How To Use iNaturalist

And WHY you should use it!

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES   NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
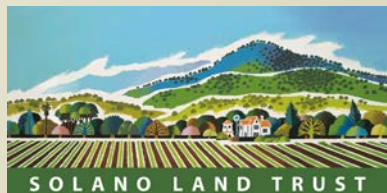
Charlie Russell
@charlescrussell (iNaturalist)
https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWildflowerHikes
https://wildflowers.russellramblings.com/
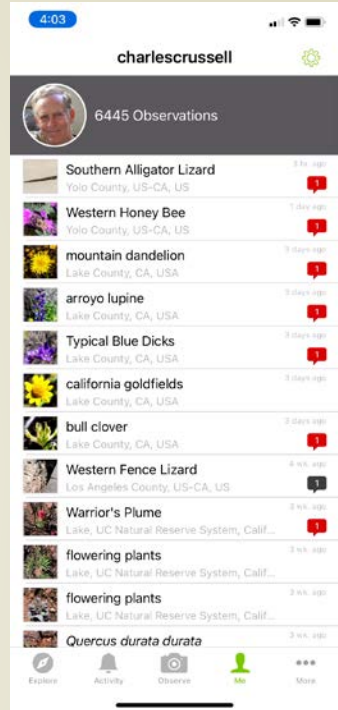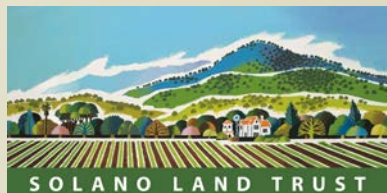
SOLANO LAND TRUST

What is iNaturalist?

- App and website for ID'ing plants and animals
- Collaborative system for ID's, "Crowdsource identifications"
- Participate in "citizen science" projects
- Observations to help scientists
- Track your encounters with other organisms, expand your knowledge of our natural world
- Free!

- Developed by the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society
- Used worldwide
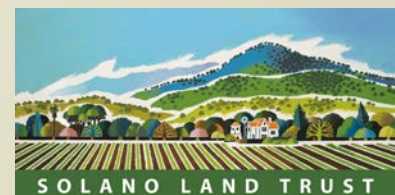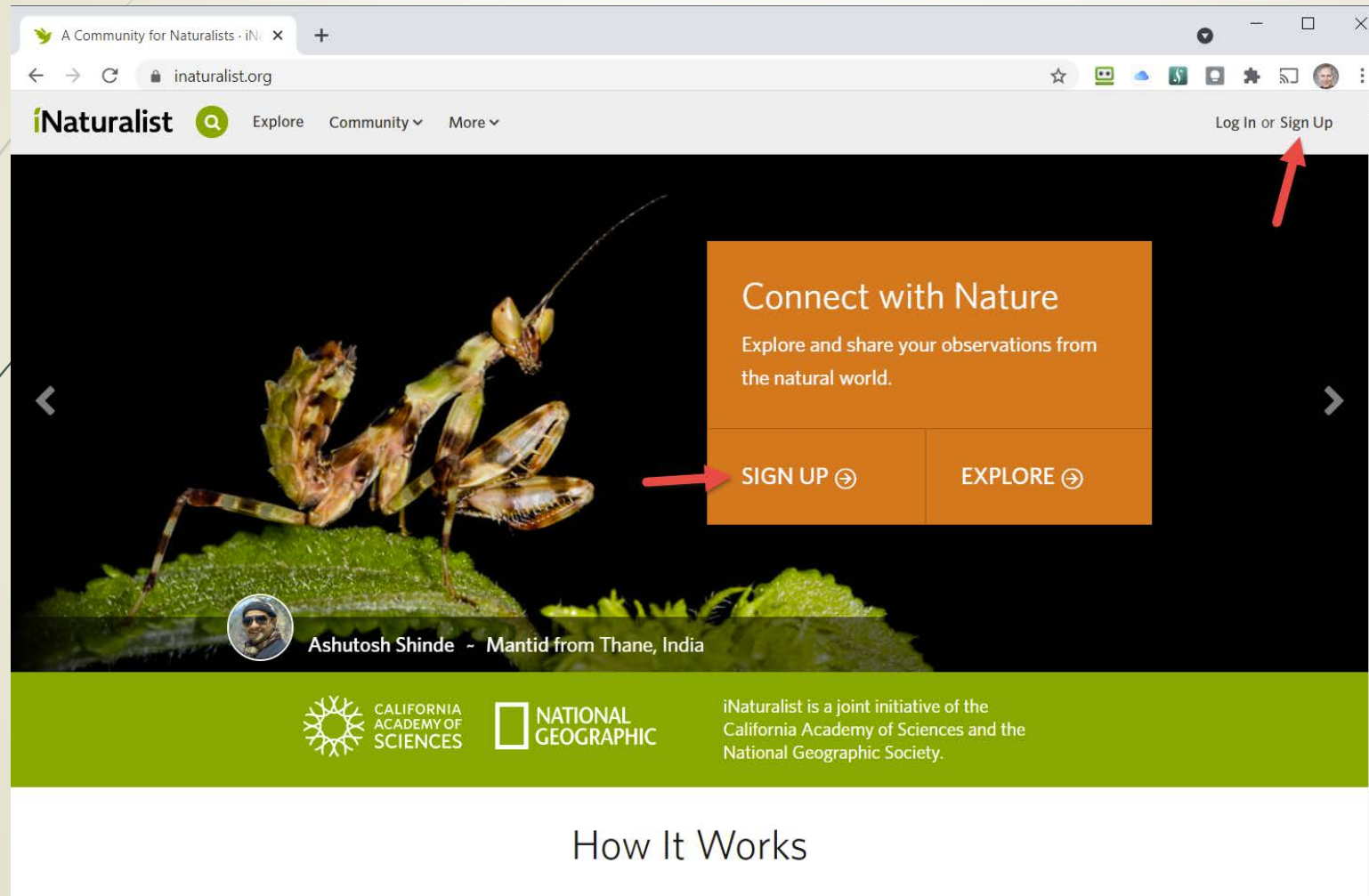- Over 62 million observations
- 328,000 species
- 1.5 million observers

