

How To Use iNaturalist

And WHY you should use it!

iNaturalist



CALIFORNIA
ACADEMY OF
SCIENCES



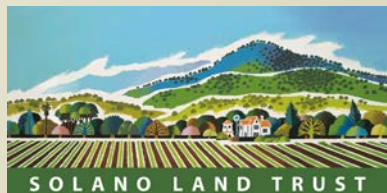
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

Charlie Russell

@charlescrussell (iNaturalist)

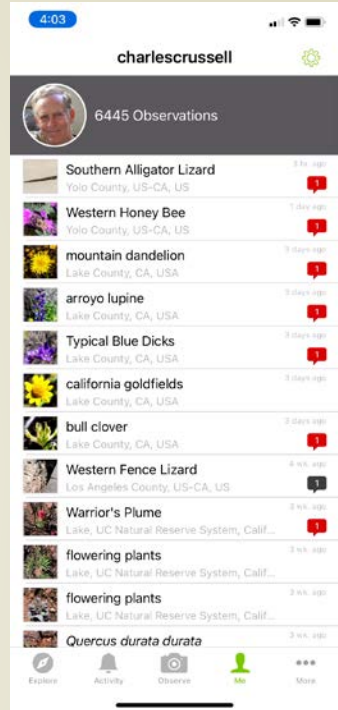
<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWildflowerHikes>

<https://wildflowers.russellramblings.com/>

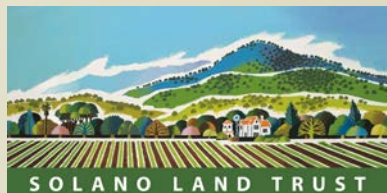


What is iNaturalist?

- 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

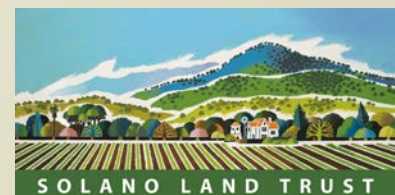
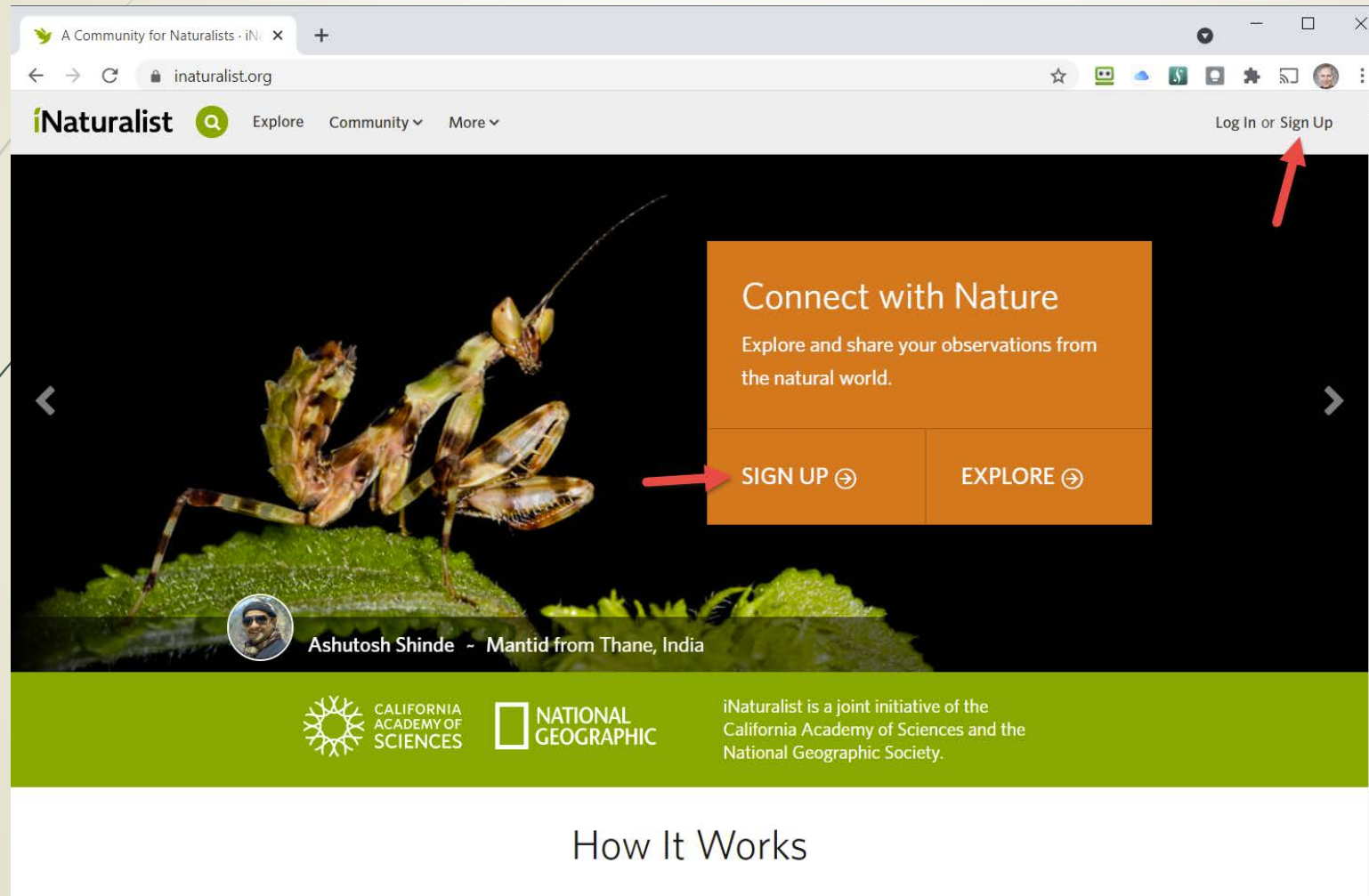


iNaturalist







How to sign up


<https://www.inaturalist.org/>



Create an account, check each box

  [Explore](#) [Community](#) [More](#)


 





Royal Flycatcher observed by
cristianrial
in Caquetá, Colombia


Cristian


Join the largest group of naturalists in the world!

 Email

 Username

 Password

 Password confirmation

☐ I'm not a robot 
[Privacy](#) - [Terms](#)

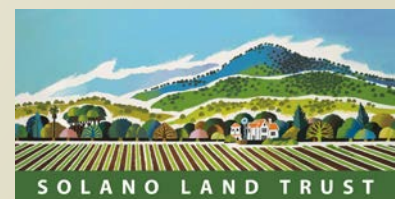
☒ Yes, license my photos, sounds, and observations so scientists can use my data (recommended). [Learn More](#)

☒ I consent to allow iNaturalist to store and process limited kinds of personal information about me in order to manage my account [Learn More](#)

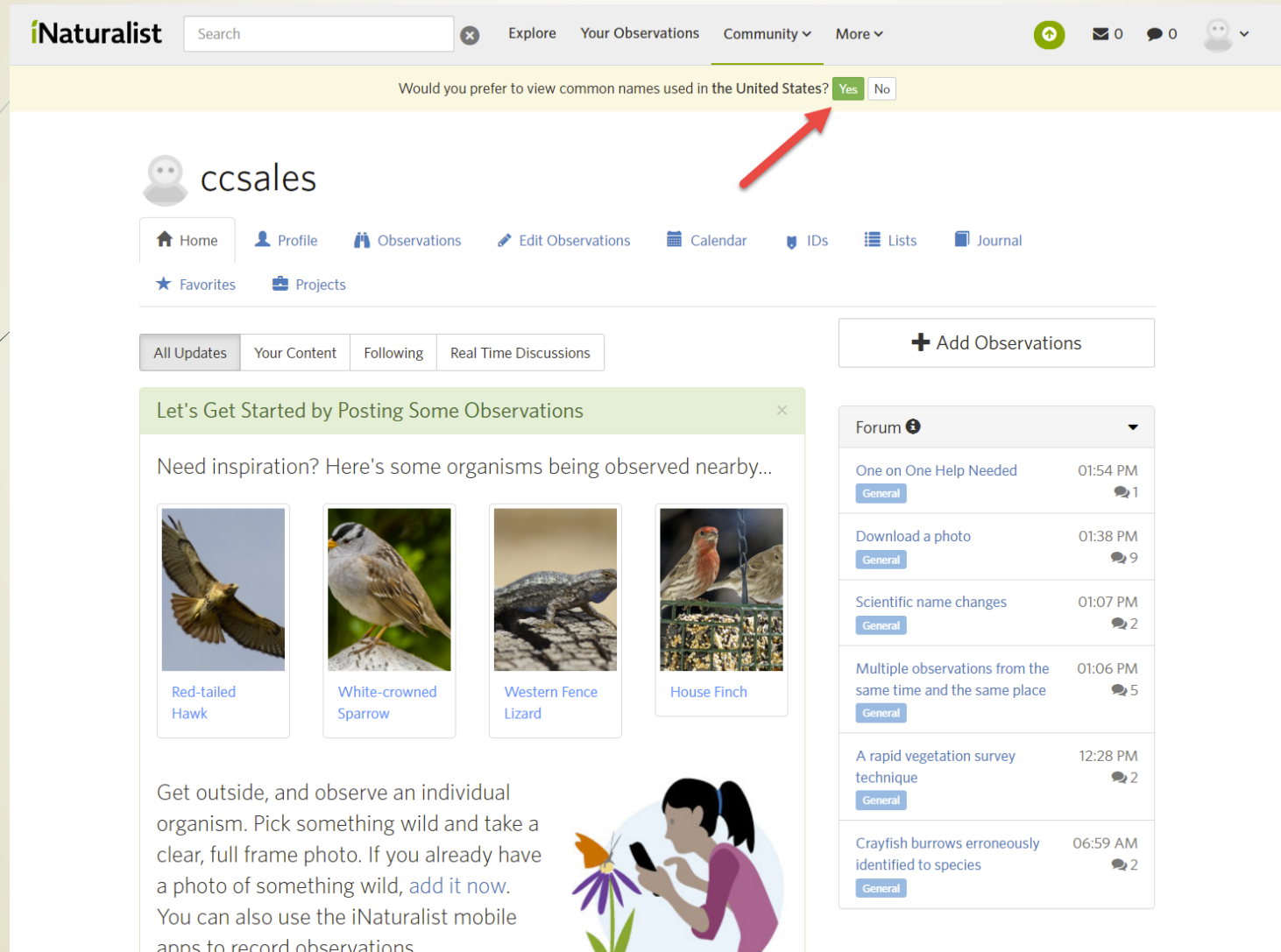
☒ I agree to the [Terms of Service and Privacy Policy](#), and I have reviewed the [Community Guidelines](#).

