

National Parks BioBlitz iNaturalist Training Materials How to add an Observation

1. [“Add an Observation” in Android mobile application](#)
 - a. [If you know/can identify the species you’re recording:](#)
 - b. [If you do not know/ cannot identify the species you’re recording:](#)
2. [“Add an Observation” in iOS mobile application](#)
 - a. [If you know/can identify the species you’re recording:](#)
 - b. [If you do not know/ cannot identify the species you’re recording:](#)
3. [“Add an Observation” on www.inaturalist.org website](#)
 - a. [If you know the species you’re recording:](#)
 - b. [If you do not know the species you’re recording:](#)

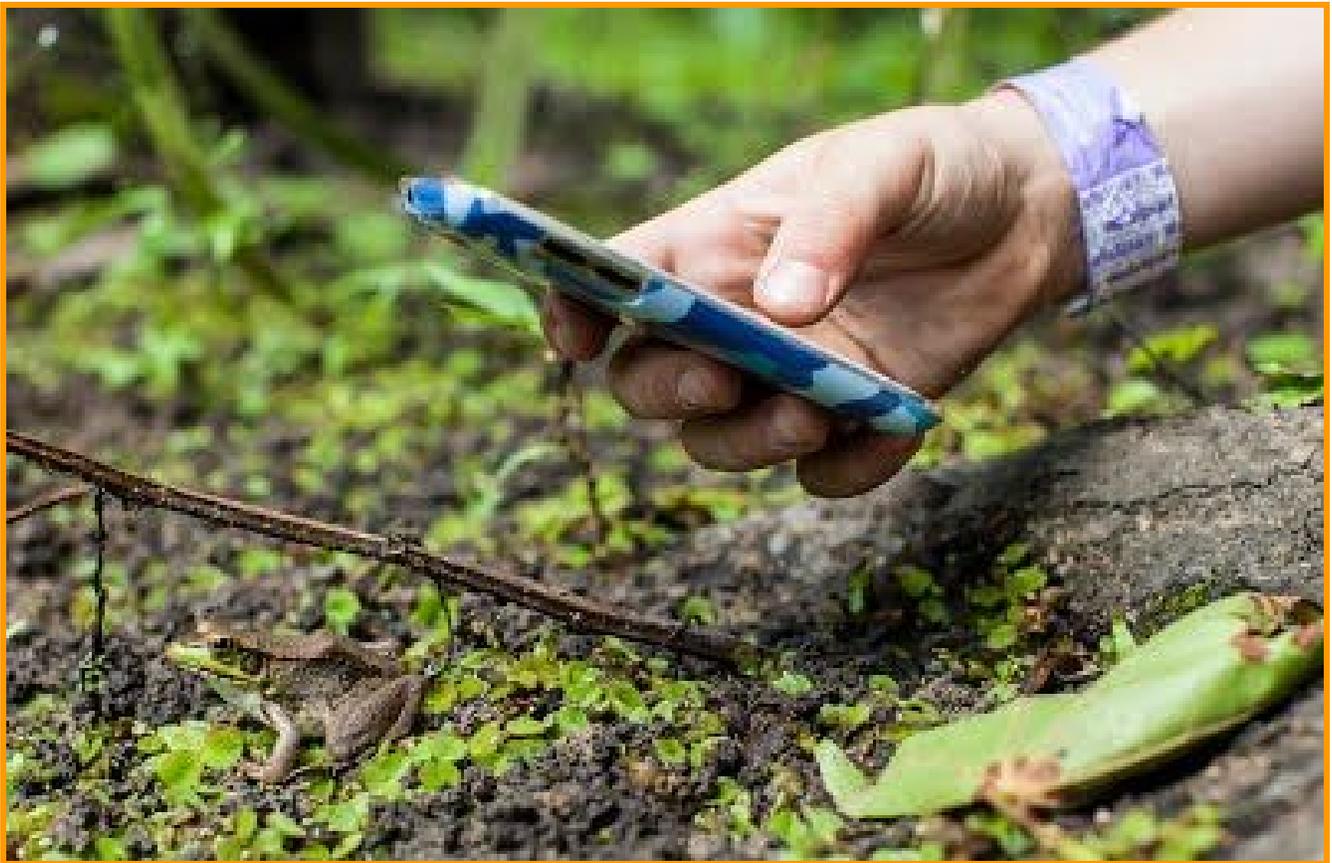
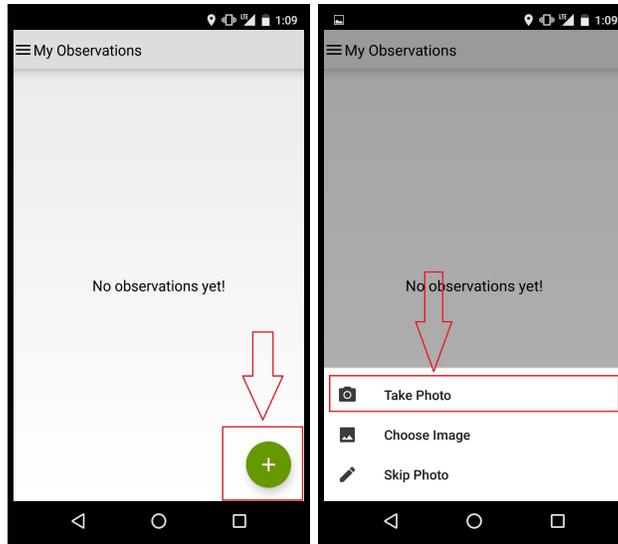


