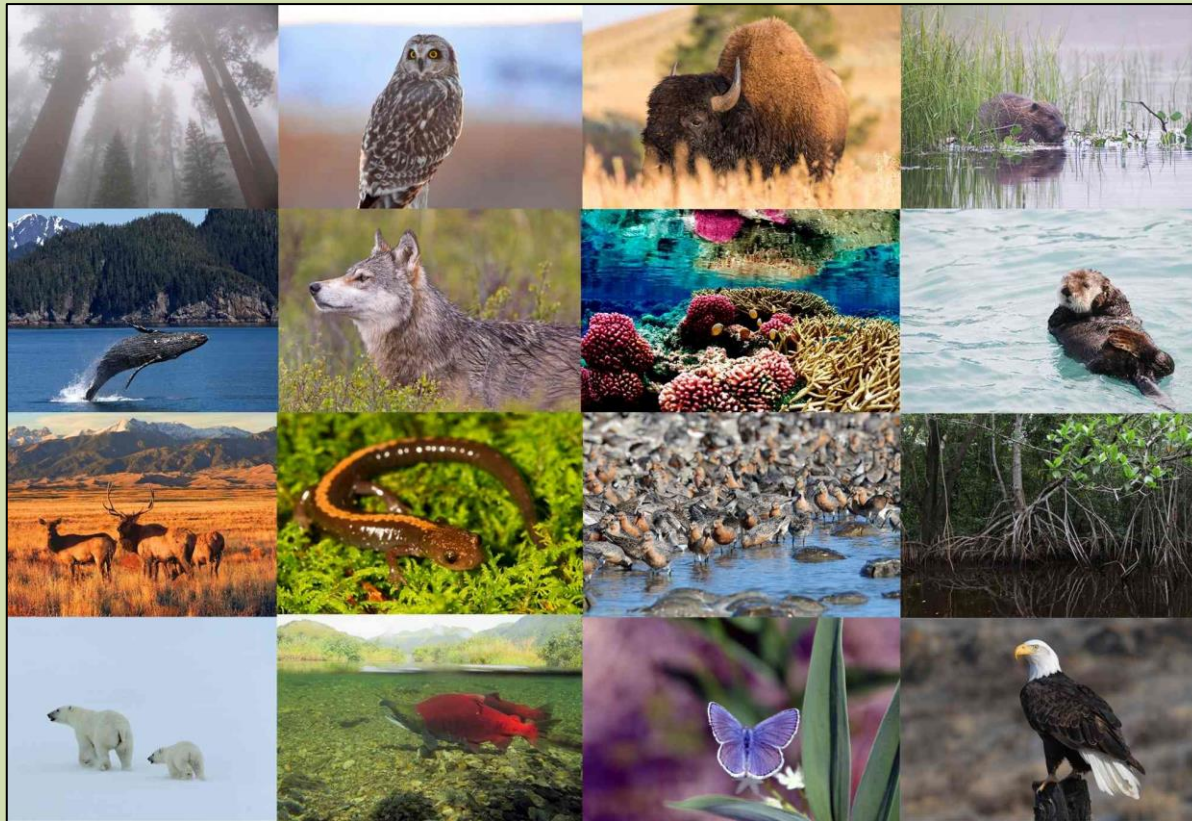
Biodiversity Conservation