Create an Account

[Already have an account? Log in.](#)



That is all! It is free!



iNaturalist

Search

Explore Your Observations Community More

Would you prefer to view common names used in the United States? **Yes** No

ccsales

Home Profile Observations Edit Observations Calendar IDs Lists Journal

Favorites Projects

All Updates Your Content Following Real Time Discussions

+ Add Observations

Let's Get Started by Posting Some Observations

Need inspiration? Here's some organisms being observed nearby...

Red-tailed Hawk

White-crowned Sparrow

Western Fence Lizard

House Finch

Get outside, and observe an individual organism. Pick something wild and take a clear, full frame photo. If you already have a photo of something wild, [add it now](#). You can also use the iNaturalist mobile apps to record observations.

Forum

One on One Help Needed 01:54 PM 1

Download a photo 01:38 PM 9

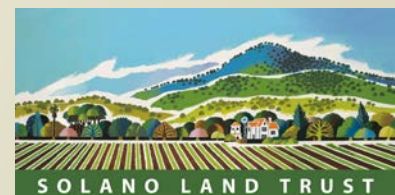
Scientific name changes 01:07 PM 2

Multiple observations from the same time and the same place 01:06 PM 5

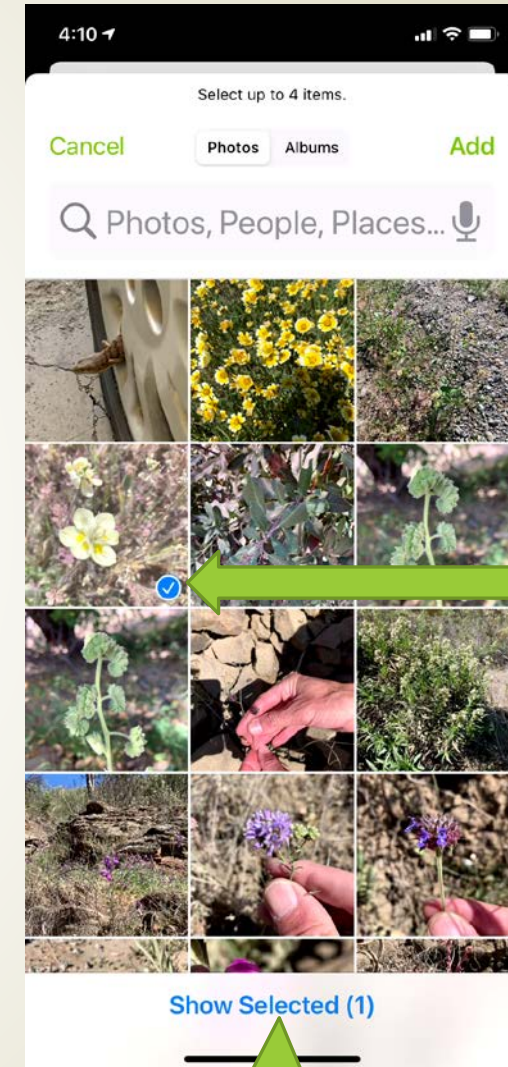
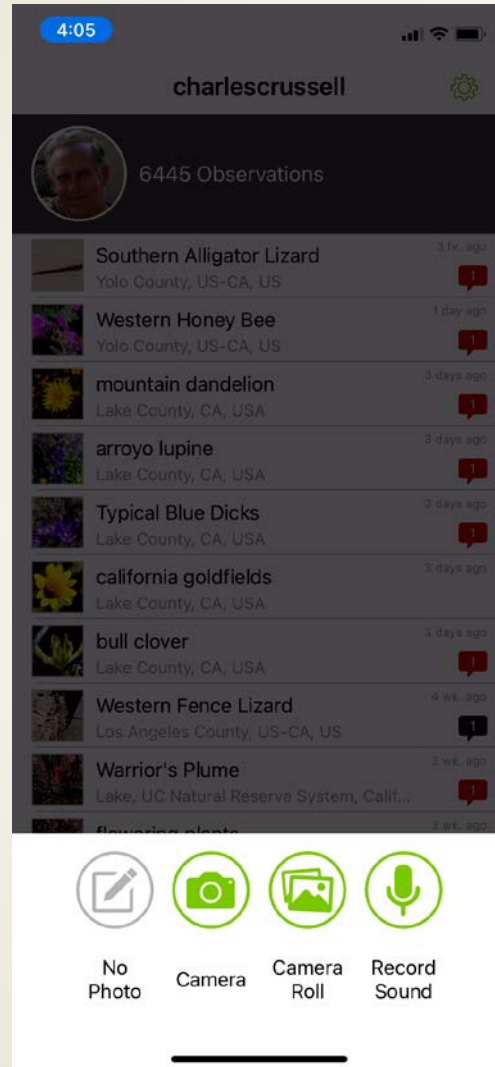
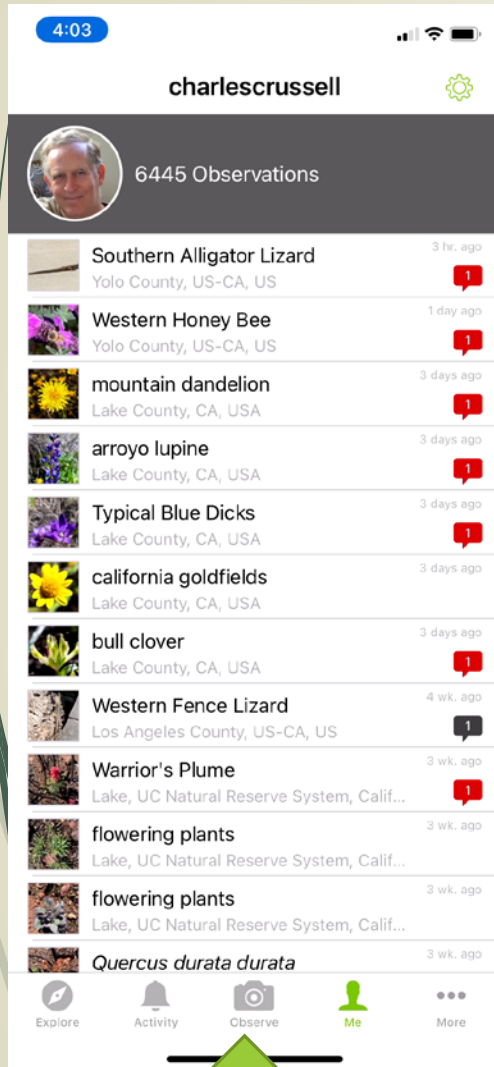
A rapid vegetation survey technique 12:28 PM 2

Crayfish burrows erroneously identified to species 06:59 AM 2

- Update your profile
- Download the iOS or Android app
- Add observations!

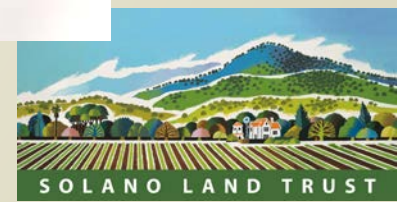


Add an observation (from the app)

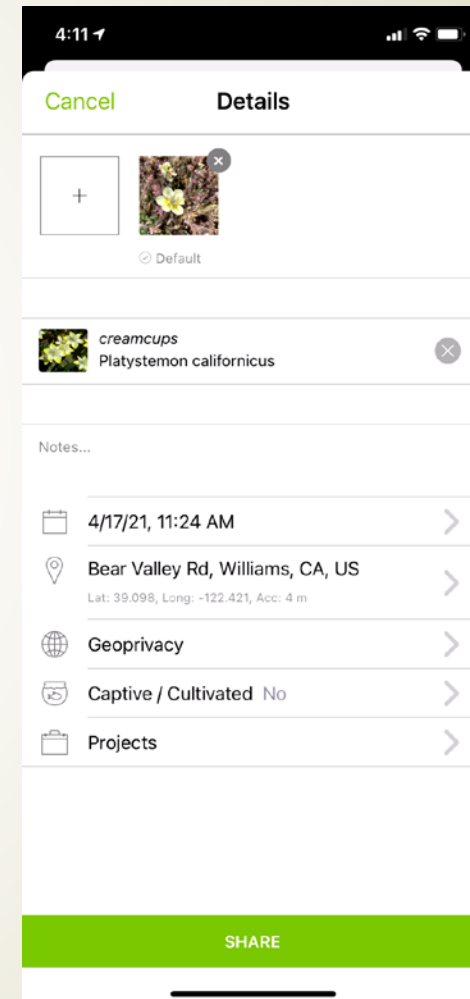
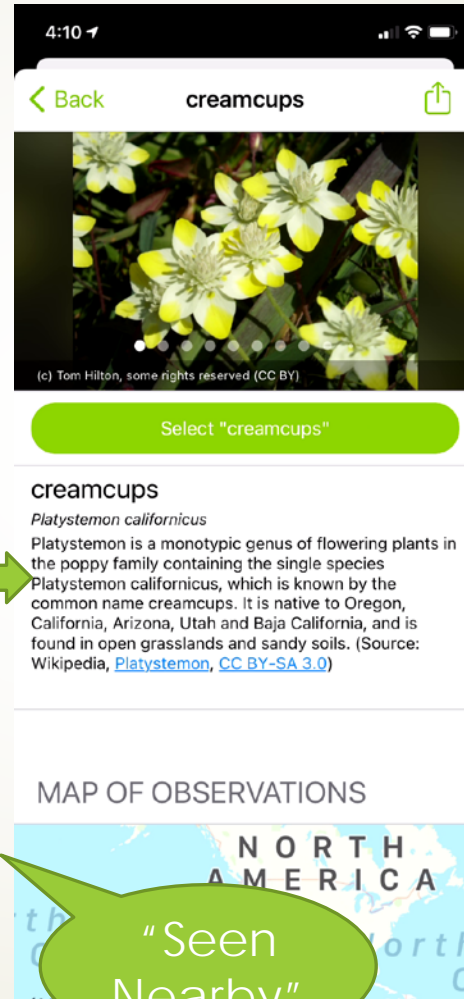
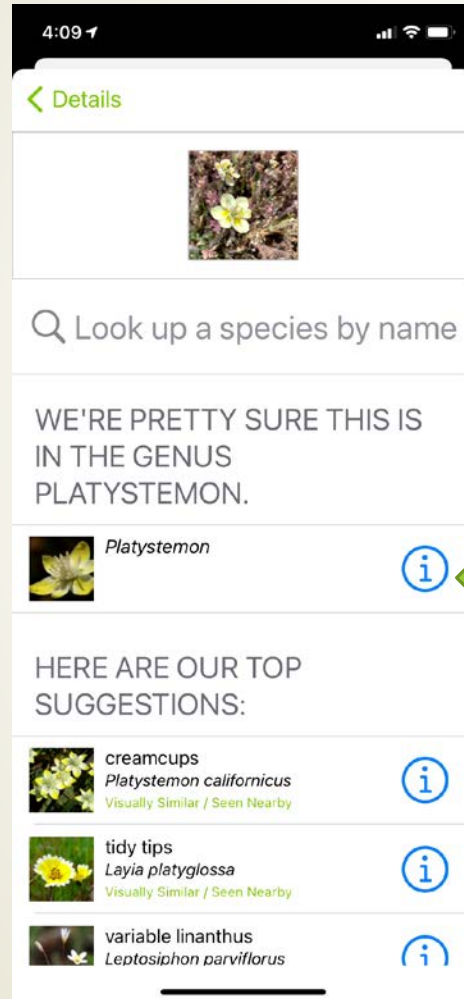
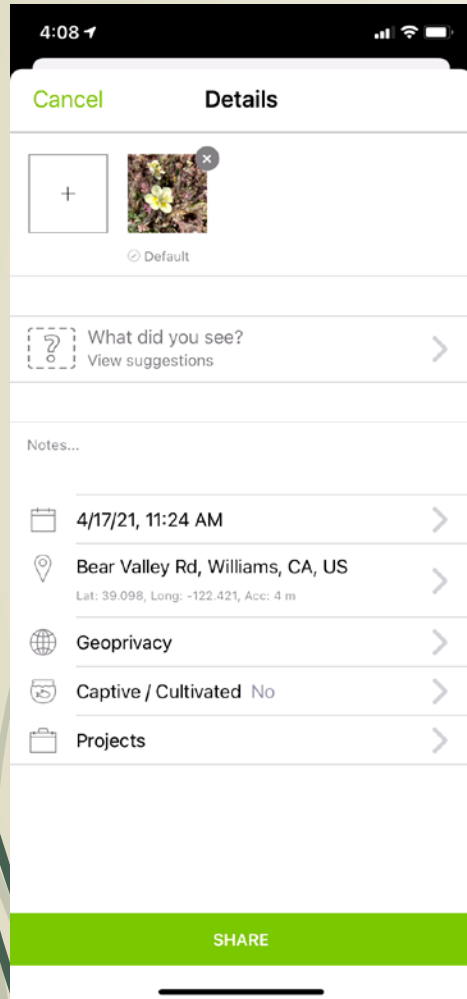