Photo by: Karine Aigner, National Geographic Society, 2013 BioBlitz at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Check out these [FAQs](#) and [“Getting Started”](#) pages on www.inaturalist.org for more guidance!

1. “Add an Observation” in Android mobile application

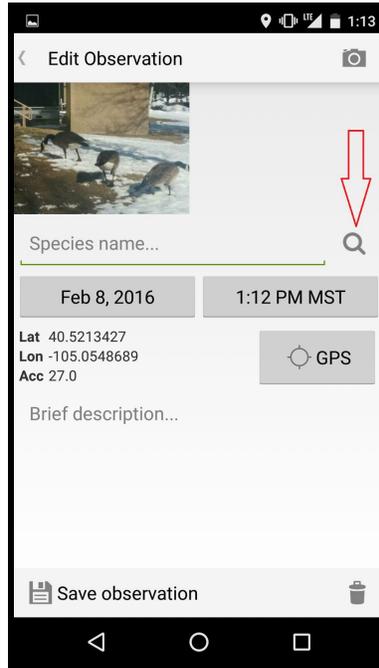
Open iNaturalist and select the green “+” sign in the lower-right corner.
Select “Take Photo”.



Take a photo that shows identifying details of species you’re observing.
When you get a quality photo accept it and continue by clicking the blue checkmark on the right hand side of the screen.

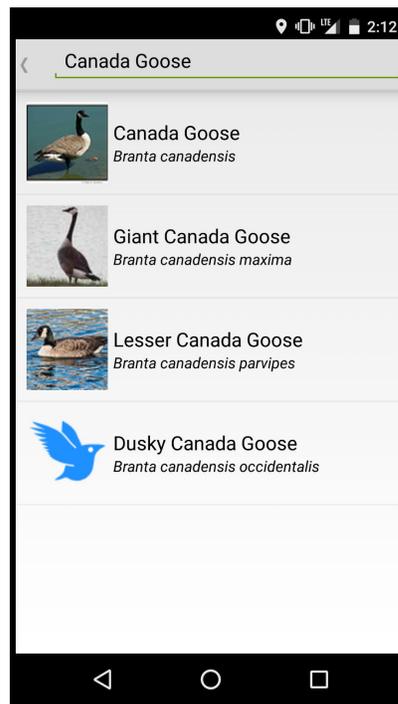


To enter a species name for the observation click on the magnifying glass icon on the right hand side of the screen.

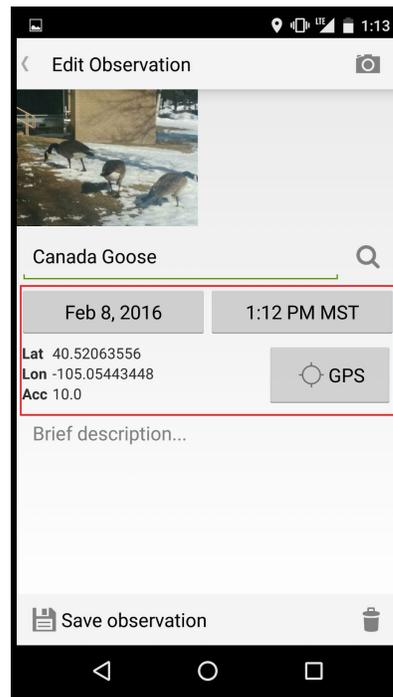


a. If you know/can identify the species you're recording:

Type the common or scientific name into the search bar at the top of the screen and select the appropriate tag from the drop down list.