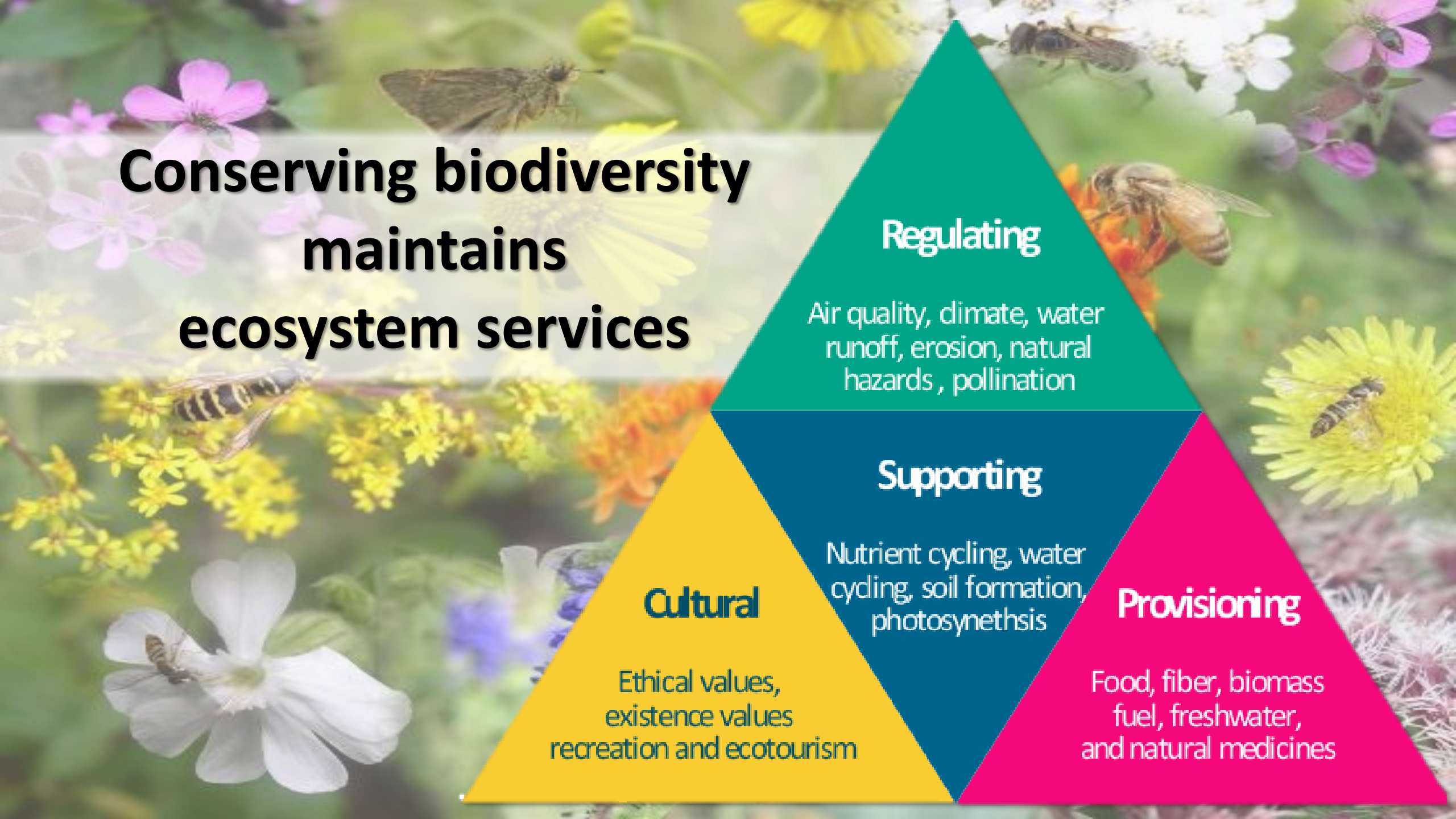


Biodiversity Conservation

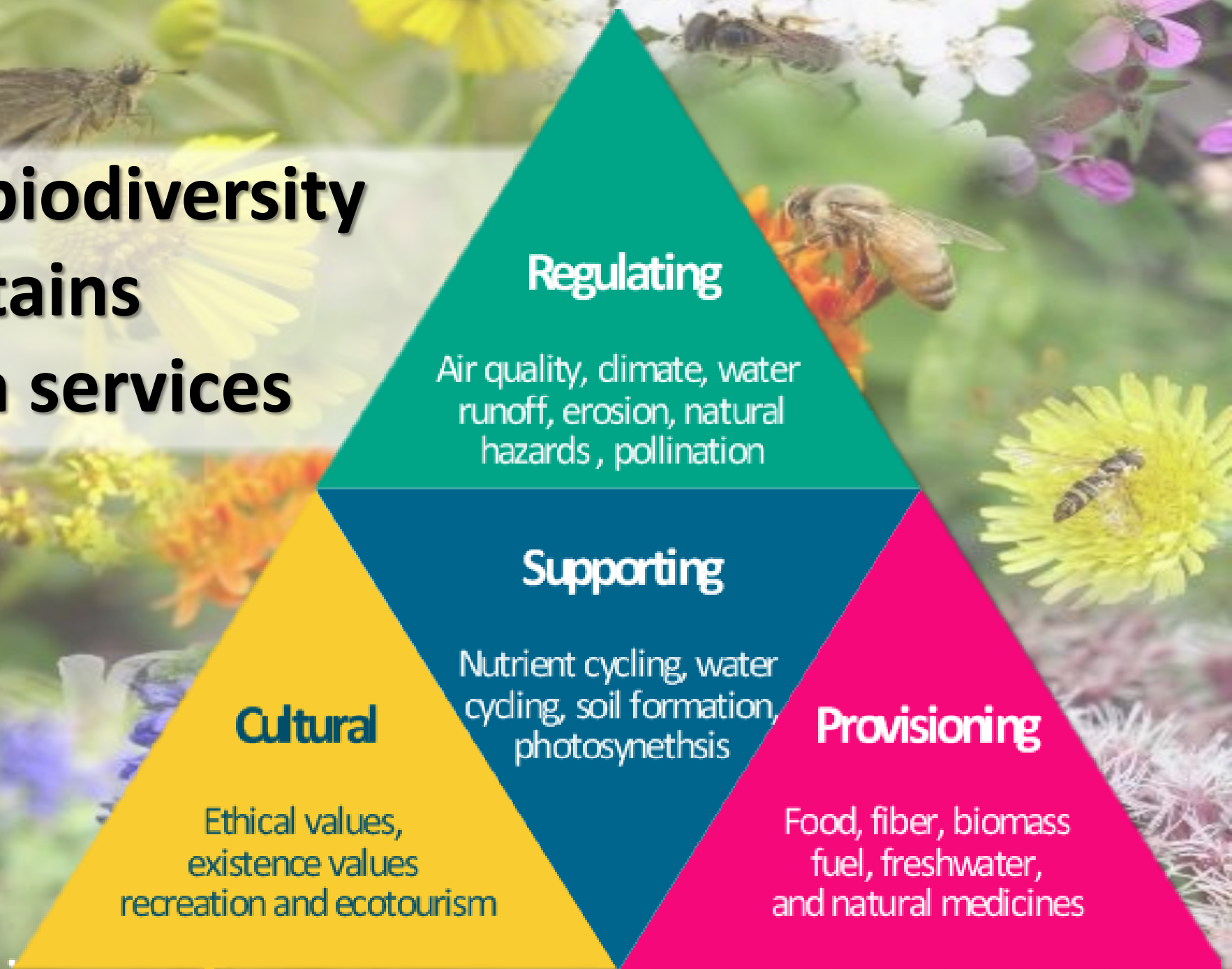
Variety of all living things
(genes, species, ecosystems)