Camera

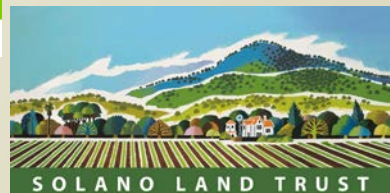
Camera Roll



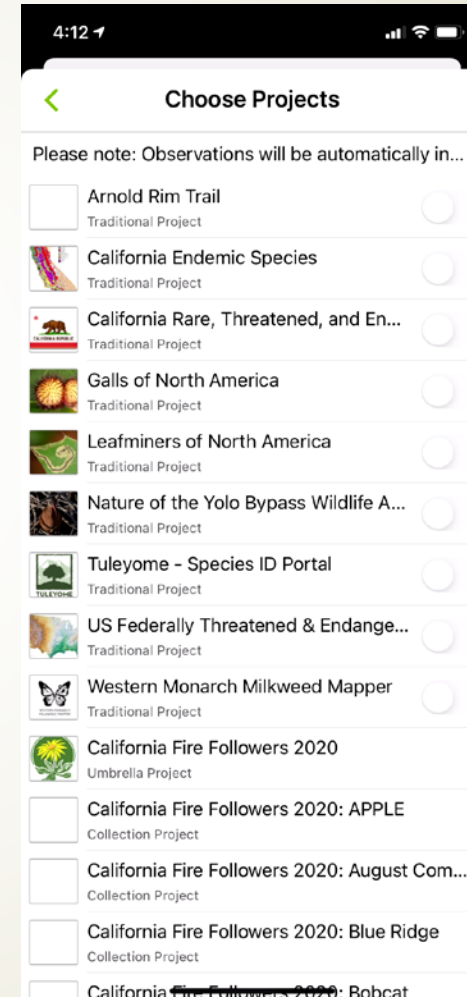
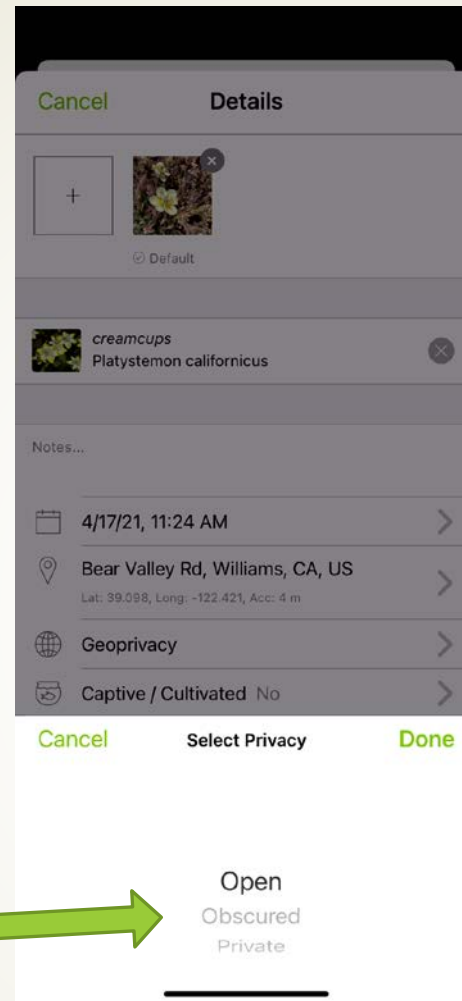
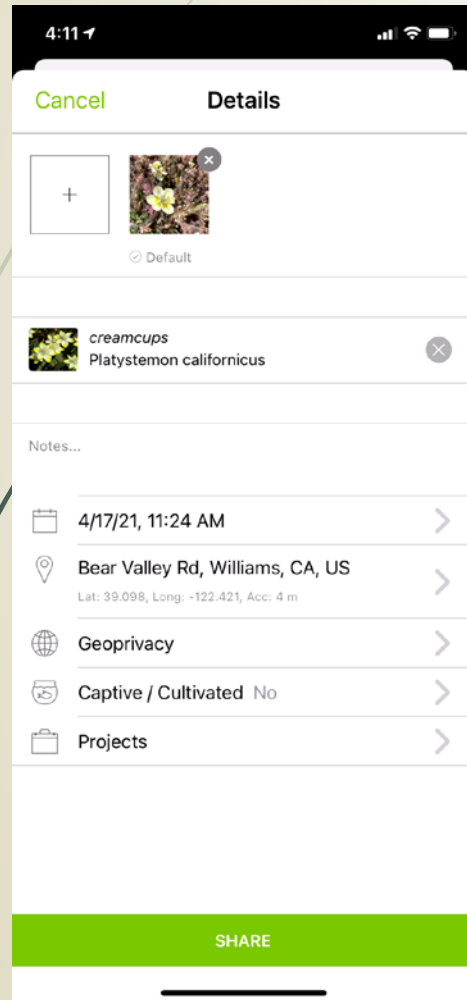
Identify



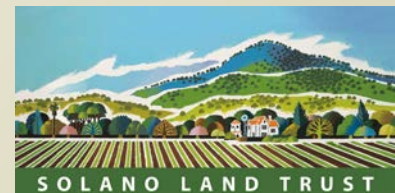
- Date from photo
- Location from photo GPS
- Geoprivacy



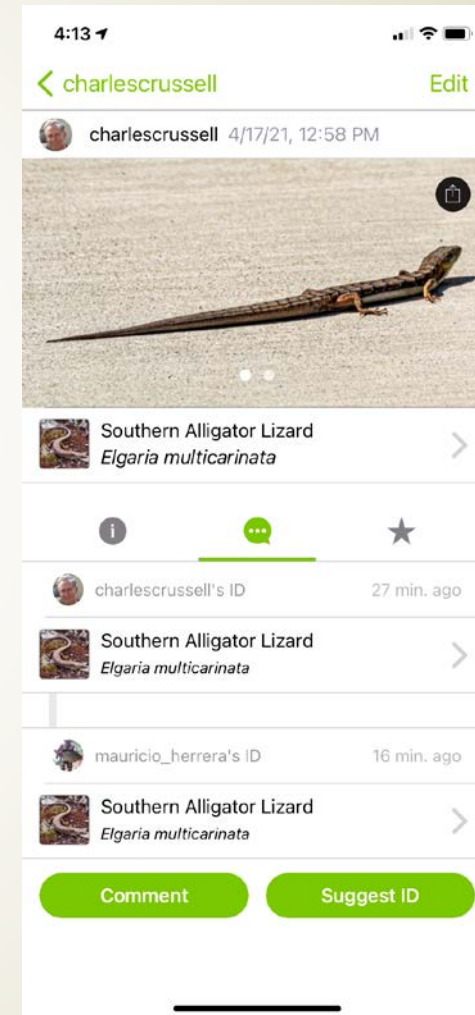
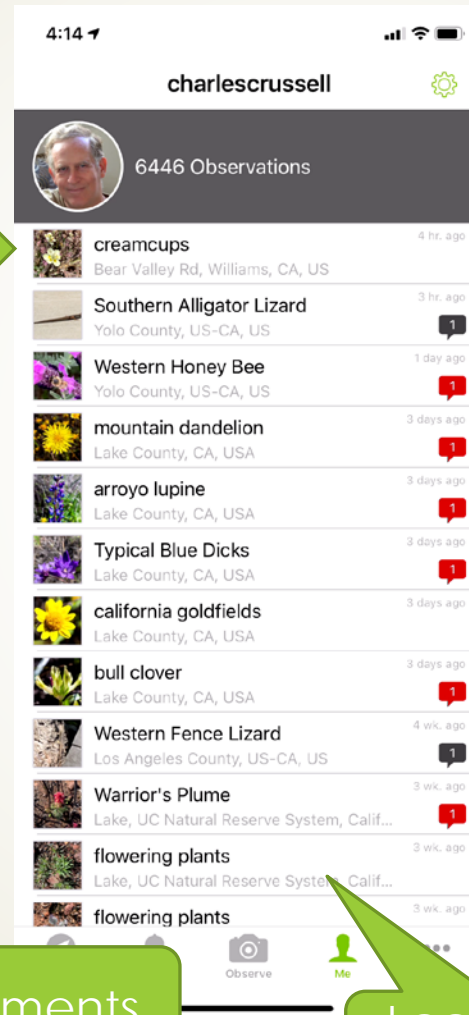
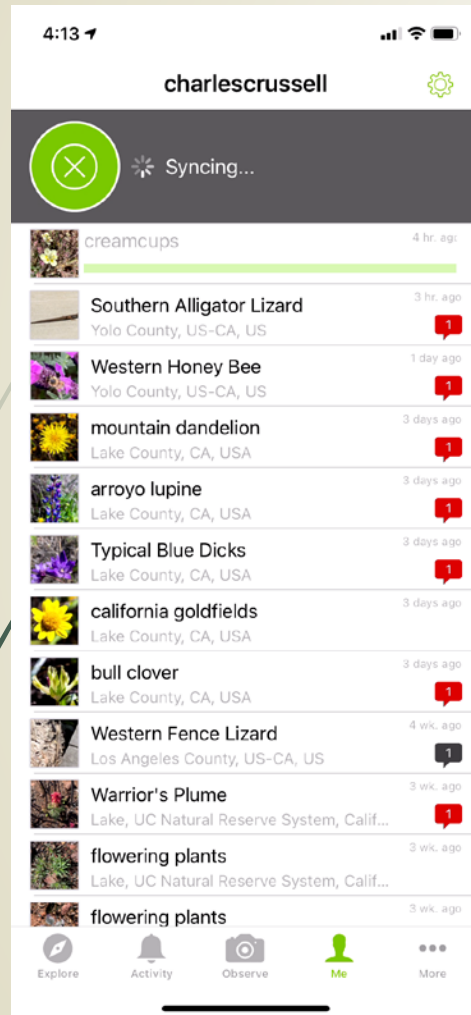
Modify