How to sign up

Create an account, check each box

That is all! It is free!
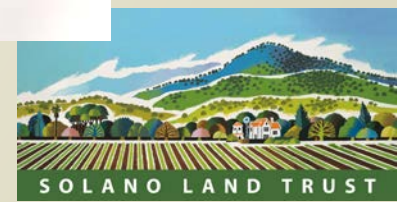

- Update your profile
- Download the iOS or Android app
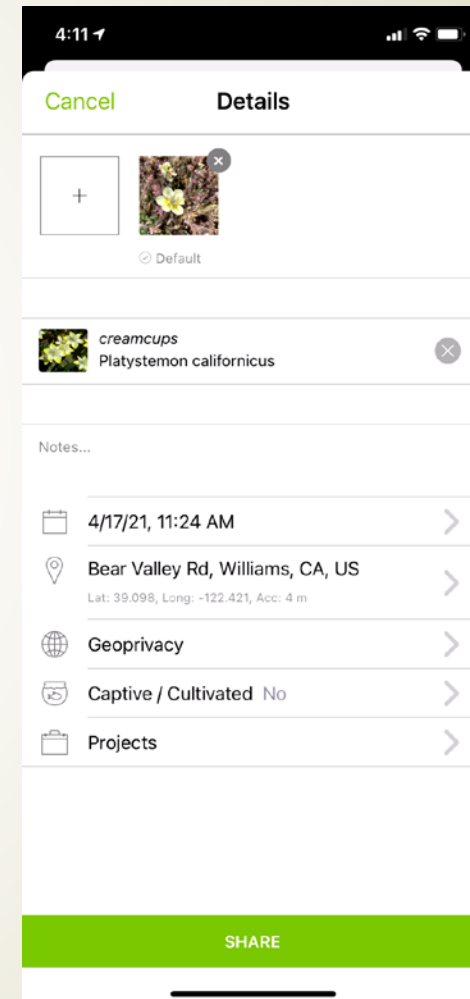- Add observations!
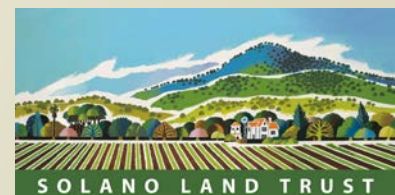
Add an observation (from the app)
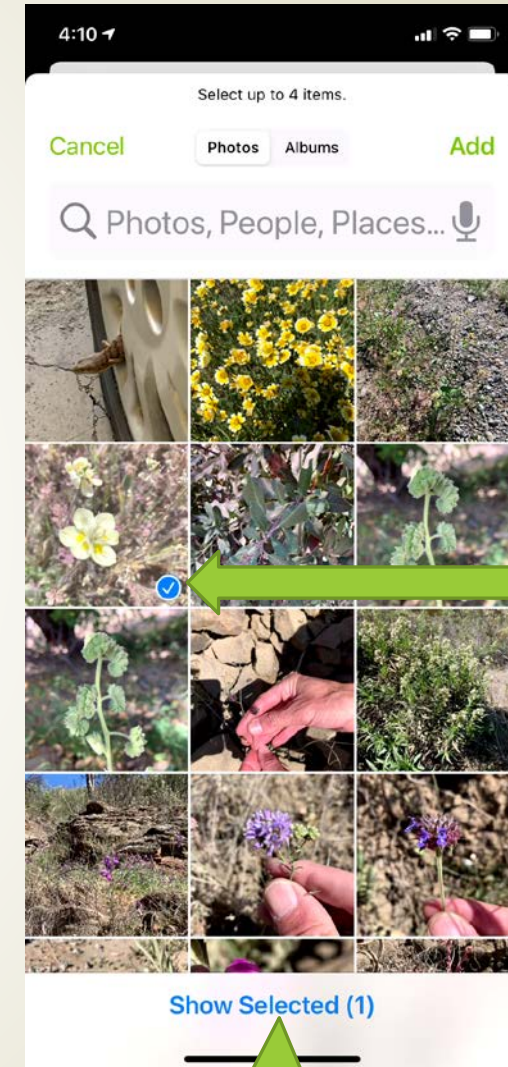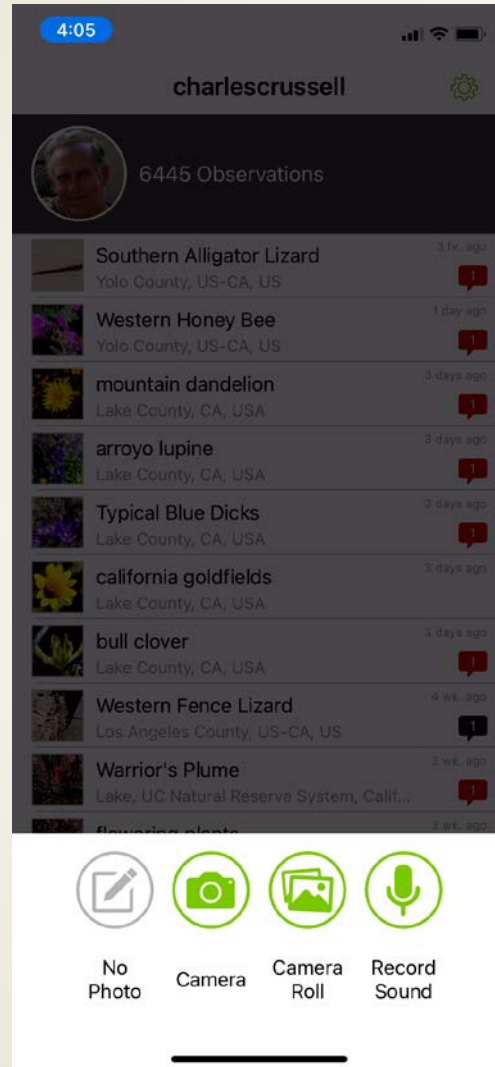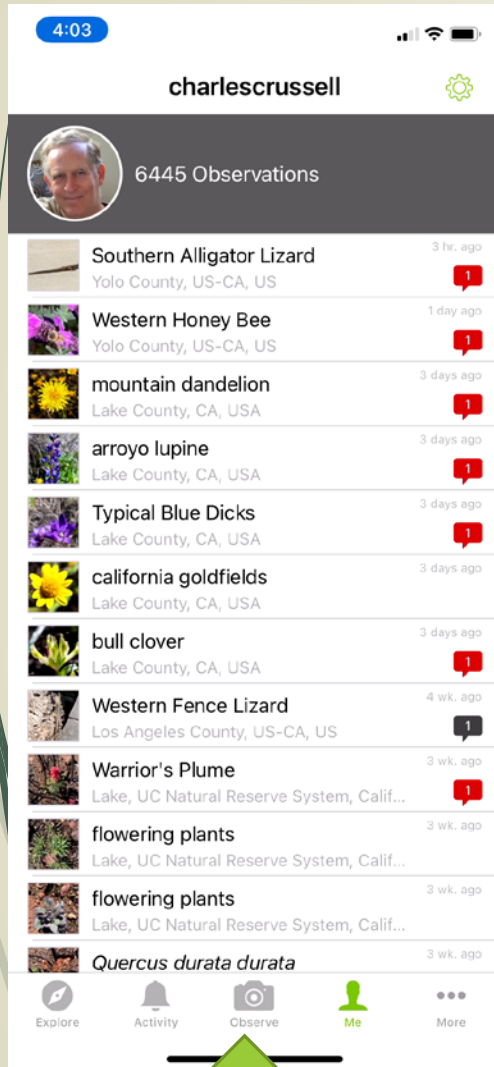
Camera