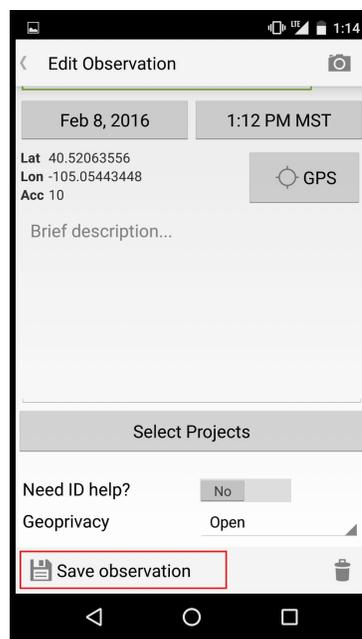


The date, time, and georeferenced location are updated automatically by your mobile device.



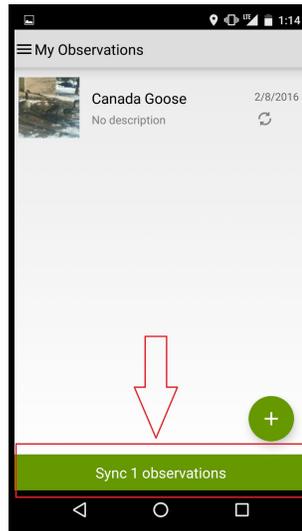
As you scroll down you can see areas to add more details if you choose to. Since you know the species name for the observation you can leave the “Need ID help?” selection as “No”.

Click “Save observation” at the bottom of the screen.



When you save your observation you will be taken back to your observations list/feed.

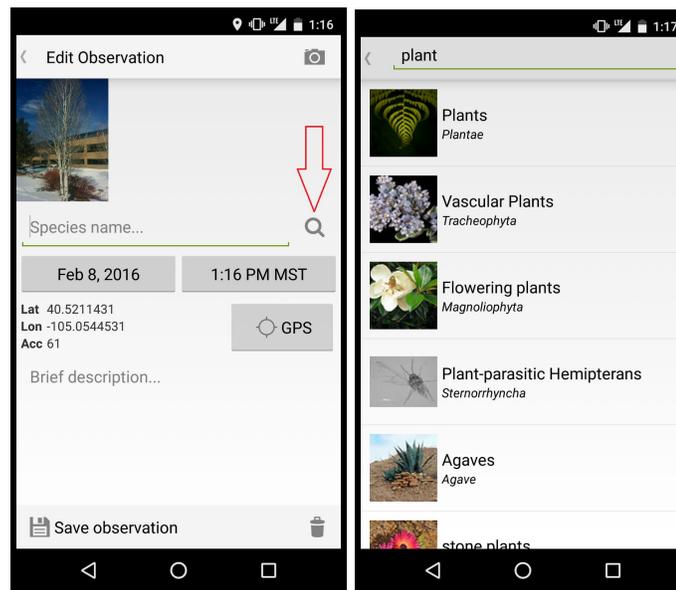
In order for the observation to be viewed on www.inaturalist.org and added to a BioBlitz project, tap “Sync # observations” at the bottom of the screen. Android and iOS devices will do this automatically when connected to a WiFi signal.



b. If you do not know/ cannot identify the species you're recording:

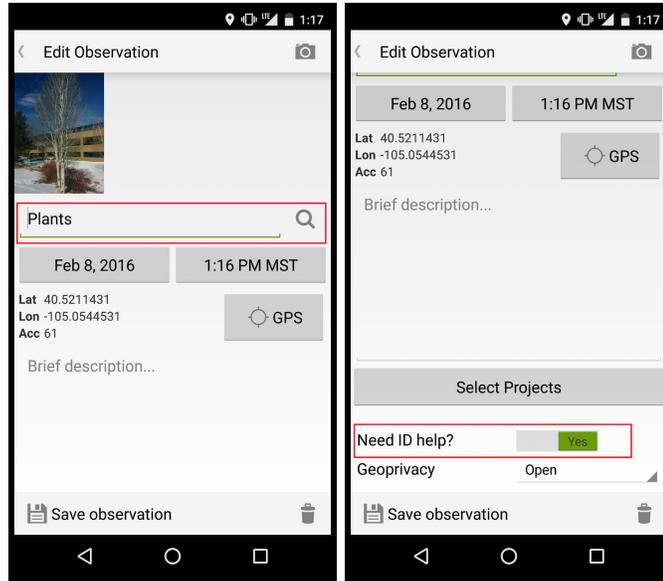
If you don't know the name of the species you're observing, search for what you do know.