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



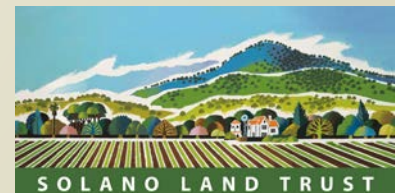
Post observation



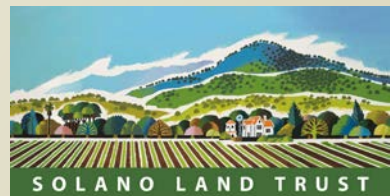
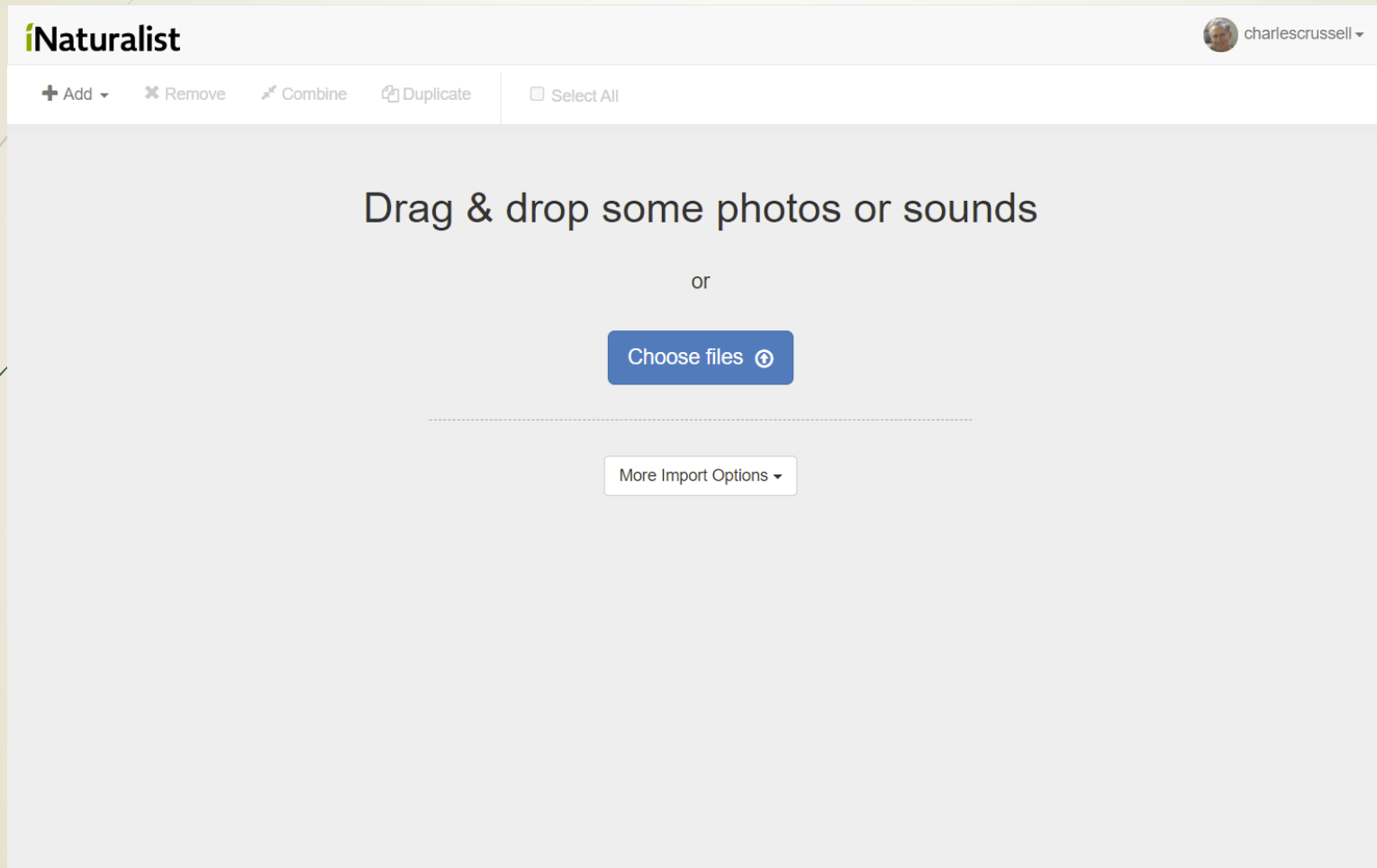
Comments

Looking for help

Comments within 11 minutes



Add Observations from Browser



You can add multiple observations

iNaturalist charlescussell

+ Add - Remove Combine Duplicate Select All Submit 9 observations

Editing 9 observations:

Details

Species name

Edit Multiple Dates

Edit Multiple Locations

Edit Multiple Notes

Location is public

☐ Captive / Cultivated


Tags 5


Projects


Fields


You can update multiple photos here


Combine these 3 to 1 observation by drag/drop


Observation 1:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/16 1:01 PM PDT Location: [] Notes: []


Observation 2:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 12:58 PM PD Location: Covell Park, Davis, CA 95 Notes: []


Observation 3:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 2:00 PM PDT Location: Covell Park, Davis, CA 95 Notes: []


Observation 4:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 12:20 PM PD Location: [] Notes: []

Observation 5:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 12:20 PM PD Location: [] Notes: []

Observation 6:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 12:21 PM PD Location: [] Notes: []

Observation 7:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 11:24 AM PD Location: Colusa County, CA, USA Notes: []

Observation 8:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/17 10:44 AM PD Location: [] Notes: Streptanthus glandulosus ssp. glandulosus

Observation 9:  Species name: [] Date: 2021/04/14 3:30 PM PDT Location: [] Notes: Sickie leaf onion, Allium falcifolium

+ Add ▾ × Remove ✂ Combine 📄 Duplicate □ Select All

Submit 6 observations

Editing 1 observation:

✎ Details ▾

🔍 Species name

📅 2021/04/17 11:24 AM PDT

📍 Colusa County, CA, USA

Notes

Location is public ▾

☐ Captive / Cultivated

🏷 Tags ▾

📁 Projects ▾

📋 Fields ▾



📷 Flatface Calicoflower 🔄

📅 2021/04/16 1:01 PM PDT

📍 Location

Notes



1/2

📷 Southern Alligator Lizard 🔄

📅 2021/04/17 12:58 PM PDT

📍 Covell Park, Davis, CA 95

Notes



1/3

📷 California Goldfields 🔄

📅 2021/04/17 12:20 PM PDT

📍 Location

Notes



🔍 Species name

📅 We're pretty sure this is in the genus: PD'

📷 **Platystemon** Genus View

📍 Here are our top suggestions: sp.

📷 **Creamcups**
Platystemon californicus
Visually Similar / Seen Nearby View

📷 **Tidy Tips**
Layia platyglossa
Visually Similar / Seen Nearby View

📷 **Variable Linanthus**
Leptosiphon parviflorus
Visually Similar / Seen Nearby View

📷 **Chick Lupine**
Lupinus microcarpus
Visually Similar / Seen Nearby View

📷 **Fragrant Fritillary**
Fritillaria liliacea
Visually Similar / Seen Nearby View

Include suggestions not seen nearby



📷 Bristly Jewelflower 🔄



📷 Scytheleaf Onion 🔄

📅 2021/04/14 3:30 PM PDT

📍 Location

Sickle leaf onion, Allium falcifolium


Several
photos
combined

ID selection
similar to the app

View your observations online











iNaturalist

Explore Your Observations Community More


 **Edit Observations**

Home Observations Edit Observations Calendar Favorites Lists Journal IDs Projects Profile

[Add Observations](#) [Batch edit](#) [Search](#)

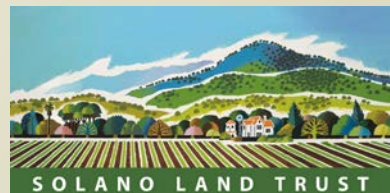
Photos / Sounds	Species / Taxon Name	Date observed	Place	Date Added	
 	Creamcups <i>Platystemon californicus</i>	April 17, 2021 11:24 AM PDT	Bear Valley Rd, Williams, CA, US (Google, OSM)	April 17, 2021 04:12 PM PDT	Needs ID Edit View »
  2 photos »	Southern Alligator Lizard <i>Elgaria multicarinata</i>	April 17, 2021 12:58 PM PDT	Covell Park, Davis, CA 95616, USA (Google, OSM)	April 17, 2021 03:45 PM PDT	1 ID Research Grade Edit View »
 	Western Honey Bee <i>Apis mellifera</i>	April 15, 2021 07:23 PM PDT	Equador Pl, Davis, CA, US (Google, OSM)	April 15, 2021 07:24 PM PDT	1 ID Research Grade Edit View »
  3 photos »	Mountain Dandelion <i>Agoseris heterophylla</i>	April 14, 2021 10:19 AM PDT	Lake County, CA, USA (Google, OSM)	April 15, 2021 06:25 PM PDT	1 ID Research Grade Edit View »
 	Arroyo Lupine <i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	April 14, 2021 10:15 AM PDT	Lake County, CA, USA (Google, OSM)	April 15, 2021 06:25 PM PDT	1 ID Research Grade Edit View »

Map Satellite



Google [Map Data](#) 100 km [Terms of Use](#)