Camera Roll
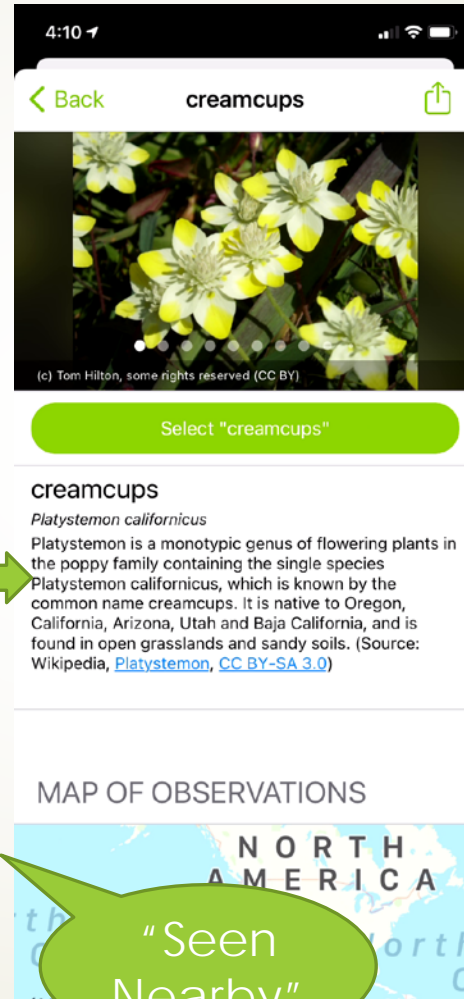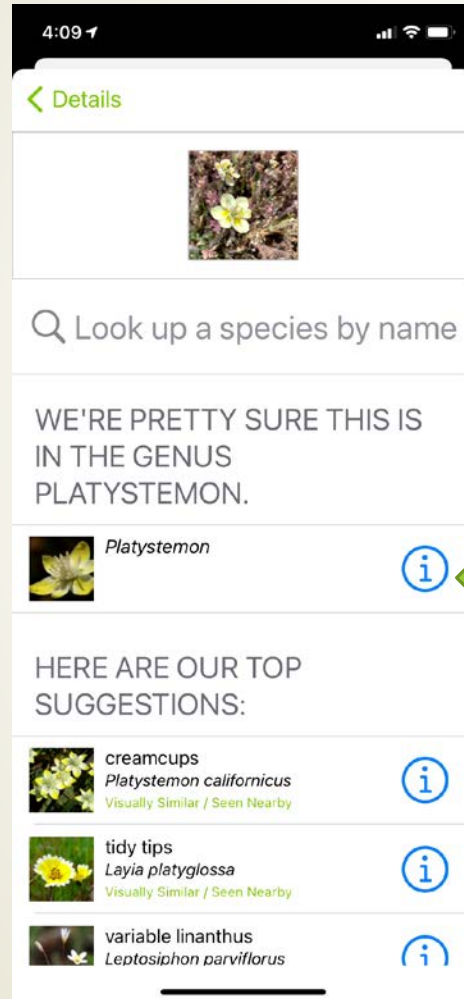
Identify
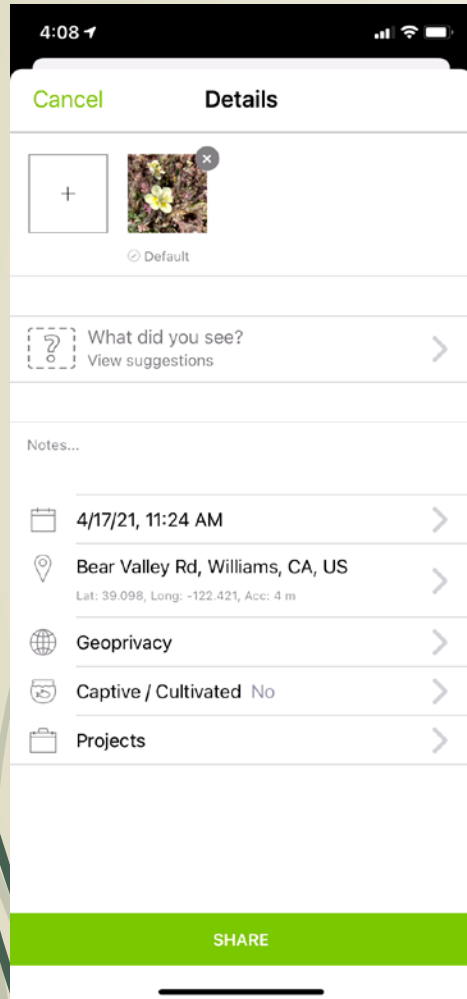
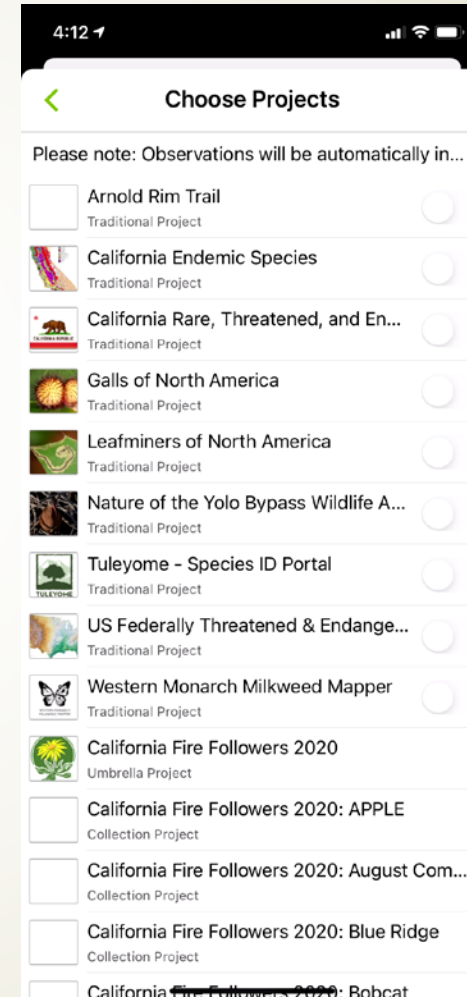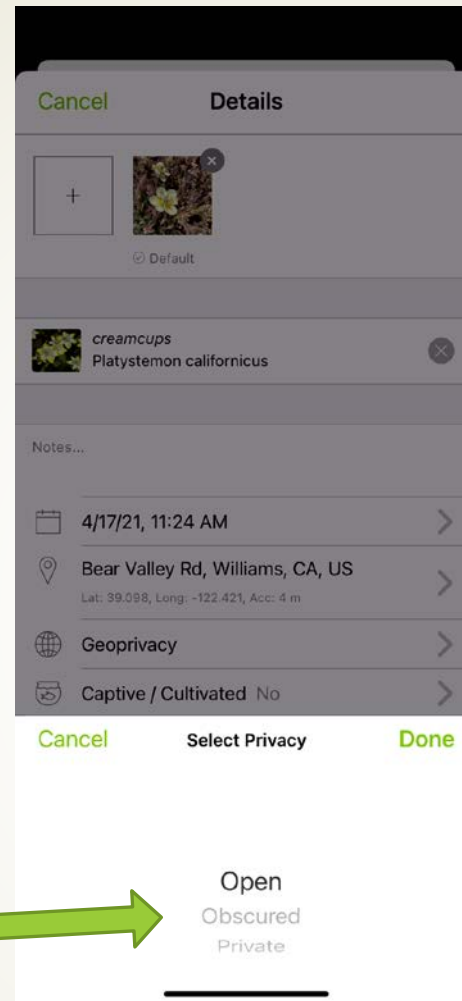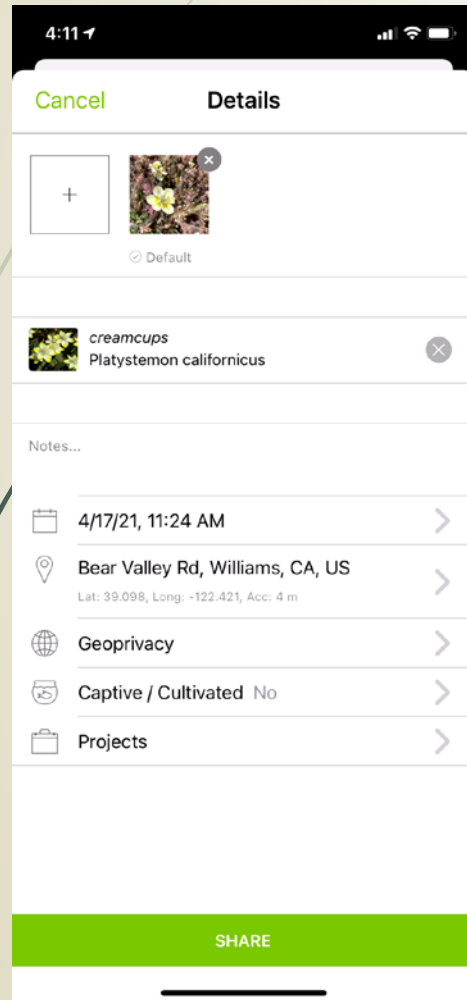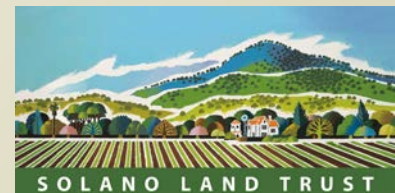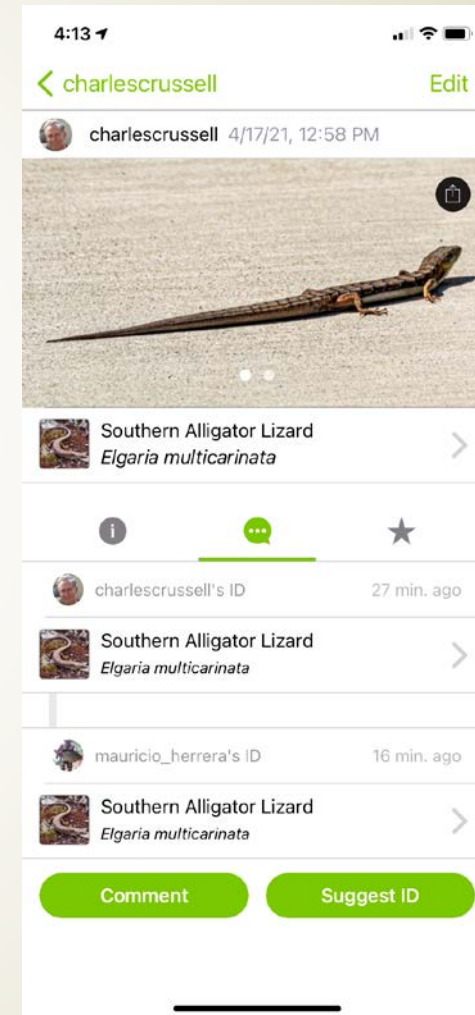- Date from photo
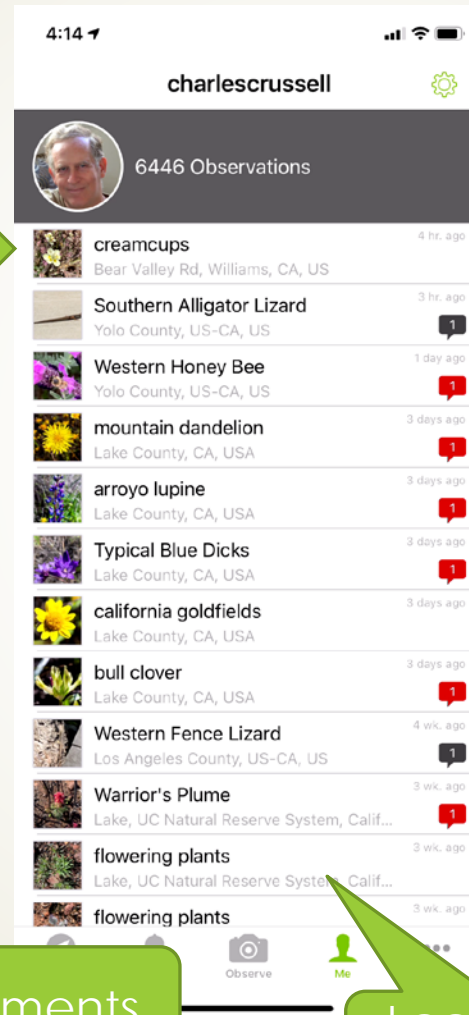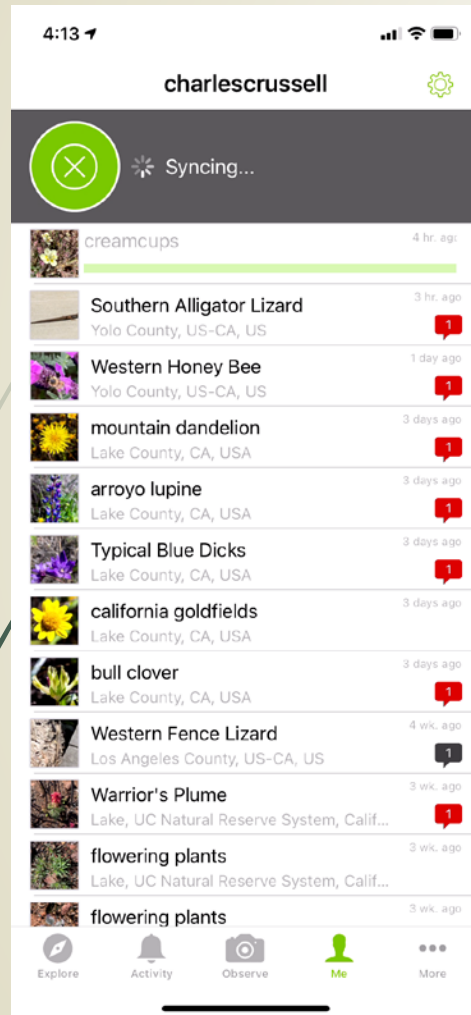- Location from photo GPS
- Geoprivacy
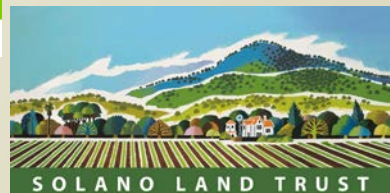
Modify