For example, I know this tree is in the Plant Kingdom so I simply search “plant” and select “Plants, *Plantae*” from the drop down list.



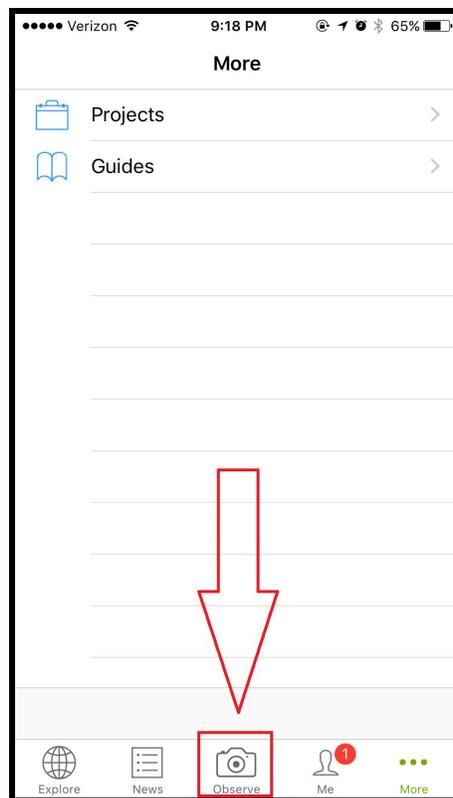
The “Plants” label will appear in the species name. Scroll to the bottom and change the “Need ID help?” to “Yes”,

then “Save observation”.



2. “Add an Observation” in iOS mobile application

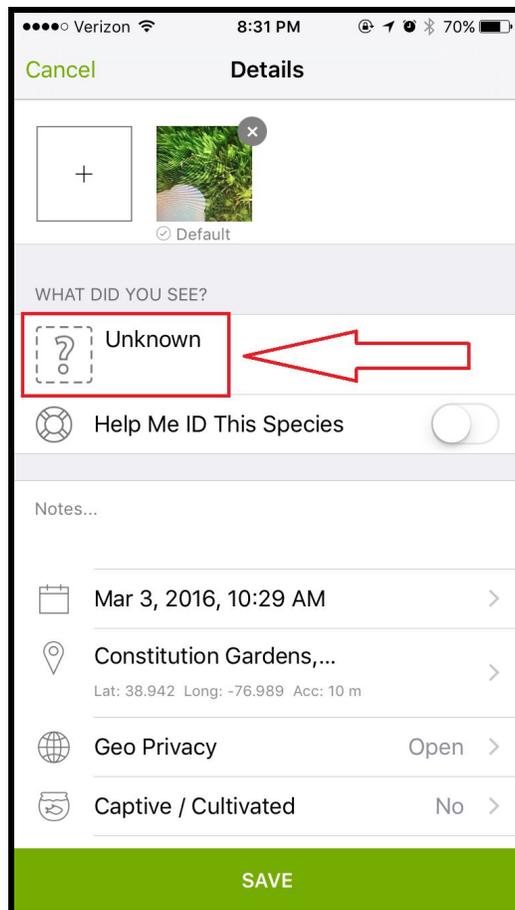
Open iNaturalist and tap “Observe” at the bottom of the screen.
Select “Take Photo”.



Take a photo that shows identifying details of species you’re observing.
When you get a quality photo accept it and continue.