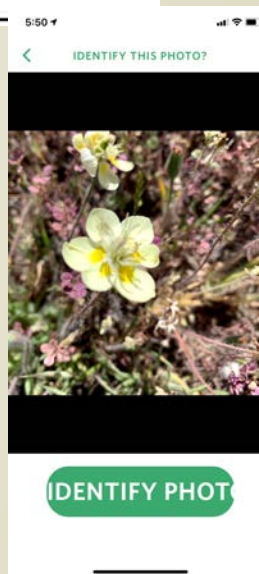
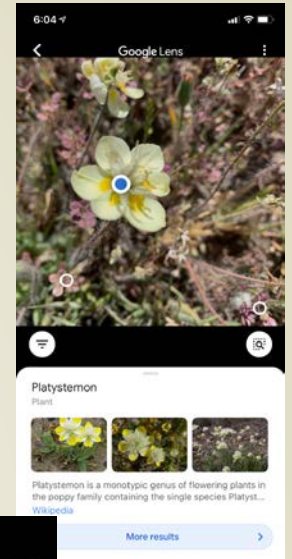
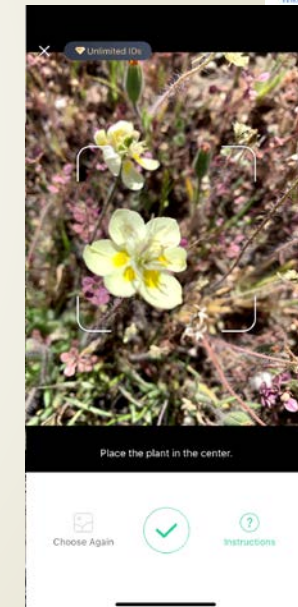
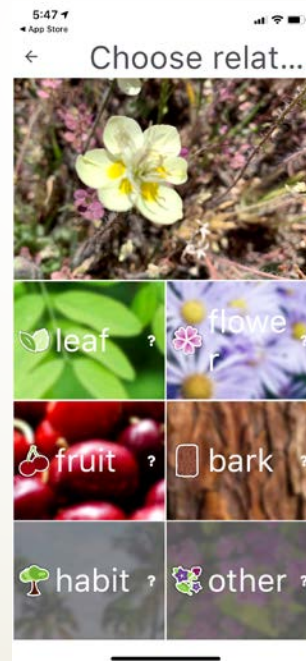
Redo search in map area



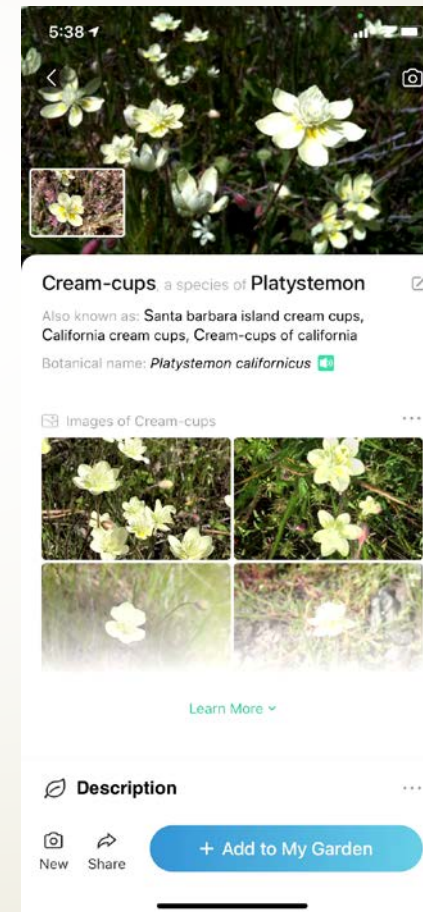
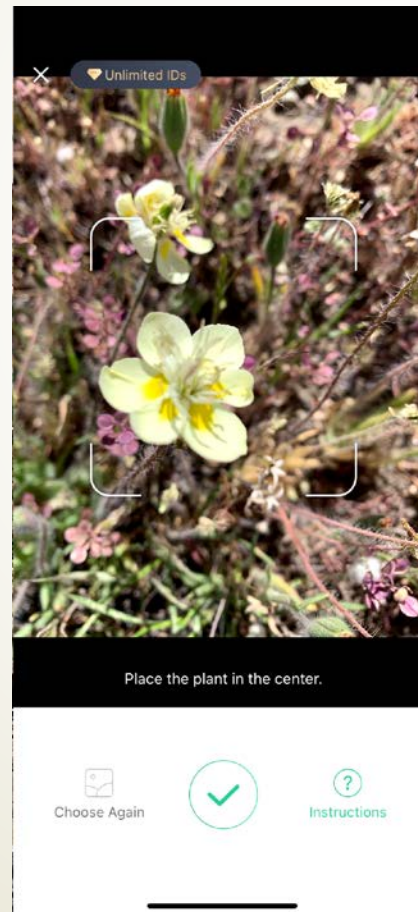
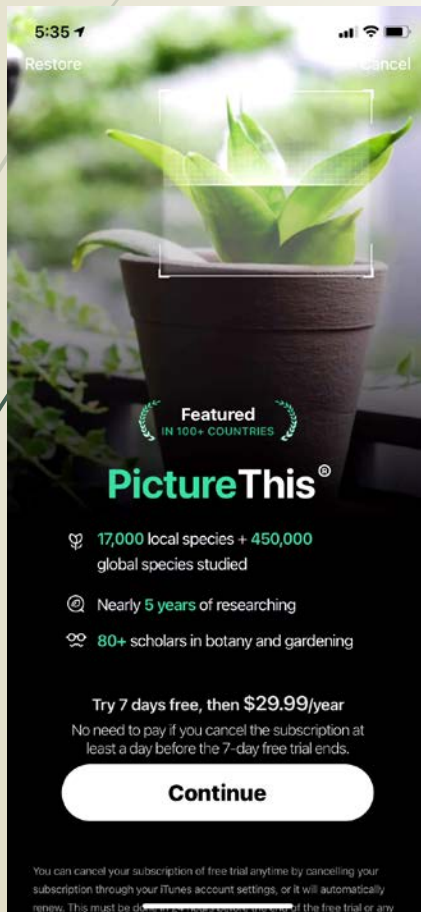
Other ID Apps

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

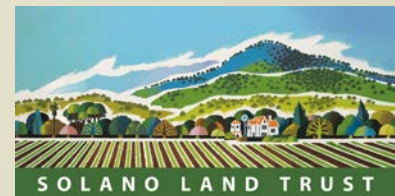
- PictureThis
- PlantSnap
- PlantNet
- Seek by iNaturalist
- Google Lens



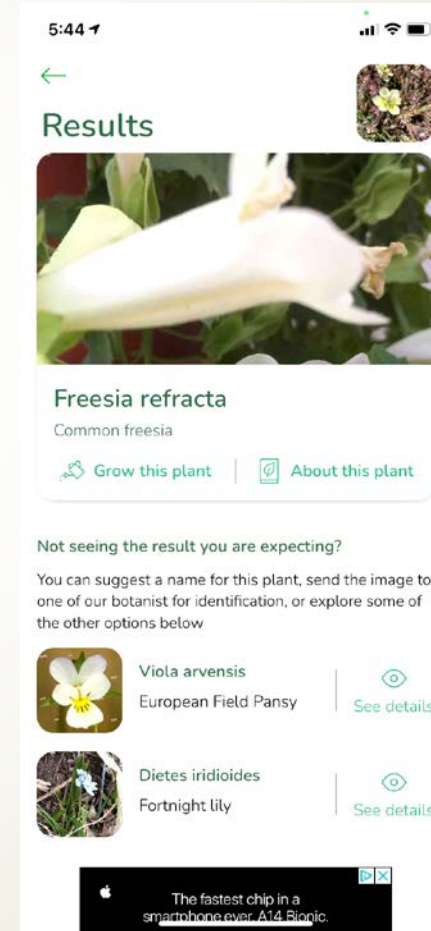
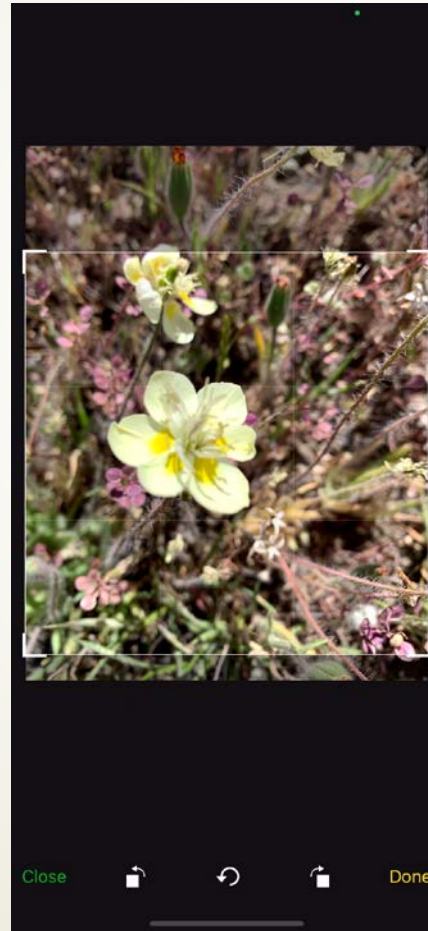
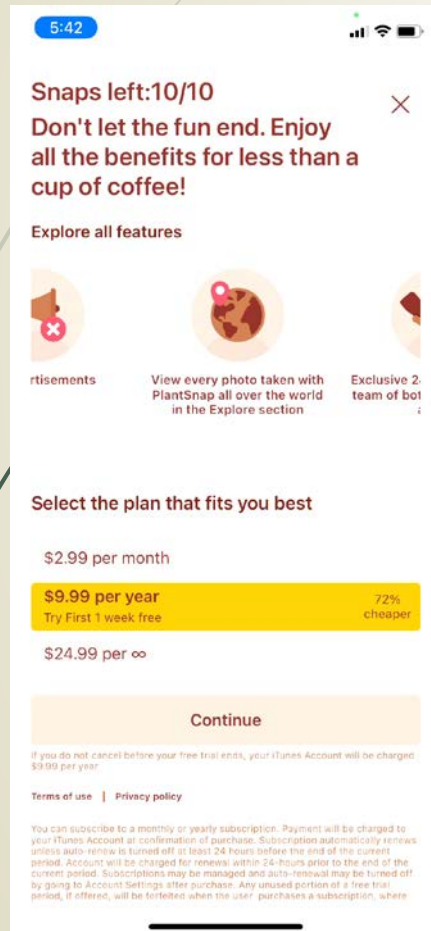
PictureThis



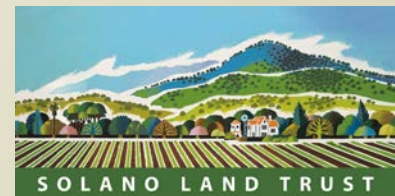
- Free version limits # of ID per day
- Subscription \$29.99/year
- Plants only
- Pretty good ID to species
- Limited crowdsourcing
- Limited research capabilities