- Date from photo
- Location from photo GPS
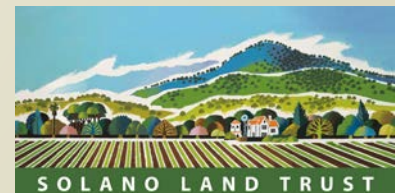- Geoprivacy
- Projects
  - Traditional
  - Collection

Post observation

Add Observations from Browser
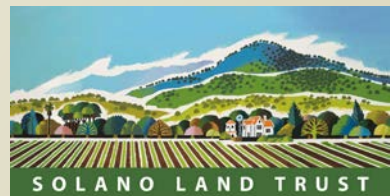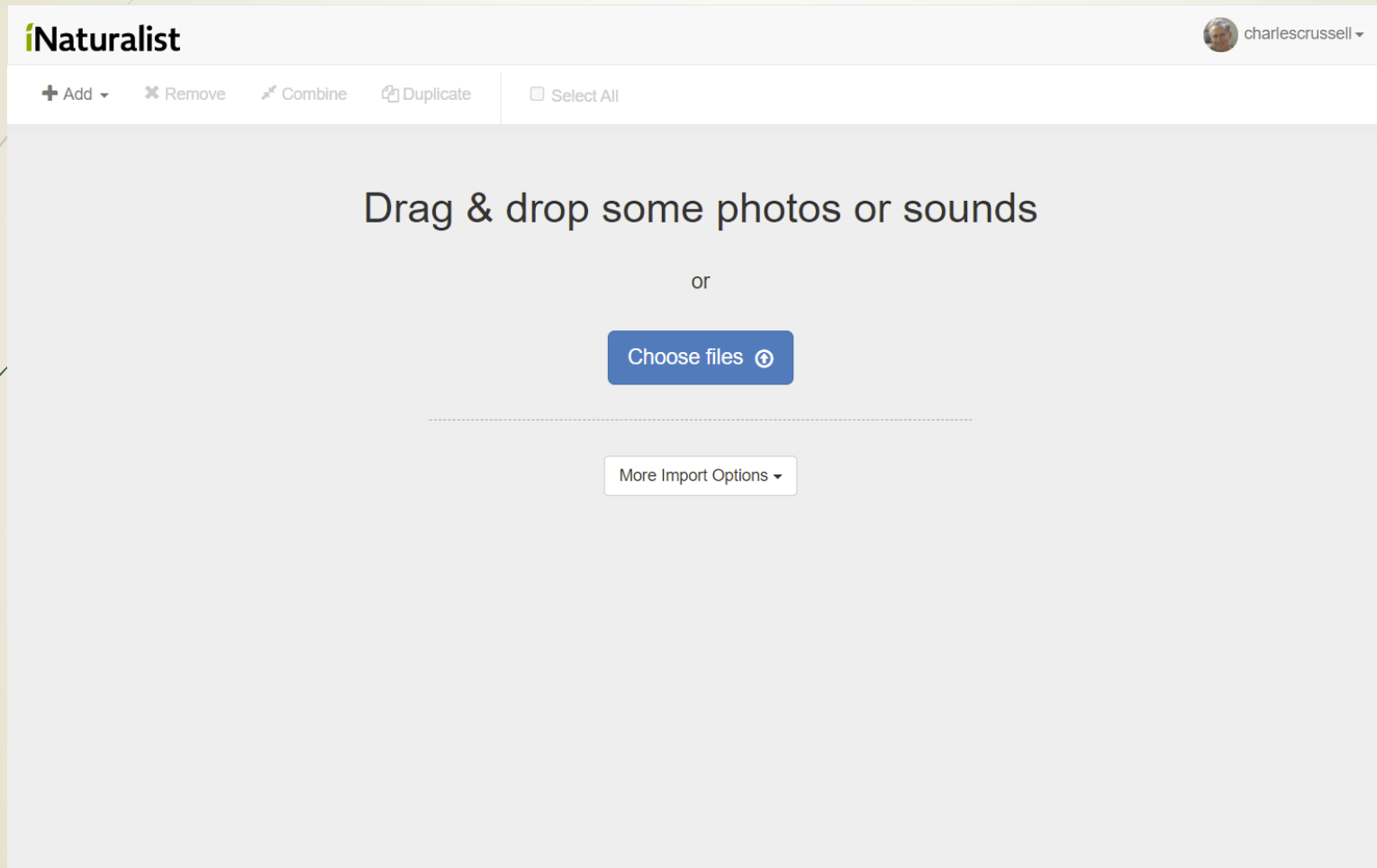
You can add multiple observations