Preservation, protection, or
restoration of the natural
environment

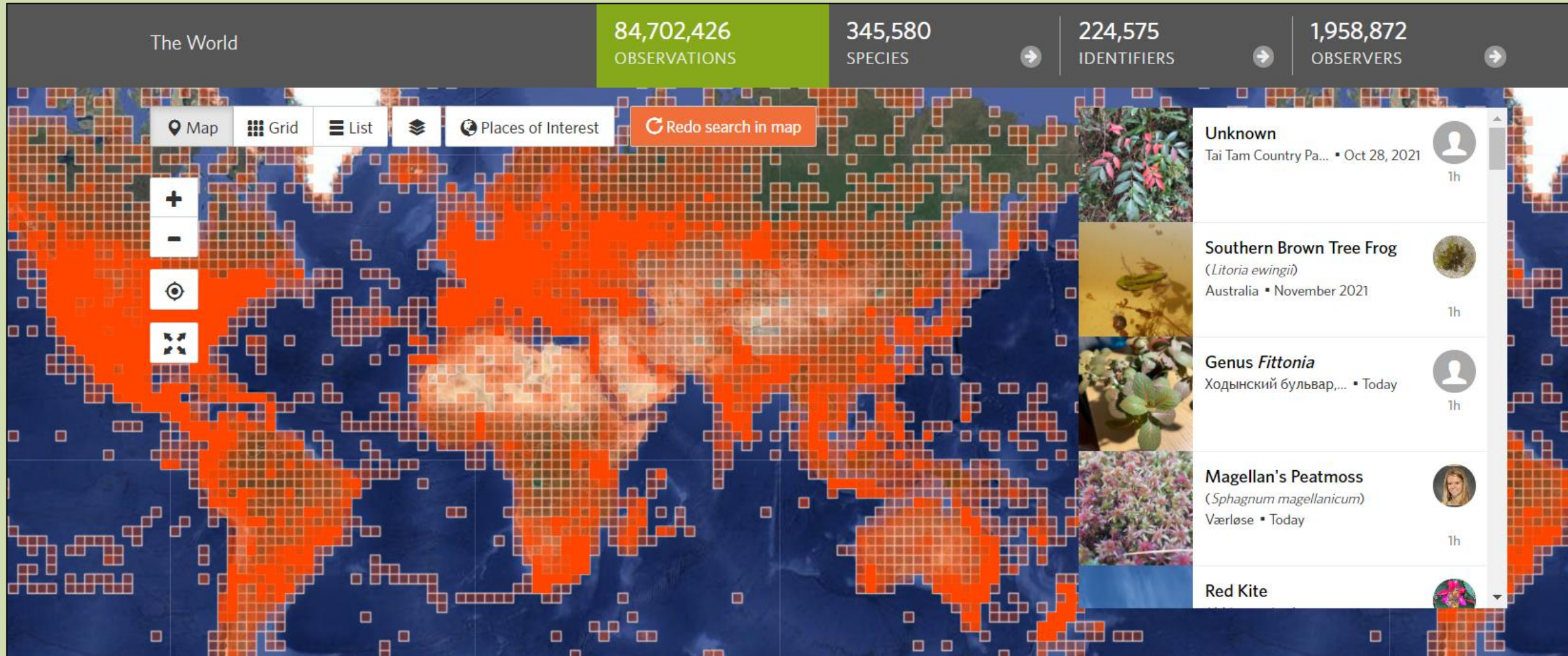




Conserving biodiversity maintains ecosystem services

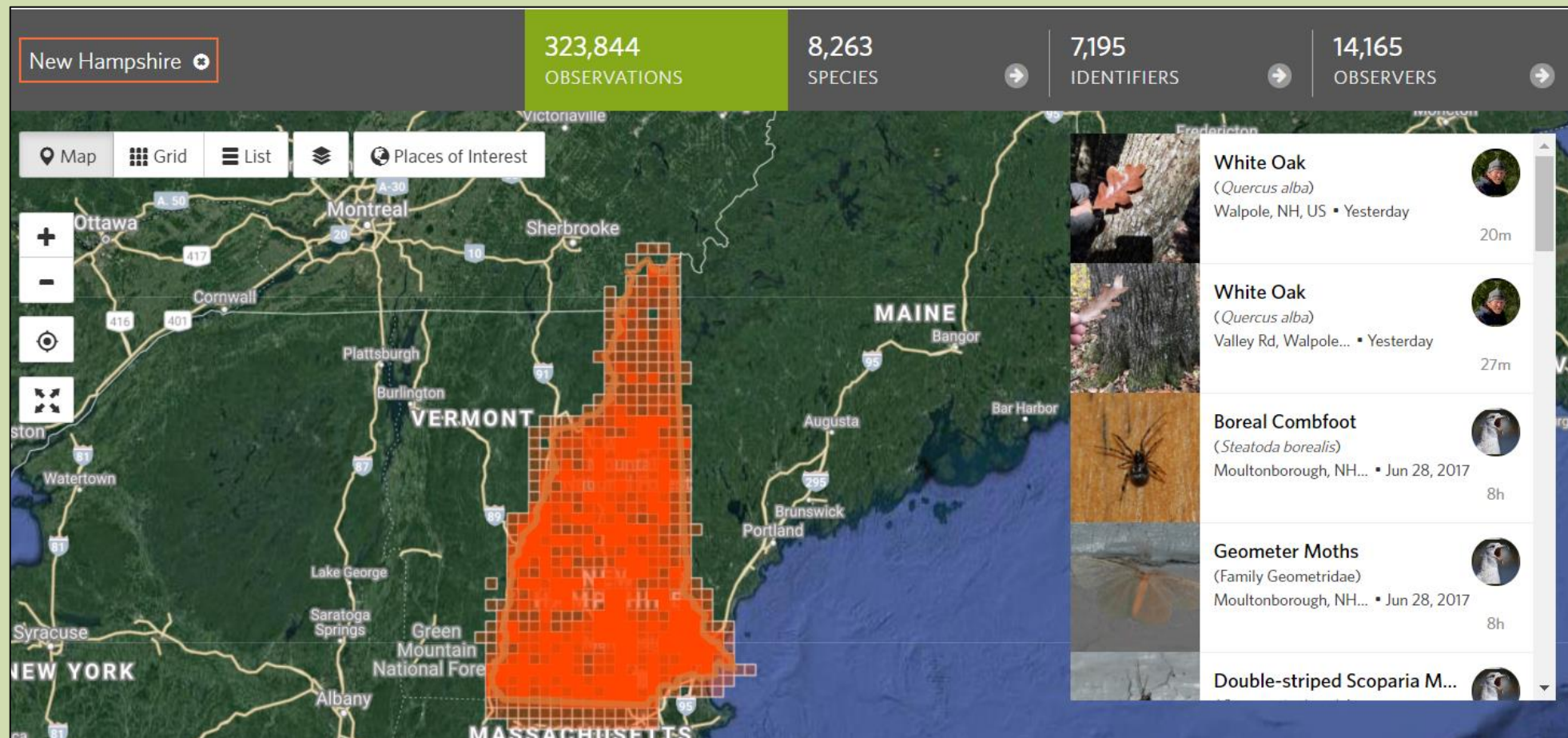


iNaturalist: a worldwide, data-collection platform for the naturally curious.



iNaturalist website exploration

www.inaturalist.org/observations



The screenshot displays the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, a navigation bar shows the selected location "New Hampshire" with a location pin icon. To its right, a green bar indicates "323,844 OBSERVATIONS". Further right, a grey bar shows "8,263 SPECIES", "7,195 IDENTIFIERS", and "14,165 OBSERVERS", each with a right-pointing arrow icon.

Below the navigation bar, a map of New Hampshire is shown, overlaid with a grid of orange squares representing observation locations. The map includes labels for neighboring states (VERMONT, MAINE, MASSACHUSETTS, NEW YORK) and cities (Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Cornwall, Plattsburgh, Burlington, Watertown, Lake George, Saratoga Springs, Albany, Brunswick, Portland, Augusta, Bangor, Bar Harbor). A sidebar on the left contains map controls: "Map", "Grid", "List", "Places of Interest", and zoom in/out buttons.

On the right side, a list of observations is displayed. Each entry includes a small image of the organism, the species name, its scientific name in parentheses, the location, the date, and the time since observation. The list includes:

- White Oak** (*Quercus alba*) - Walpole, NH, US - Yesterday - 20m
- White Oak** (*Quercus alba*) - Valley Rd, Walpole... - Yesterday - 27m
- Boreal Combfoot** (*Steatoda borealis*) - Moultonborough, NH... - Jun 28, 2017 - 8h
- Geometer Moths** (Family Geometridae) - Moultonborough, NH... - Jun 28, 2017 - 8h
- Double-striped Scoparia M...**