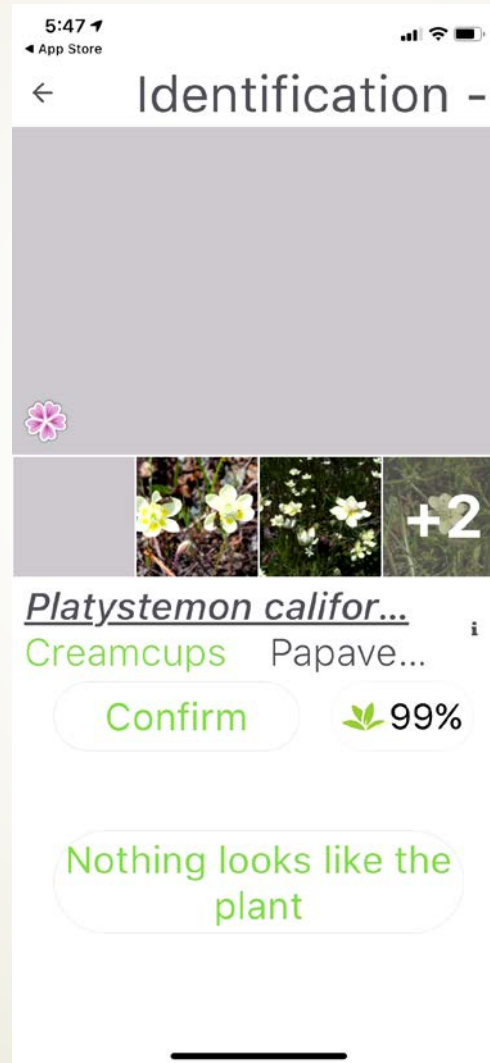
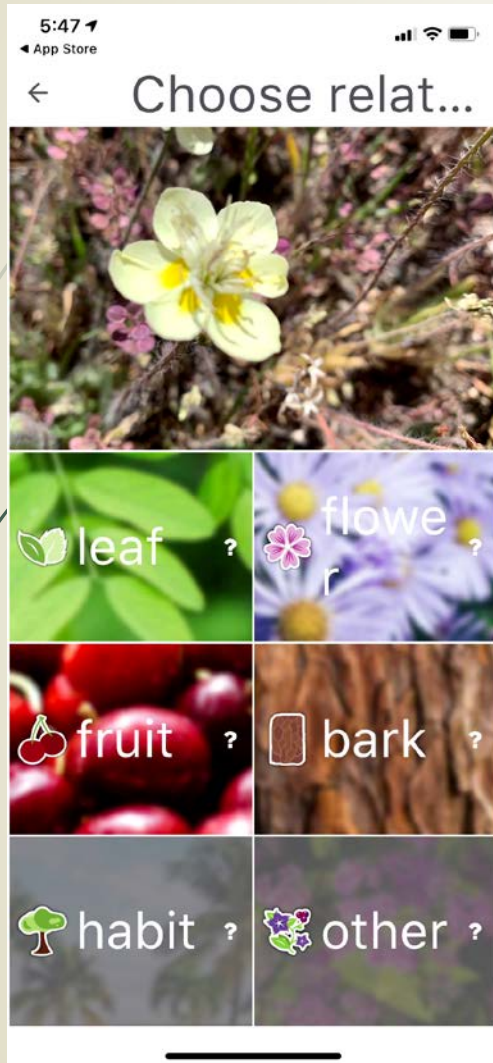
PlantSnap



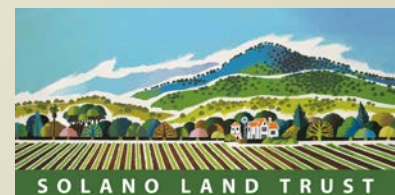
- Free version limited and has ads
- \$24.99/year
- Plants only
- To species, but when it is wrong, it is VERY wrong



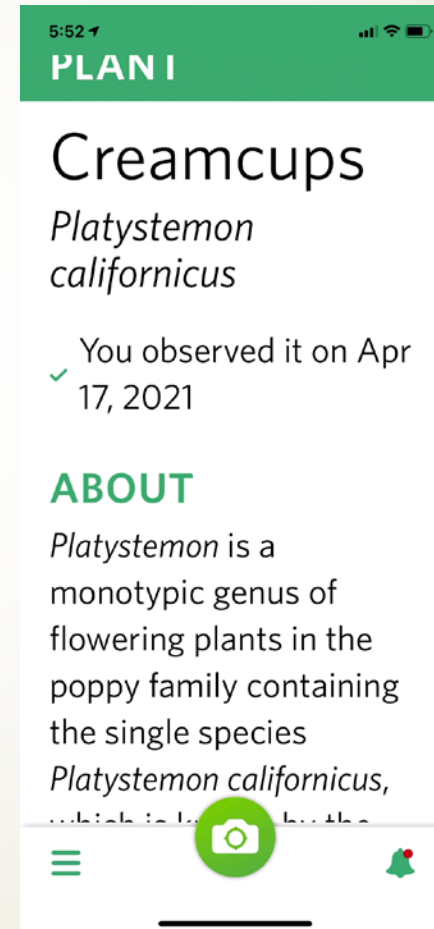
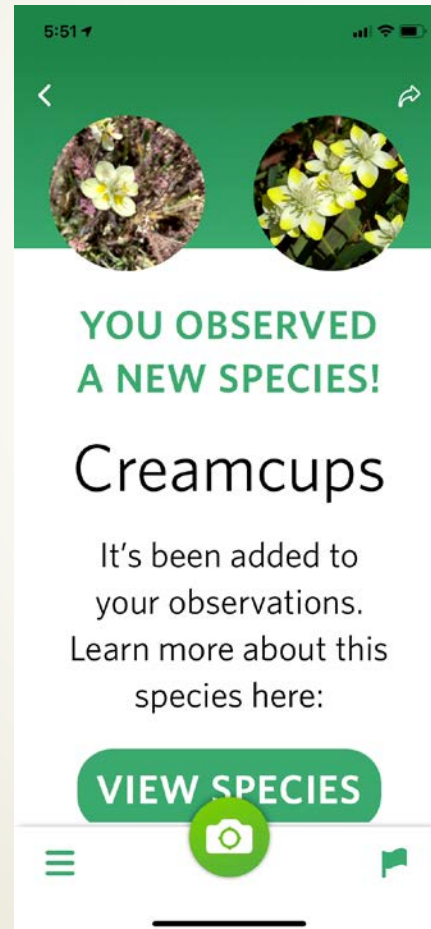
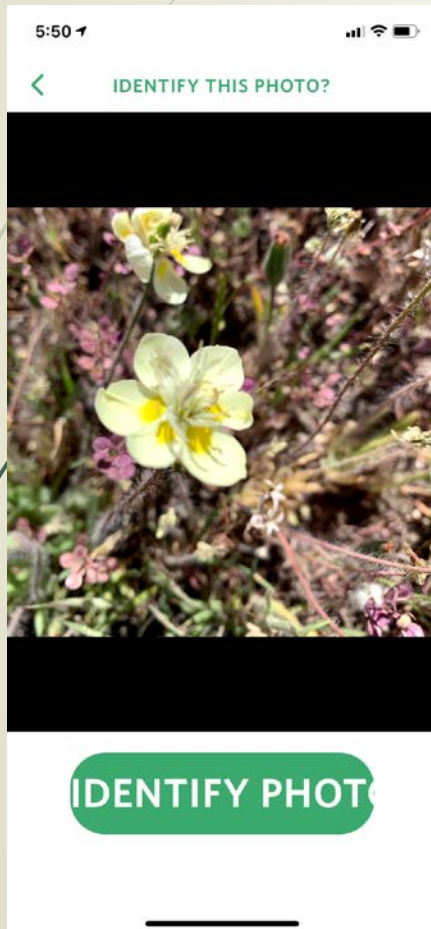
PlantNet



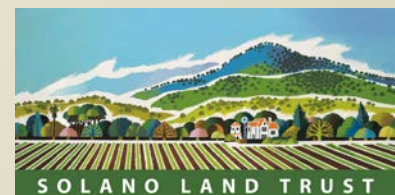
- Plants only
- Pretty good, but when wrong is horribly wrong
- Sometimes has outdated nomenclature
- Free
- Collaborative



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

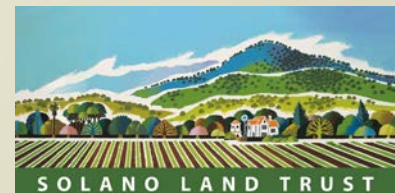
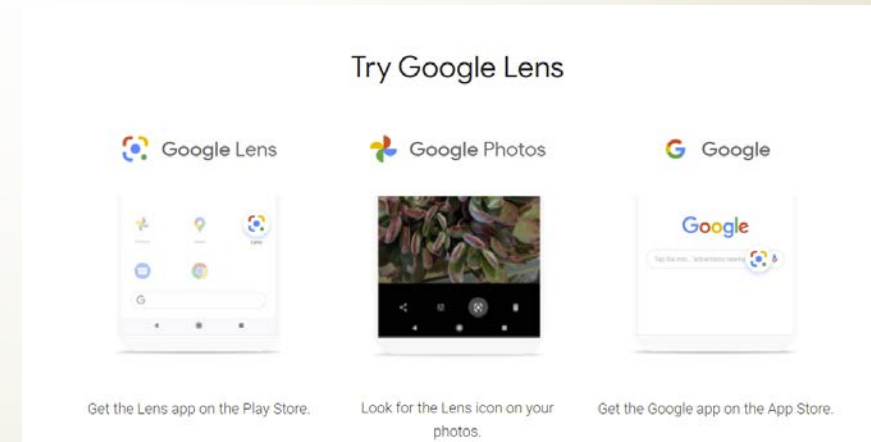
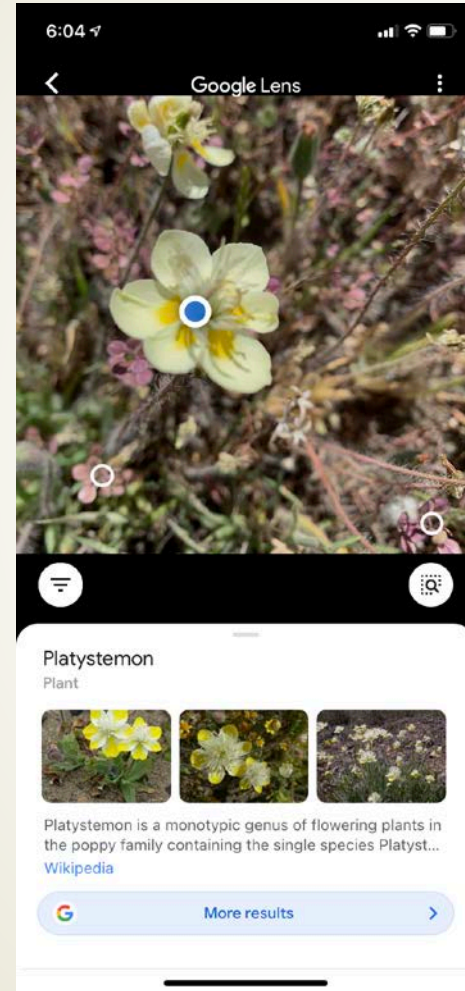