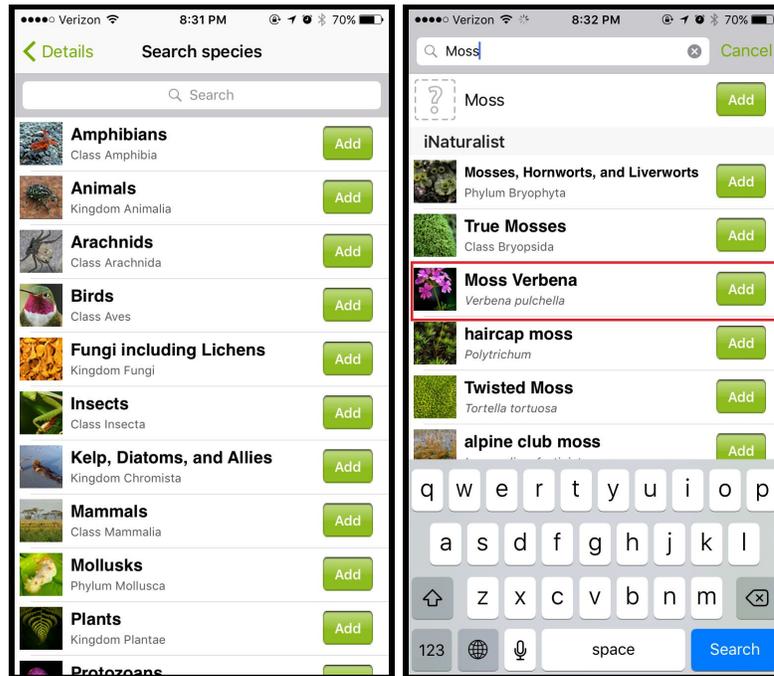


To enter a species name for the observation tap the question mark “Unknown” icon near the top of the screen.

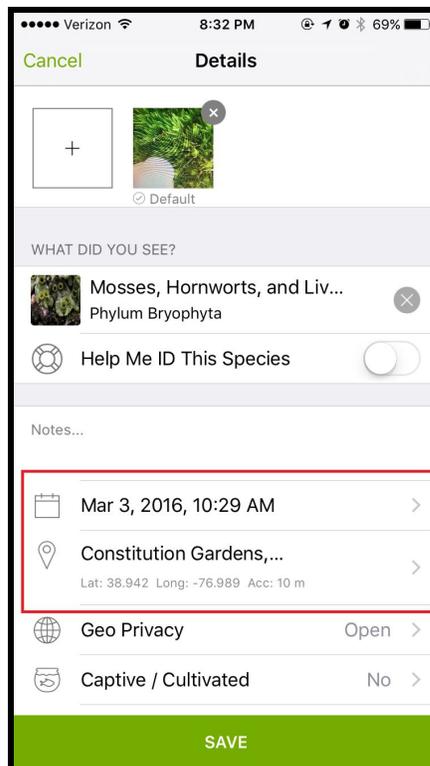


a. If you know/can identify the species you're recording:

Type the common or scientific name into the search bar at the top of the screen and select the appropriate tag from the drop down list.

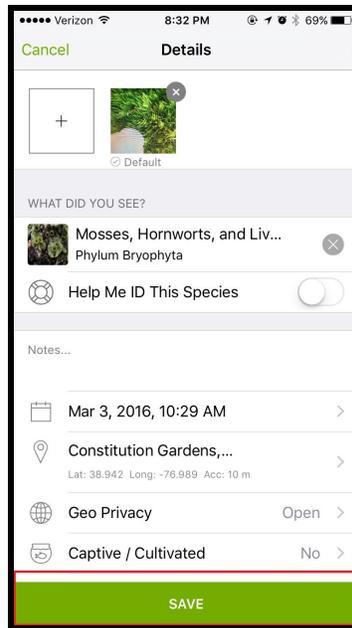


The date, time, and georeferenced location are updated automatically by your mobile device.



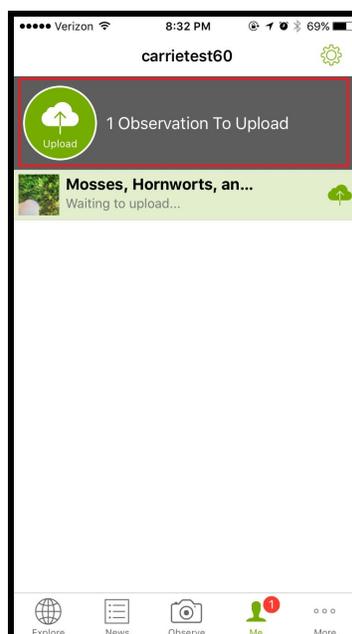
As you scroll down you can see areas to add more details if you choose to. Since you know the species name for the observation you can leave the “Help Me ID This Species” selection as blank.

Click “Save observation” at the bottom of the screen.



When you save your observation you will be taken back to your observations list/feed.