You can update multiple photos here

Combine these 3 to 1 observation by drag/drop

Several photos combined

ID selection similar to the app

View your observations online

Other ID Apps

LOTS of apps and websites. Here are a few that have been compared in some publications, and by some botanists

- PictureThis
- PlantSnap
- PlantNet
- Seek by iNaturalist
- Google Lens
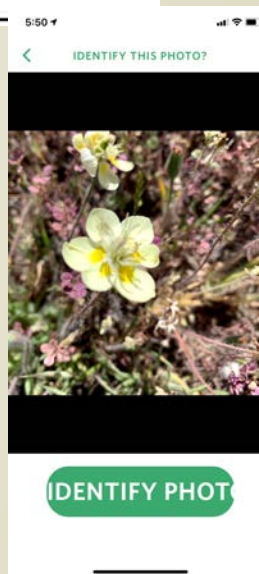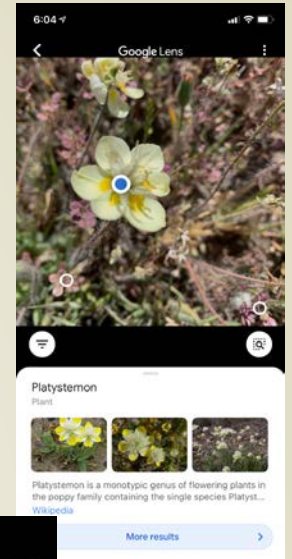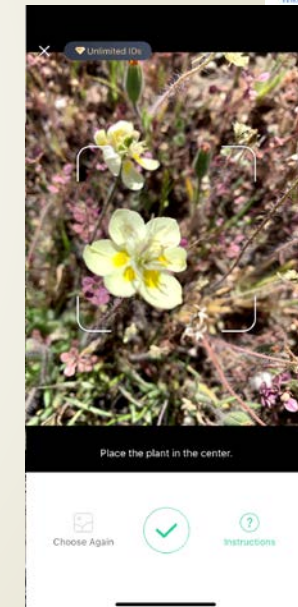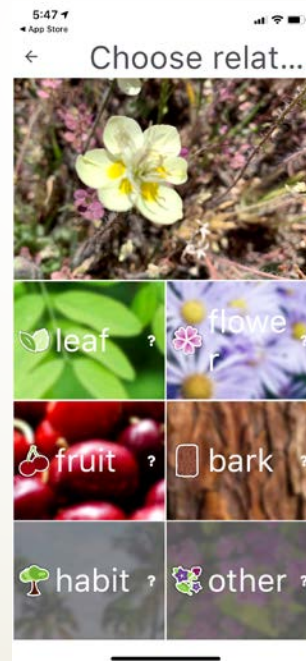
PictureThis
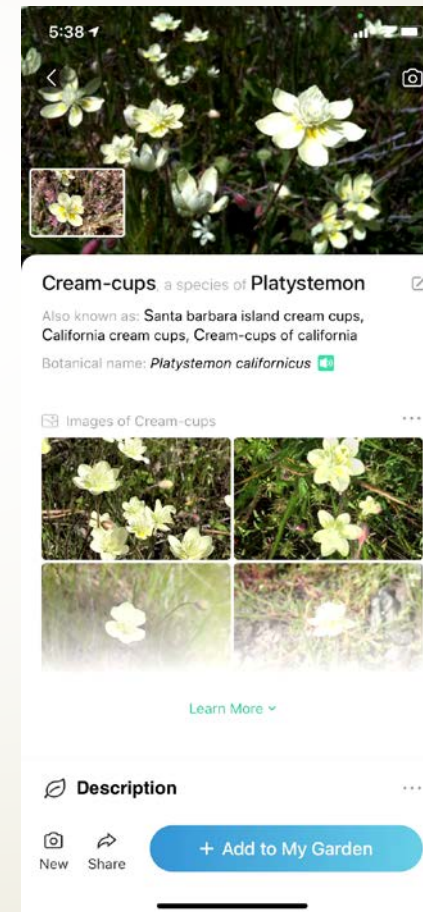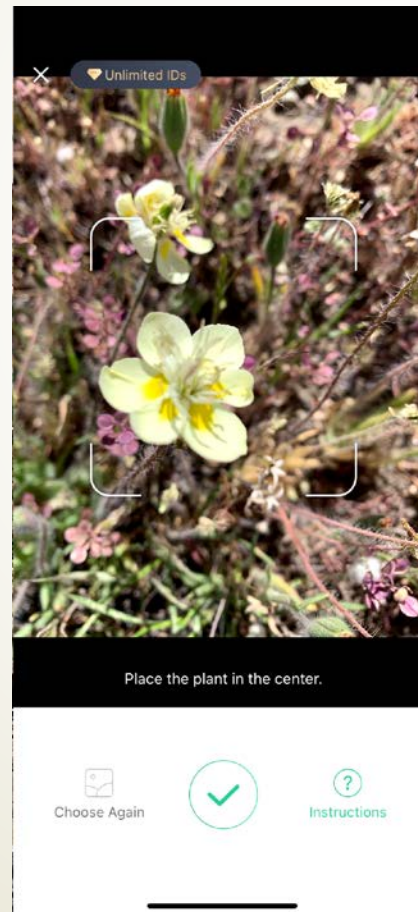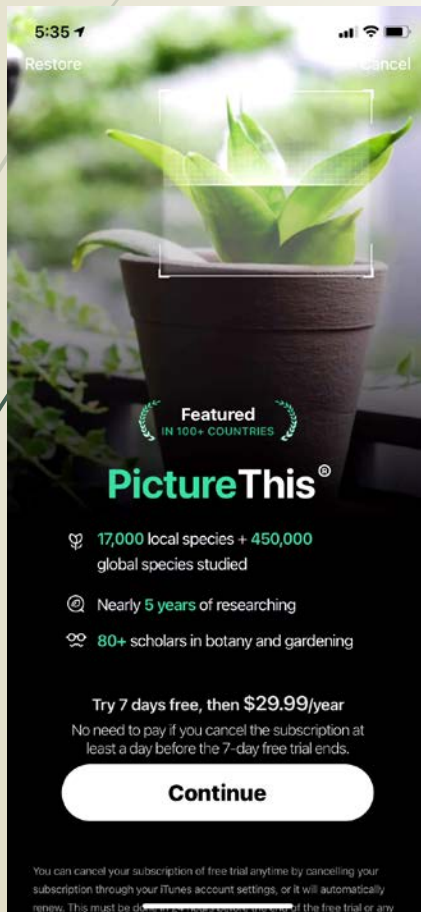
- Free version limits # of ID per day
- Subscription $29.99/year
- Plants only
- Pretty good ID to species
- Limited crowdsourcing
- Limited research capabilities