@jensanford

Observed: Jun 10, 2019 · 8:08 AM PDT Submitted: Sep 23, 2021 · 10:06 AM EDT


Map Satellite

Claremont, NH, USA


Details

Activity

jensanford suggested an ID Improving 1mo

 **North American Toads**
Genus *Anaxyrus* Compare Agree

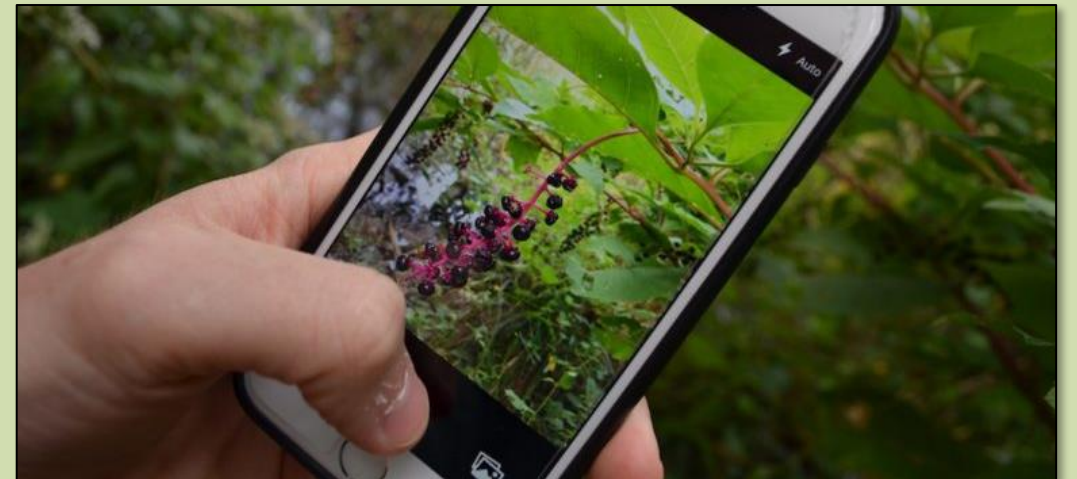
slamonde suggested an ID Leading 1s

 **American Toad**
Anaxyrus americanus Compare



Video summary: making observations

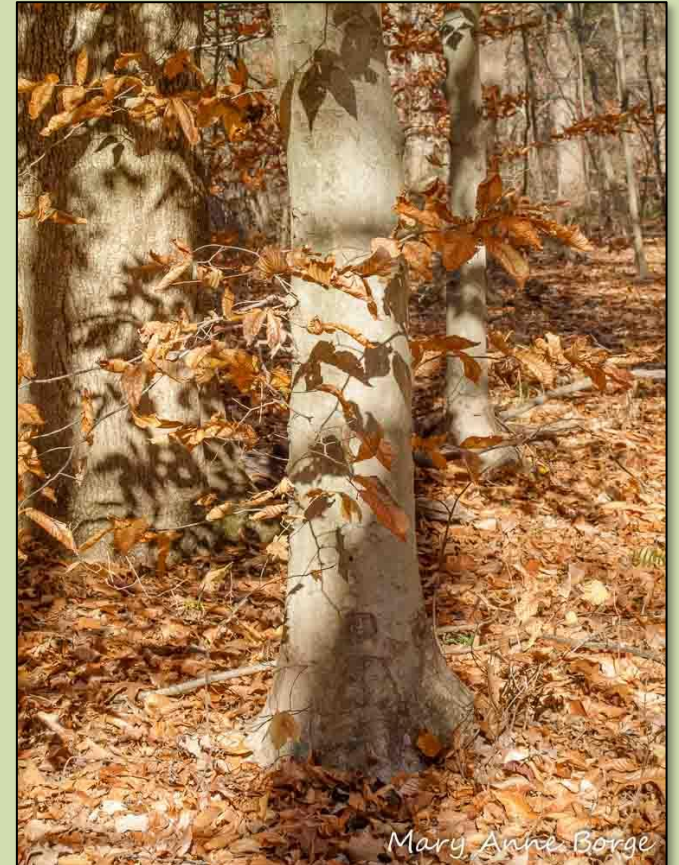
- 1. Install app & create free account**
- 2. Find a living organism (or sign of one)**
- 3. Tap “observe”, then choose observation type (photo or sound)**
- 4. Take a photo, choose one from photo gallery, or record sound**
- 5. Identify what you found**
- 6. Share your observation**





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

Identify











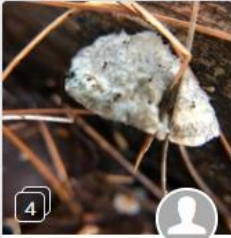
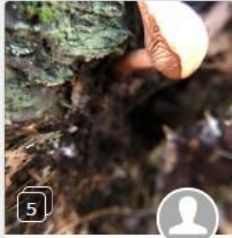

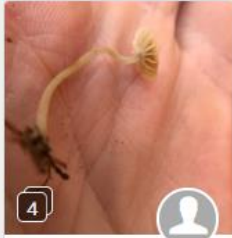

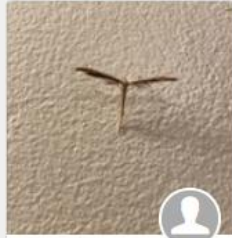


New Hampshire, US 

Go

 Filters **1**

☐ Reviewed

 <div>Unknown</div>	 <div>8 Scots Pine <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>Common Hover Fly Pair <i>Diplazon laetatorius</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>3 Trembling Aspen <i>Populus tremuloides</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>3 Black Oak <i>Quercus velutina</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>Unknown</div>	 <div>Stinking Chamomile <i>Anthemis cotula</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>3 Unknown</div>
 <div>Unknown</div>	 <div>Unknown</div>	 <div>4 Unknown</div>	 <div>5 Common Gill Mushroom Order Agaricales <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>Trailing Arbutus <i>Epigaea repens</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>4 Unknown</div>	 <div>Greater Celandine <i>Chelidonium majus</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>	 <div>Morning-glory Plume / <i>Emmelina monodactyla</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agree</div>