Google Lens


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




Google Photos on iOS



Detailed info on any observation

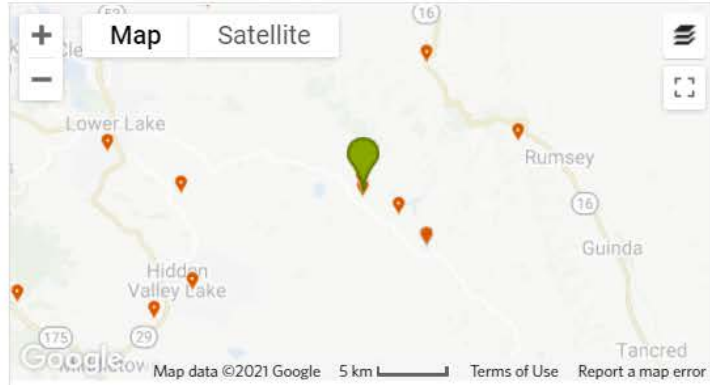


© ⓘ



Observed:
May 22, 2019 · 5:35 PM PDT

Submitted:
May 24, 2019 · 7:51 AM PDT




95457, Lower Lake, CA, US


Lat: 38.865637 Lon: -122.403228 Accuracy: 5m Geoprivacy: Open

Encompassing Places

Standard:	Community Curated:
North America (Continent)	Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument BLM (Open space)
United States (Country)	McLaughlin Reserve Region (Region)
California, US (State)	North Coast Range Eastern Slopes, CA, US (Region)
Lake County, US, CA (County)	NorCal Central Valley (Unknown)

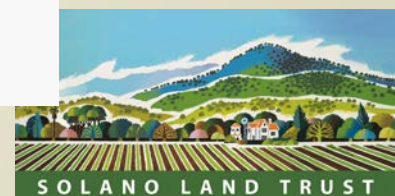
Activity

 aigner suggested an ID 🏆 Improving



Superb Mariposa Lily
Calochortus superbus

⚖️ Compare



Your observations by date

iNaturalist Search Explore Your Observations Community More

« Back to your calendar

Observations by you

2 taxa

1 plant 1 rept

Grid List Map

Creamcups *Platystemon californicus*
Observer charlescussell
Date April 17, 2021 11:24 AM
Place Bear Valley Rd, William
Needs ID View »

Southern Alligator Lizard
Observer charlescussell
Date April 17, 2021 12:58 PM
Place Covell Park, Davis, CA
1 ID | Research Grade View »

Observations by you on April 11, 2021

26 taxa 1 mammal 25 plants

29 observations

Jepson Prairie Preserve, CA, US: 29
Solano County, US, CA: 29
UC Natural Reserve System, CA, US: 29
California, US: 29
United States: 29
North America: 29

Map Satellite

Jepson Prairie Preserve

Map

Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

8 9 10

15 16 17

22 23 24

29 30 1

About Our Blog
Help Community Guidelines
Forum

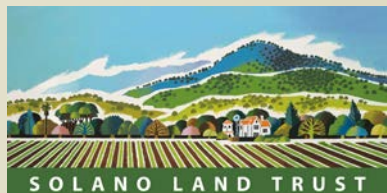
DONATE STORE

Google Play

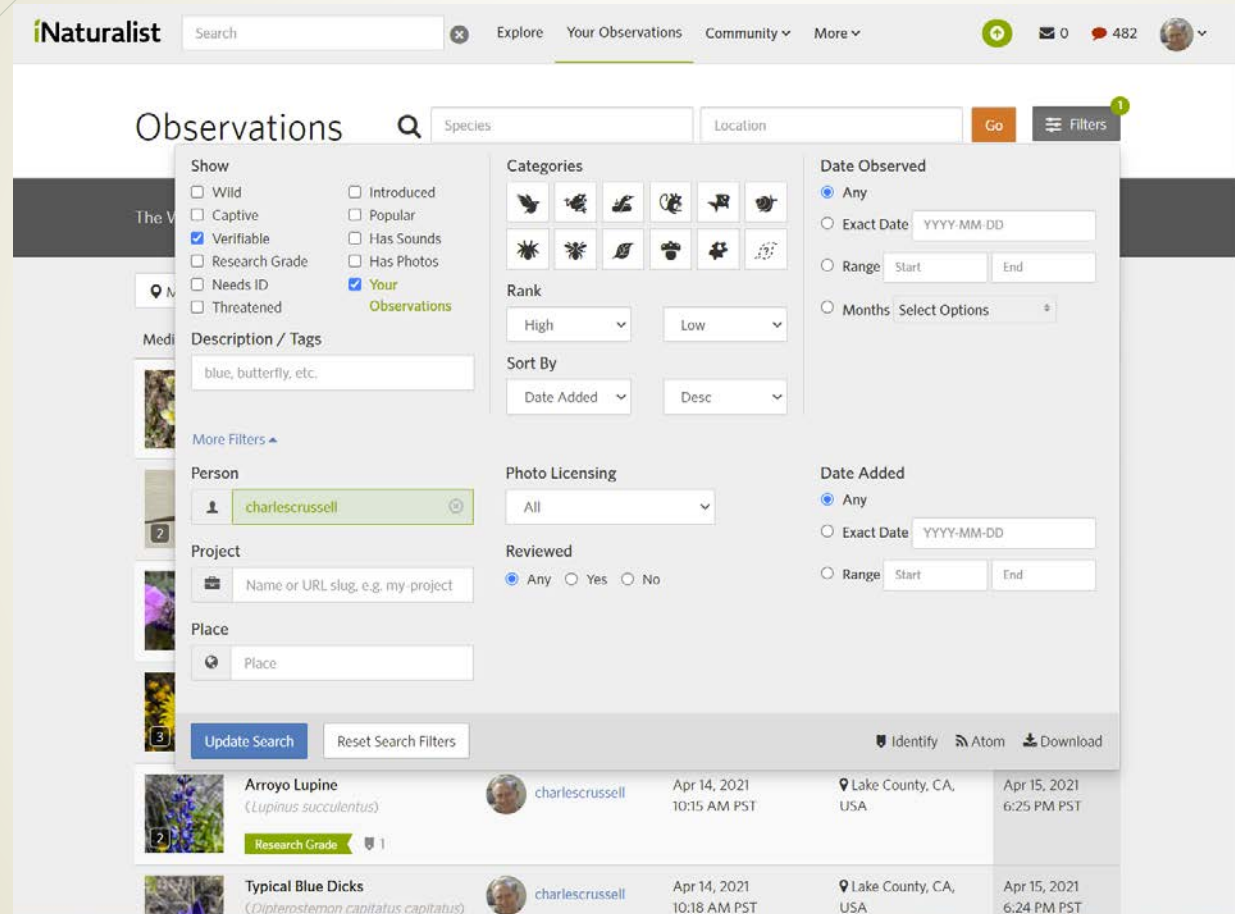
Download on the App Store

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC





Observations selected by various criteria

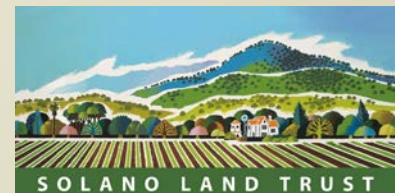


The screenshot shows the iNaturalist web interface. The top navigation bar includes the iNaturalist logo, a search bar, and links to Explore, Your Observations, Community, and More. The main heading is "Observations". Below it, there are search filters for Species and Location, a "Go" button, and a "Filters" button with a notification badge. A large filter overlay is open, showing various criteria:

- Show:** Wild, Captive, Verifiable (checked), Research Grade, Needs ID, Threatened, Introduced, Popular, Has Sounds, Has Photos, Your Observations (checked).
- Categories:** A grid of icons representing different taxonomic groups.
- Rank:** High, Low.
- Sort By:** Date Added, Desc.
- Date Observed:** Any (selected), Exact Date, Range, Months.
- Date Added:** Any (selected), Exact Date, Range.
- Photo Licensing:** All.
- Reviewed:** Any (selected), Yes, No.
- Person:** charlescrussell.
- Project:** Name or URL slug, e.g. my-project.
- Place:** Place.

At the bottom of the filter overlay are buttons for "Update Search" and "Reset Search Filters". Below the filter overlay, the first two observations are visible:

Image	Species	Observer	Date Observed	Location	Date Added
	Arroyo Lupine (<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>) Research Grade	charlescrussell	Apr 14, 2021 10:15 AM PST	Lake County, CA, USA	Apr 15, 2021 6:25 PM PST
	Typical Blue Dicks (<i>Dipterostemon capitatus capitatus</i>)	charlescrussell	Apr 14, 2021 10:18 AM PST	Lake County, CA, USA	Apr 15, 2021 6:24 PM PST



Community Input



Activity



cathy66 suggested an ID

Improving 2d



Valley Tassels
Castilleja attenuata

Compare



charlescrussell suggested an ID

2d



Valley Tassels
Castilleja attenuata



markegger commented

1d

Maybe, but did you consider *C. lineariloba*, which is common in that region? The corollas are a bit wider and more marked and spotted than is usual in *attenuata*. But the fairly narrow inflorescence and three-boded bracts point more to *C. attenuata*. I don't feel 100% in either direction, though I lean to *lineariloba*.



Activity



hanna1800 suggested an ID

ID Withdrawn 2d



Maroonspot Calicoflower
Downingia concolor



abcdefgwing suggested an ID*

Improving 2d



Downingia bicornuta
a member of Bellflower Family
(family Campanulaceae)

Compare Agree

* abcdefgwing disagrees this is Maroonspot Calicoflower (*Downingia concolor*)



charlescrussell suggested an ID

Improving 2d



Downingia bicornuta var. *bicornuta*
a member of Bellflower Family (family Campanulaceae)

Compare

Horns at throat, no blocky maroon spot



hanna1800 suggested an ID

1d



Downingia bicornuta var. *bicornuta*
a member of Bellflower Family (family Campanulaceae)



Activity



antrozousamella suggested an ID

Improving 16h



Mariposa Lilies
Genus *Calochortus*

Compare Agree



helianthelsa suggested an ID

Improving 5h



Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily
Calochortus leichtlinii

Compare



charlescrussell suggested an ID

2h



Leichtlin's Mariposa Lily
Calochortus leichtlinii



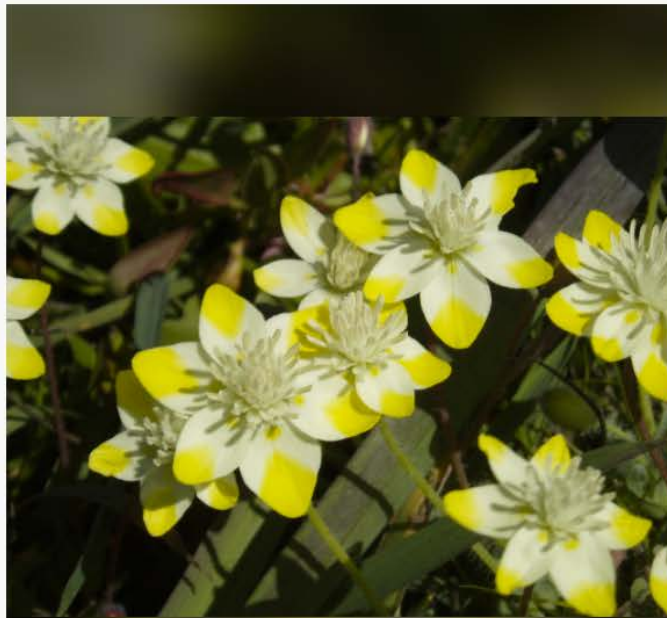
SOLANO LAND TRUST

Taxa Information Resource

Creamcups (*Platystemon californicus*)