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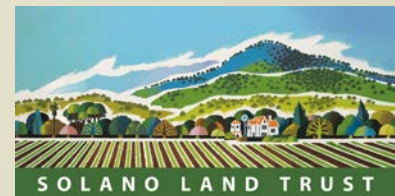
PlantSnap
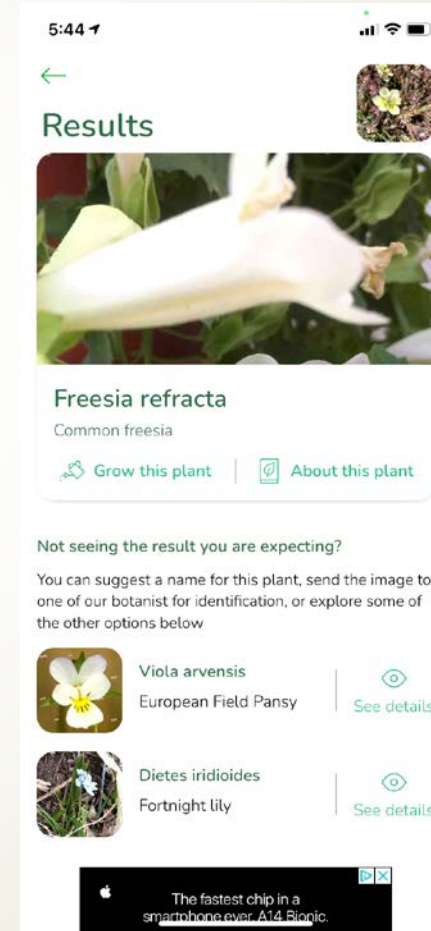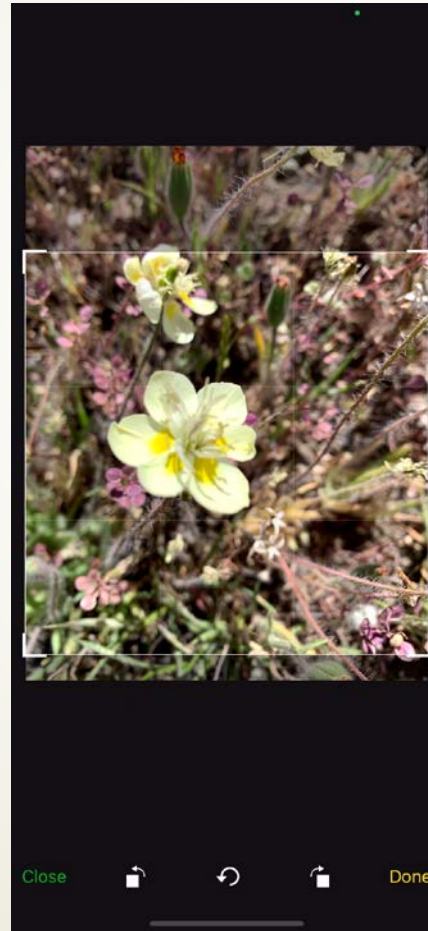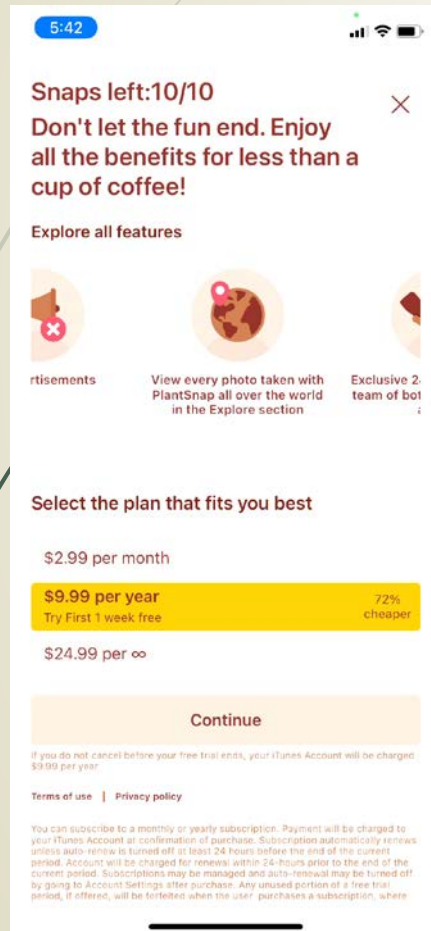
- Free version limited and has ads
- $24.99/year
- Plants only
- To species, but when it is wrong, it is VERY wrong
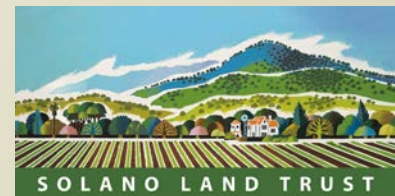
PlantNet
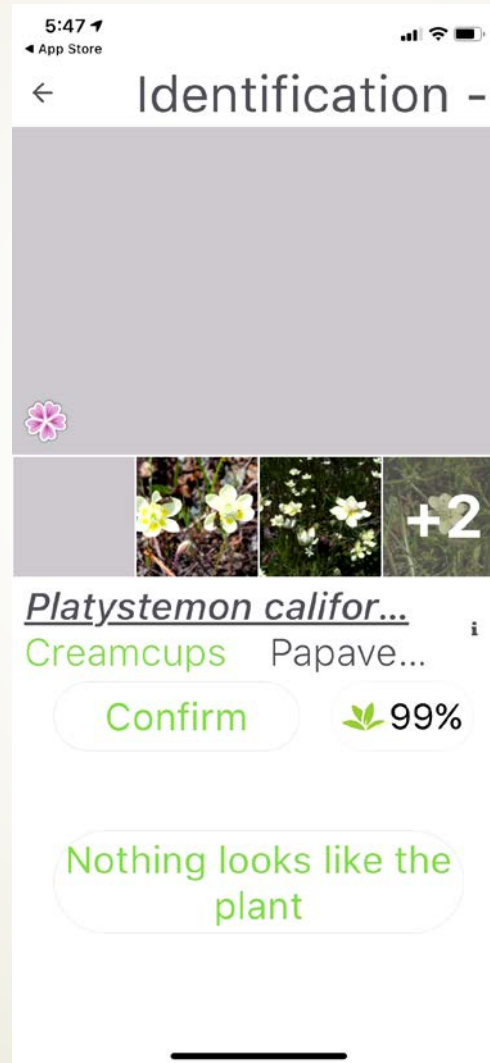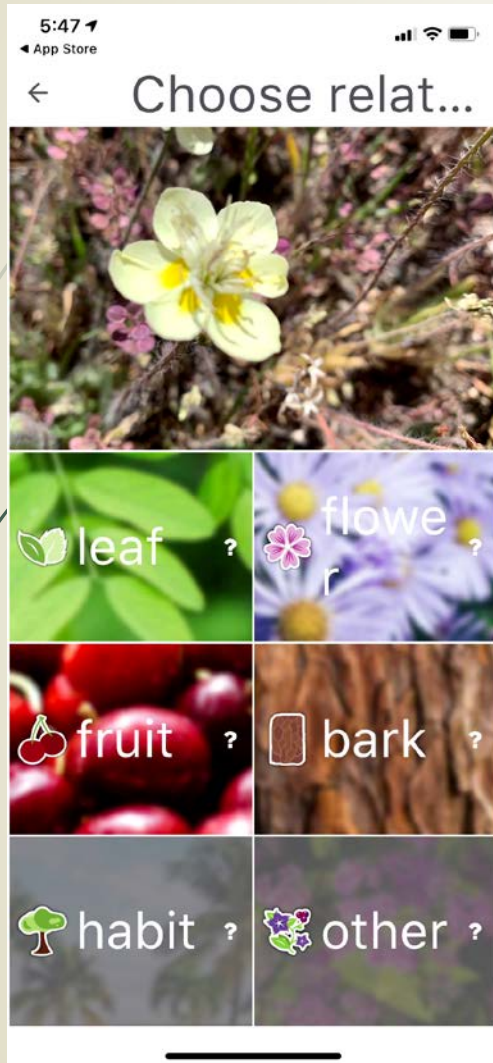
- Plants only
- Pretty good, but when wrong is horribly wrong
- Sometimes has outdated nomenclature
- Free
- Collaborative
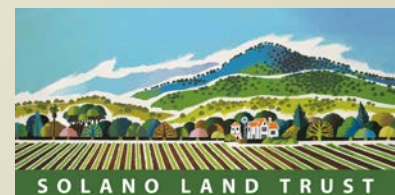
Seek
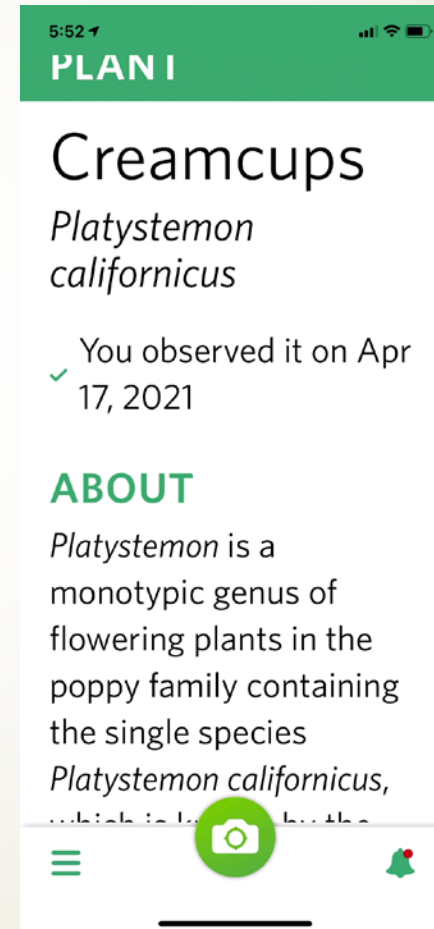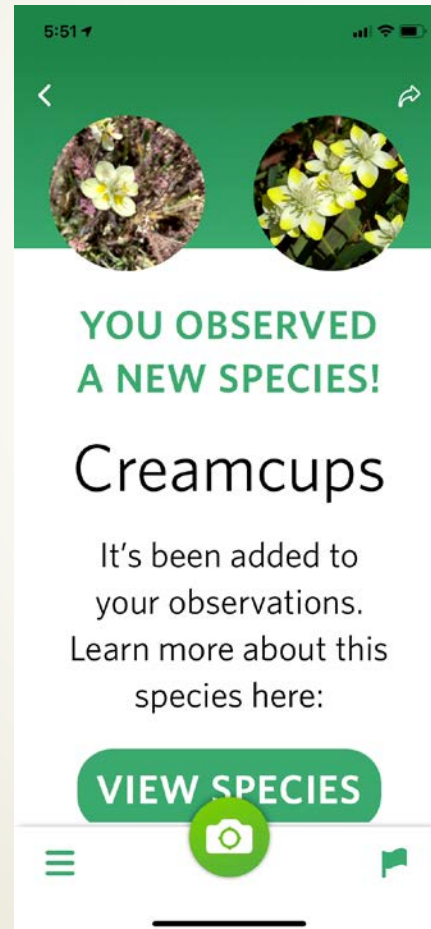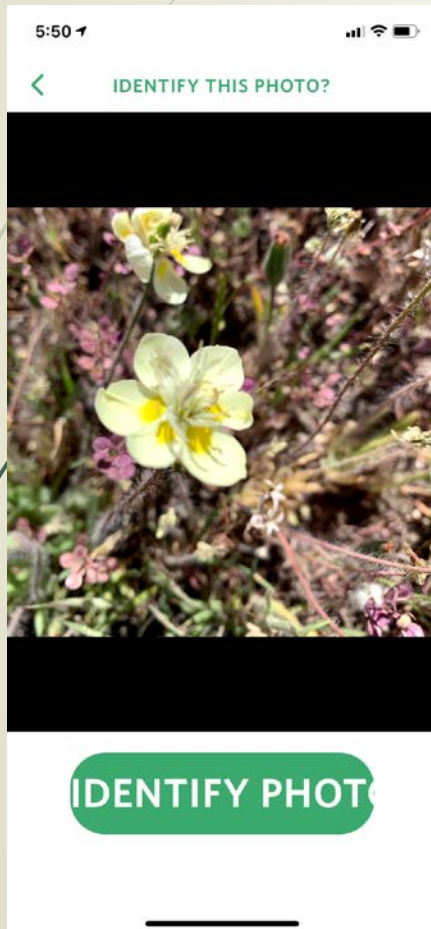
- Same database, developer as iNaturalist
- Kid safe
- No community involvement
- "Gamified", badges and accolades
- Free
- Sometimes a few wild guesses on species
- Plants & animals