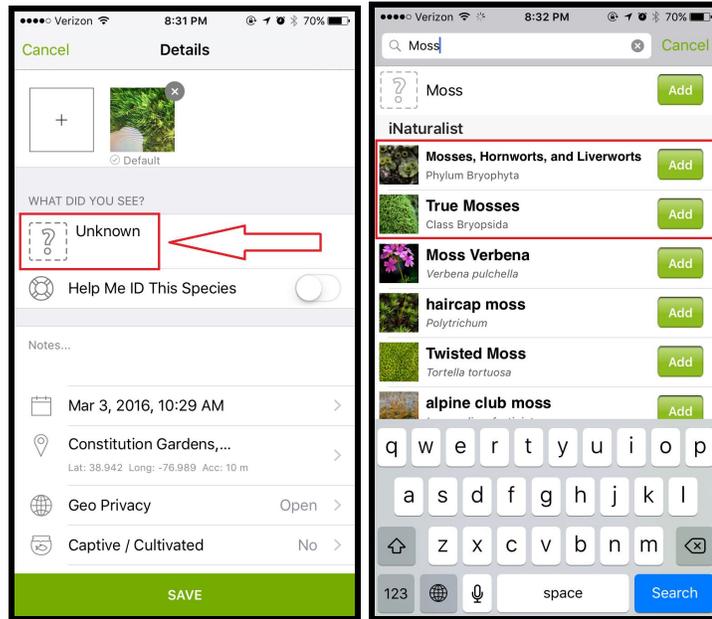
In order for the observation to be viewed on www.inaturalist.org and added to a BioBlitz project, tap “# Observation to Upload” at the top of the screen. Android and iOS devices will do this automatically when connected to a WiFi signal.



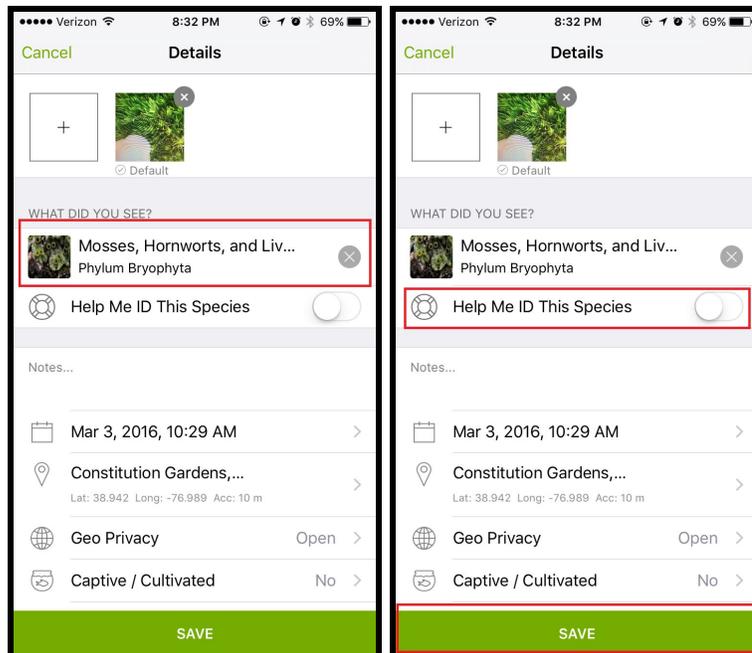
b. If you do not know/ cannot identify the species you're recording:

If you don't know the name of the species you're observing, search for what you do know.

For example, I know this organism is a moss so I simply search "moss" and select the appropriate identification from the drop down list.