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
OBSERVATIONS

917
SPECIES

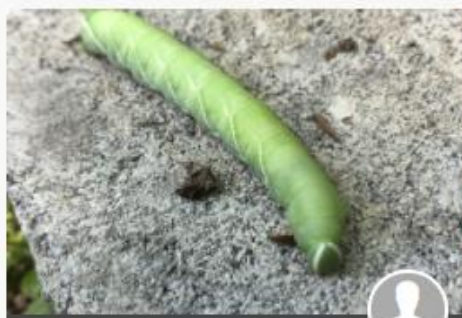
504
IDENTIFIERS

157
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

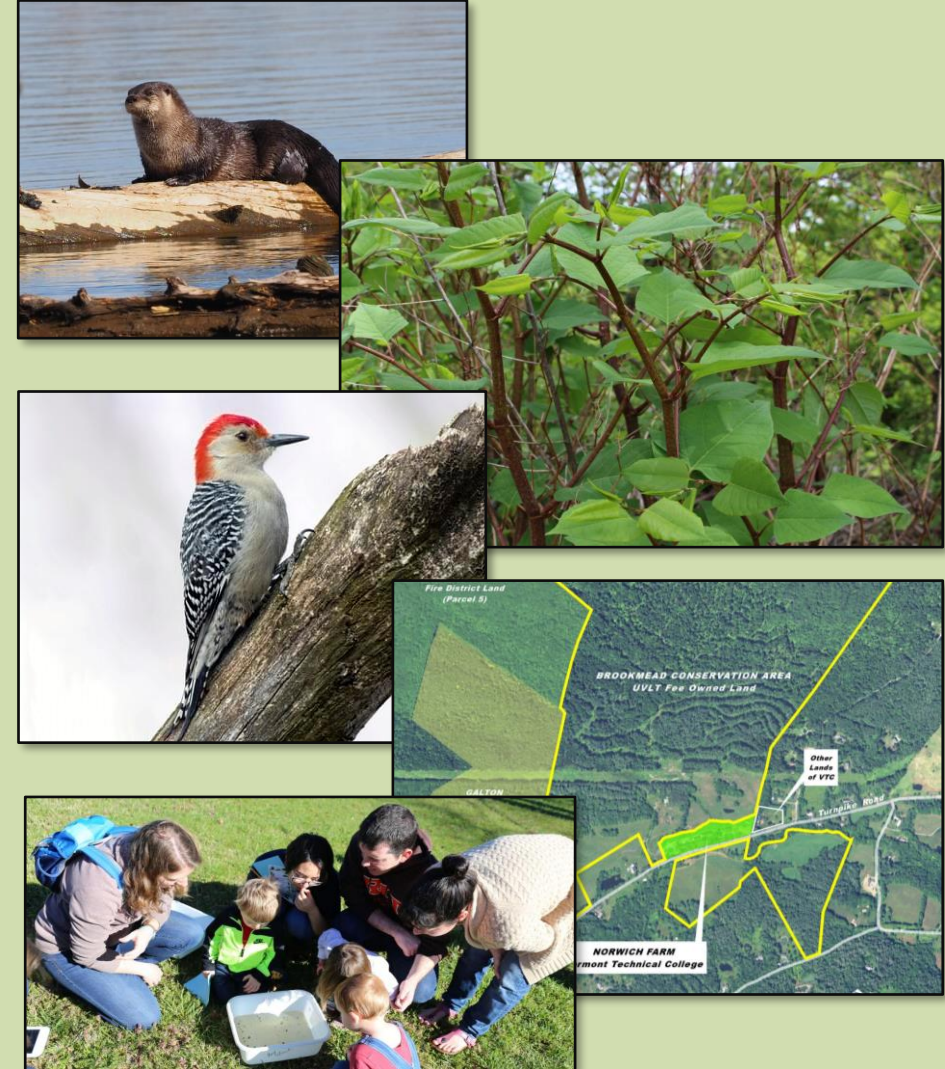
3. Research support

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



@moosewood_ecological



facebook.com/moosewoodecological



Questions?

Contact

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Ecologist / Project Manager

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