Google Lens
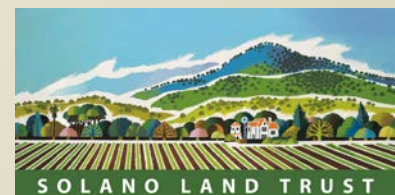
Google Photos on iOS

- Free
- Plants & animals
- No community
- No projects, research
- To genus
- Does well, but seemed slow?
- App on Android, Photos app in iOS

Platystemon
Plant

Platystemon is a monotypic genus of flowering plants in the poppy family containing the single species Platyst...
Wikipedia

More results

Try Google Lens

Google Lens — Get the Lens app on the Play Store.
Google Photos — Look for the Lens icon on your photos.
Google — Get the Google app on the App Store.

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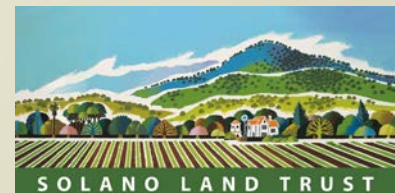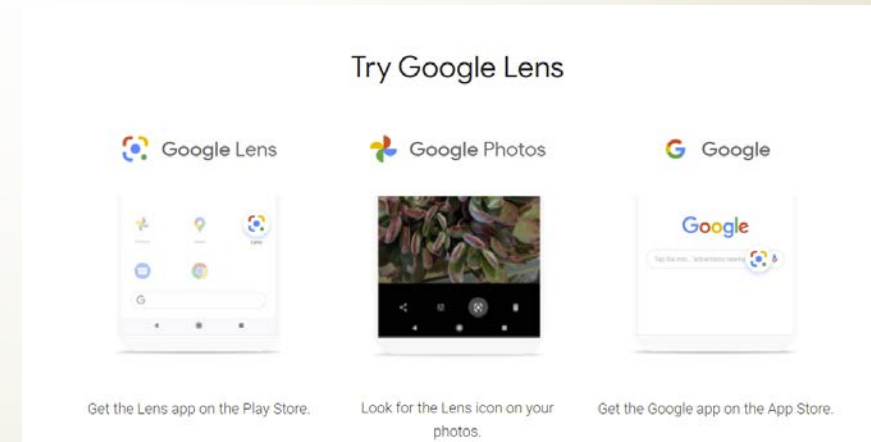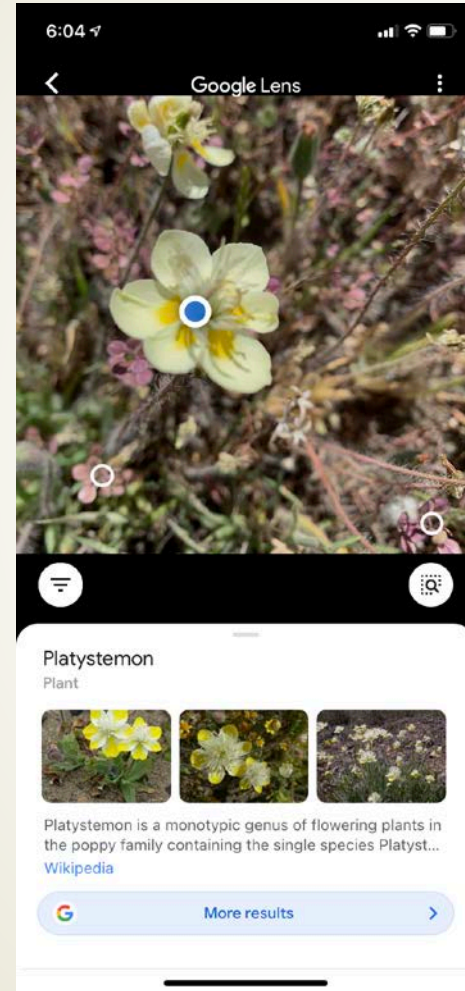
Detailed info on any observation
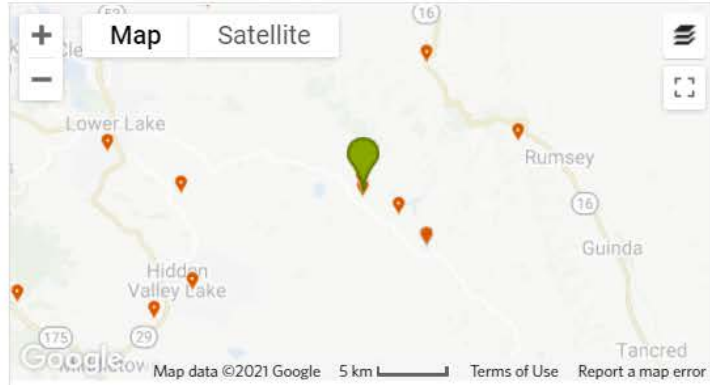
Your observations by date