United States

Native to United States (Source List: [United States Check List](#))



[View More](#)

TOP OBSERVER



efmer

[Leaderboard](#)

75

TOP IDENTIFIER



catchang

[Leaderboard](#)

449

LAST OBSERVATION



April 17, 2021

[View Observation](#)

TOTAL OBSERVATIONS



2,496

[View All](#)

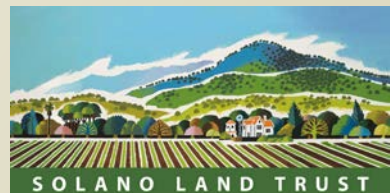
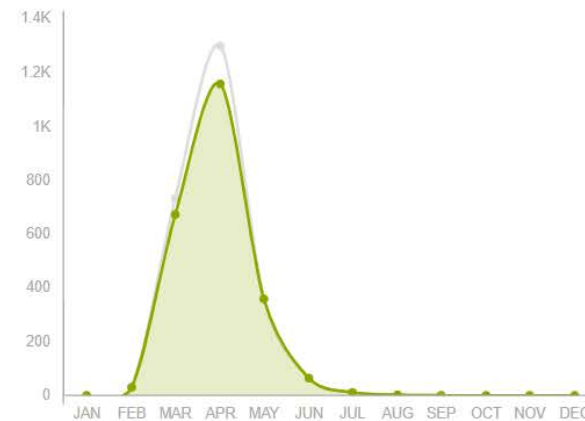
[Yours](#)

Seasonality

History

Sex

Plant Phenology



Projects



Most Observations

aigner

1,074



apddarn

460



charlescrussell

335



amidaverhey

322



naturecandids

270



kjanicki93

200

[View All](#)

[View Yours](#)



Most Species

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

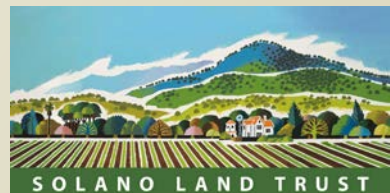
42

[View All](#)

[View Yours](#)

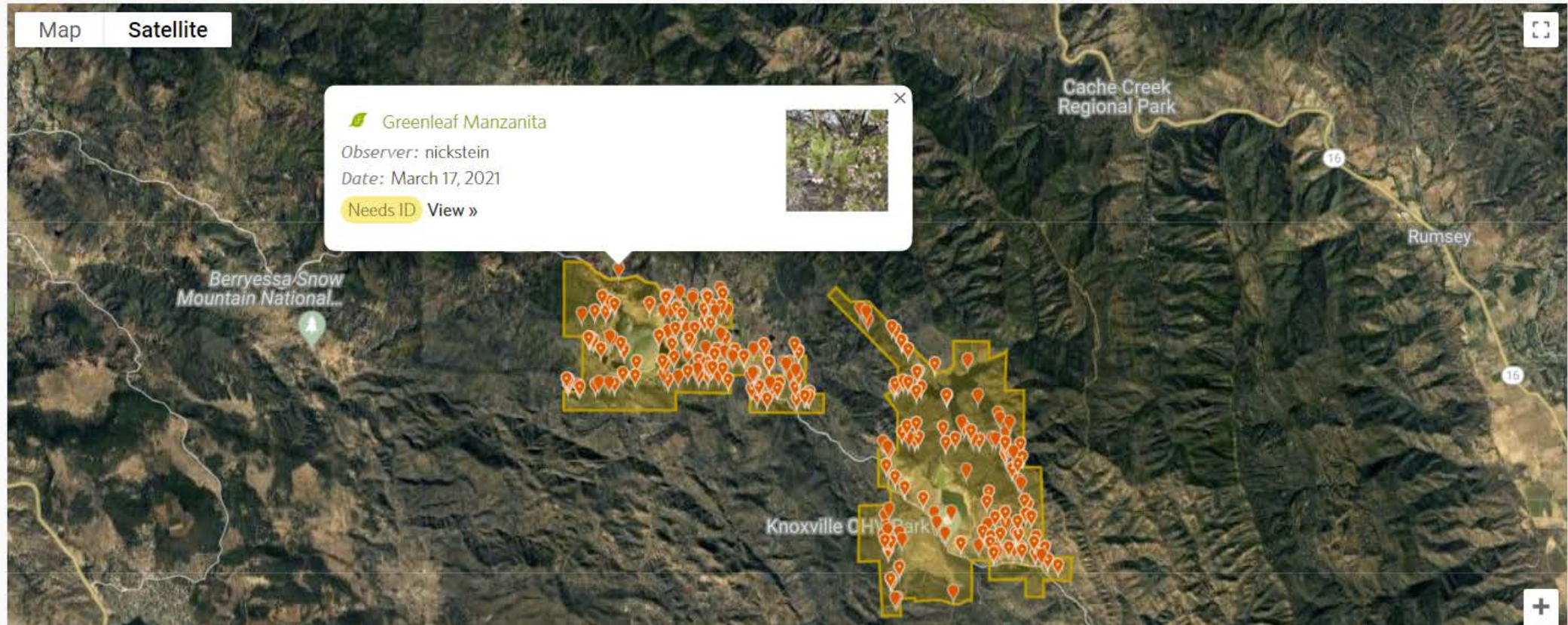


This project is designed to help scientists gather inform...




Observation mapping

Map of Observations



Observation Mapping w/Criteria

Observations



Go

Filters

Bounding Box

31
OBSERVATIONS

5
SPECIES

17
IDENTIFIERS

17
OBSERVERS


Map
 Grid
 List

 Places of Interest


+

-


Map Legend ▲




Superb Mariposa Lily
(*Calochortus superbus*)
95457, Lower Lake,... • May 22, 2019
Research Grade 1




Mariposa Lilies
(Genus *Calochortus*)
Napa County, CA, U... • Apr 23, 2015
Research Grade 2 2 ★ 1




Coast Range Mariposa Lily
(*Calochortus vestae*)
UC Natural Reserve... • Jun 4, 2020
Research Grade 1



Yellow Mariposa Lily
(*Calochortus luteus*)
Napa, CA, US • May 21, 2020
Research Grade 2



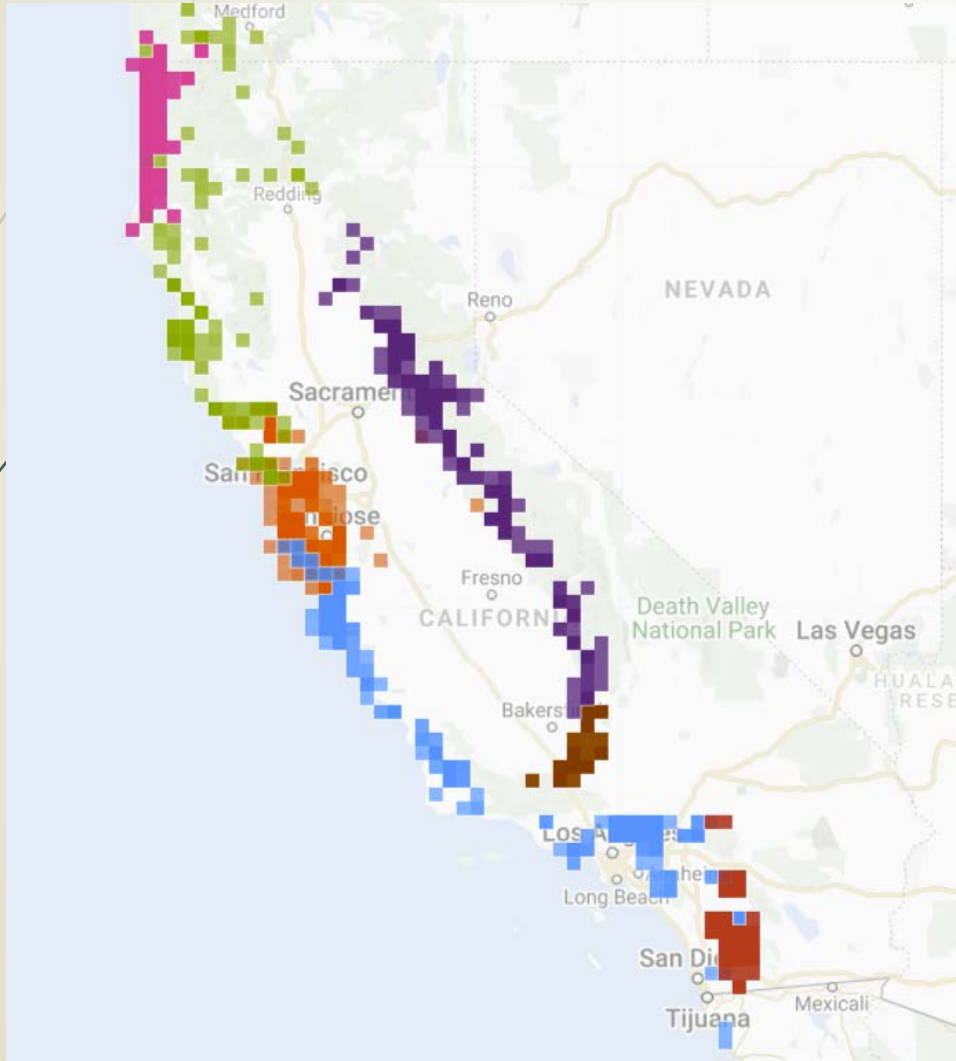
Coast Range Mariposa Lily
(*Calochortus vestae*)
California, US • May 21, 2020
Research Grade 2



Diogenes' Lantern



Advanced Mapping Tools



Ensatina salamander
subspecies
distribution map

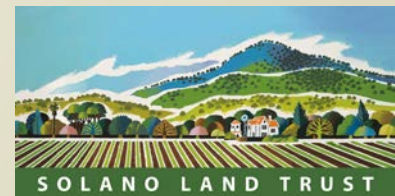
City Nature Challenge 2021

**City Nature
Challenge 2021**

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April 30- May 3
2021



iNaturalist



- Phone app and website for ID'ing plants **and** animals
- 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

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@charlescrussell (iNaturalist)
<https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaWildflowerHikes>
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