Observations selected by various criteria

Community Input

Taxa Information Resource
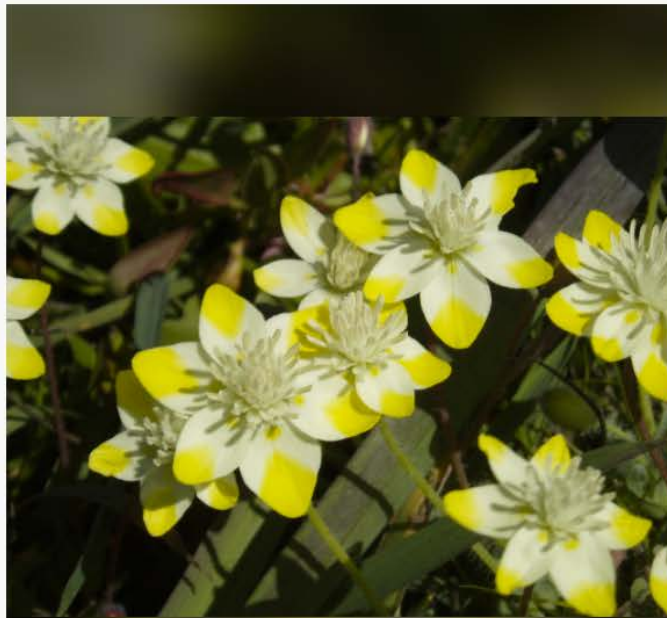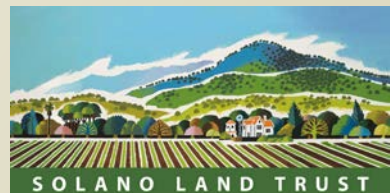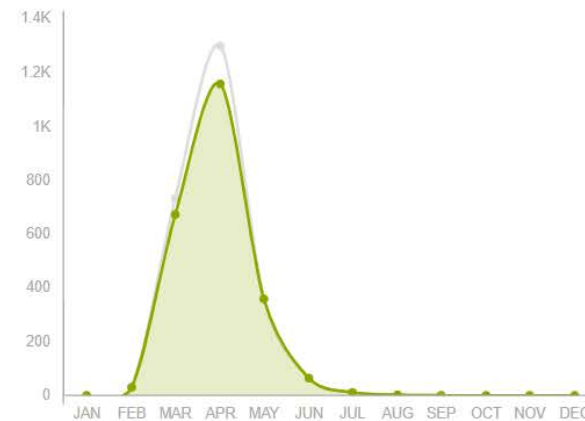
Projects

Most Observations

1st	aigner	1,074
	apddarn	460
	charlescrussell	335
A	amidaverhey	322
	naturecandids	270
	kjanicki93	200

View All · View Yours

Most Species

1st	aigner	329
	apddarn	195
	kjanicki93	160
	natashakd	127
	eberlenw001	99
	rachelmaine	99

View All · View Yours

Most Observed Species

	Seep Monkeyflower	80
	Alkali Centaury	74
	Whitestem Hedgenettle	59
	Turpentine Weed	56
	Leather Oak	50
	California Yerba Santa	42

View All · View Yours

WESTERN MONARCH MILKWEED MAPPER — This project is designed to help scientists gather inform...

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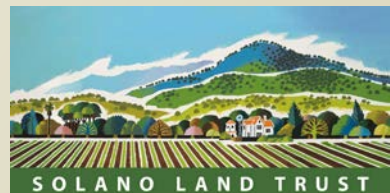
Observation mapping
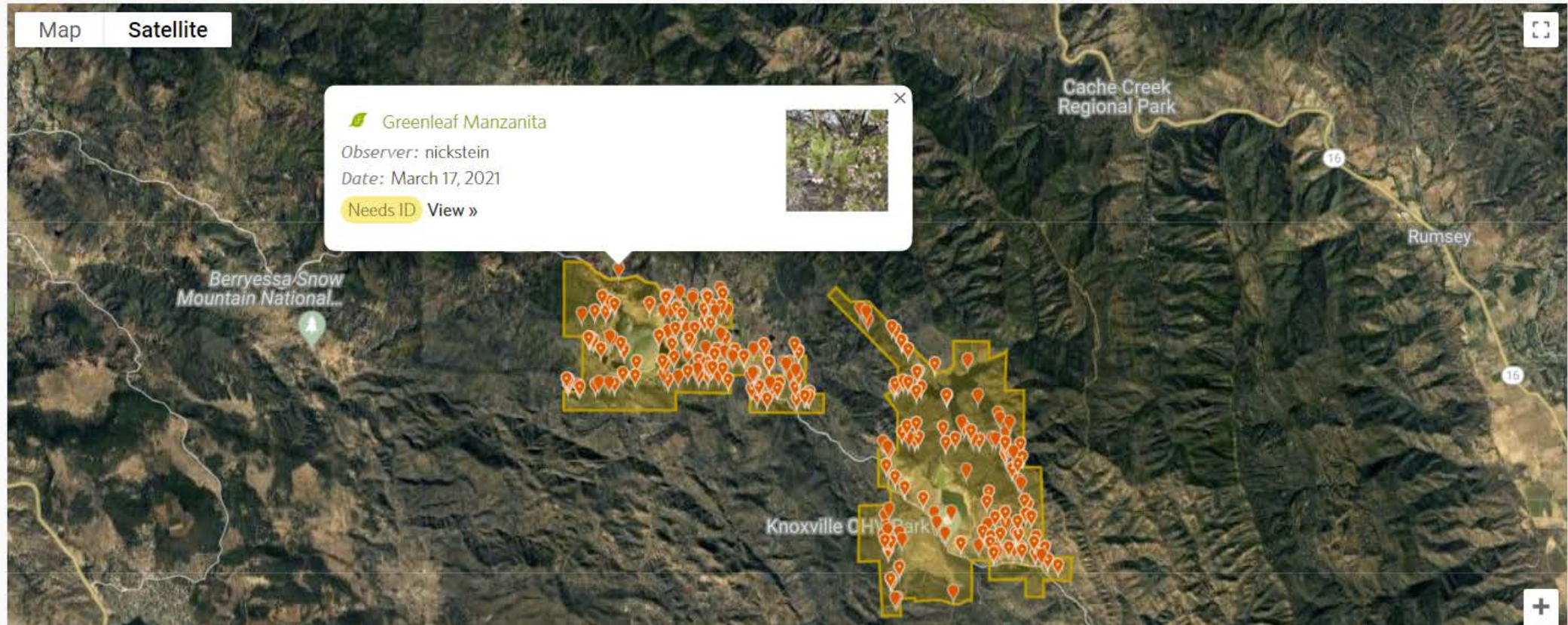
Observation Mapping w/Criteria

Advanced Mapping Tools

Ensatina salamander
subspecies
distribution map

City Nature Challenge 2021

April 30- May 3 2021

iNaturalist

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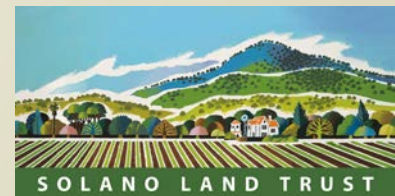
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- Free
- Easy to use
- Collaborative system for ID's, "Crowdsource identifications"
- Participate in "citizen science" projects
- Observations to help scientists
- Track your encounters with other organisms, expand your knowledge of our natural world
- Create lists of possible taxa in your target area
- View OTHER observations by various criteria

Charlie Russell   Charlie@ibrakeforwildflowers.com
@charlescrussell (iNaturalist)
https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWildflowerHikes
https://wildflowers.russellramblings.com/

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