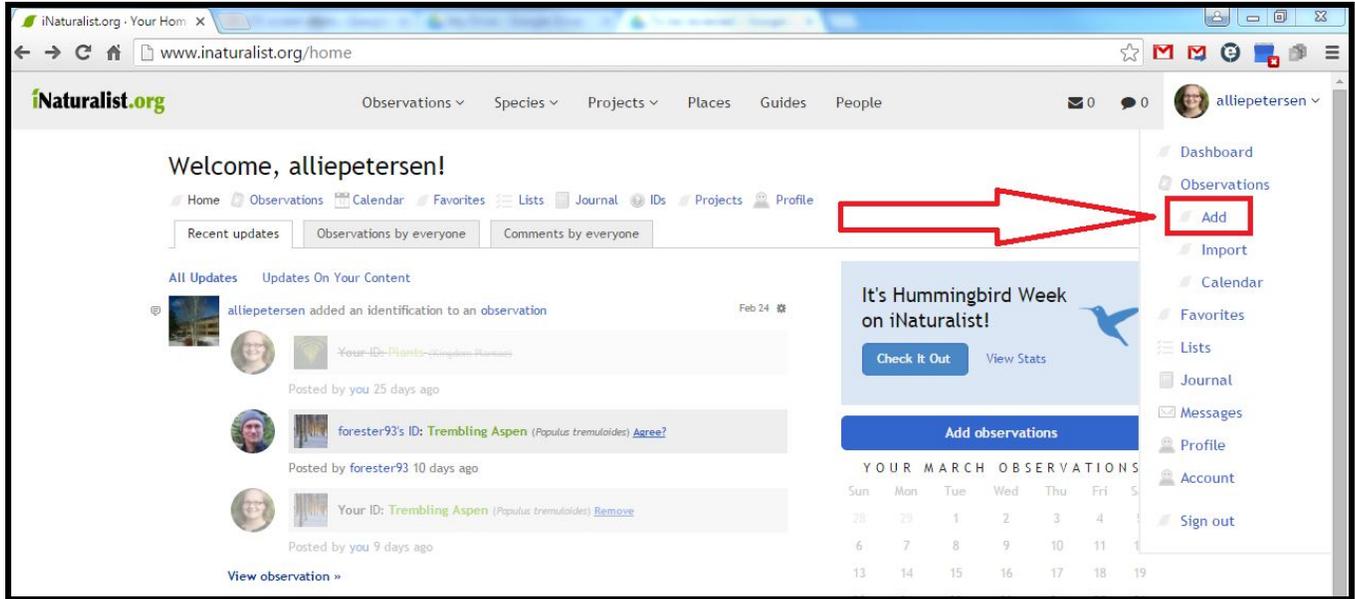


The moss label will appear in the species name. Tap the "Help Me ID This Species" then "Save". Be sure to upload your observations as outlined above.

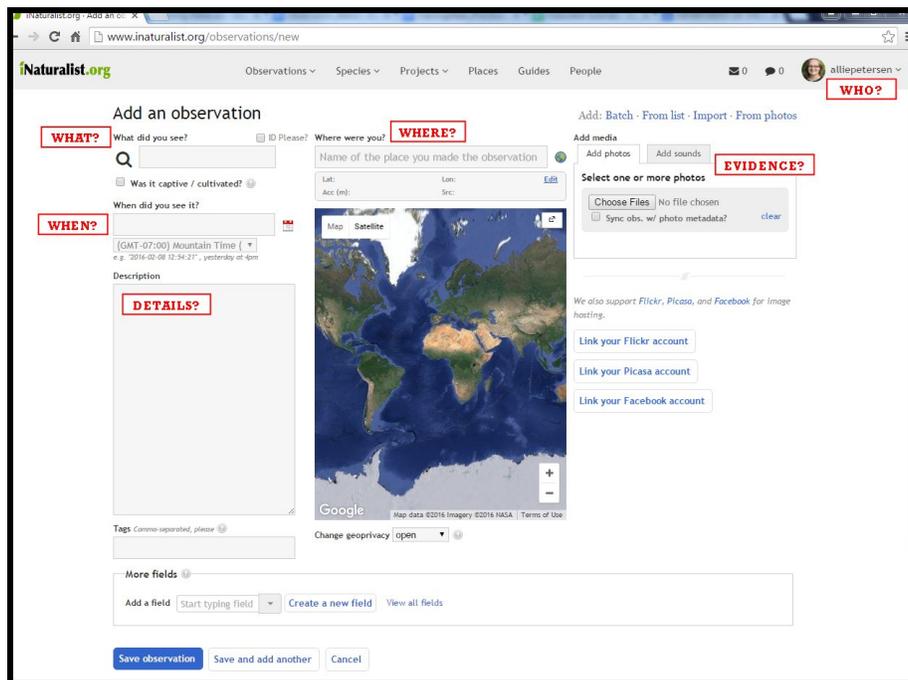


3. “Add an Observation” on www.inaturalist.org website

From your iNaturalist homepage hover over your username in the upper-right corner of the page and select “Add” under the “Observations” tab from the drop down menu.



On the “Add an observation” page you will see all of the elements of an observation: what, where, when, evidence, etc.



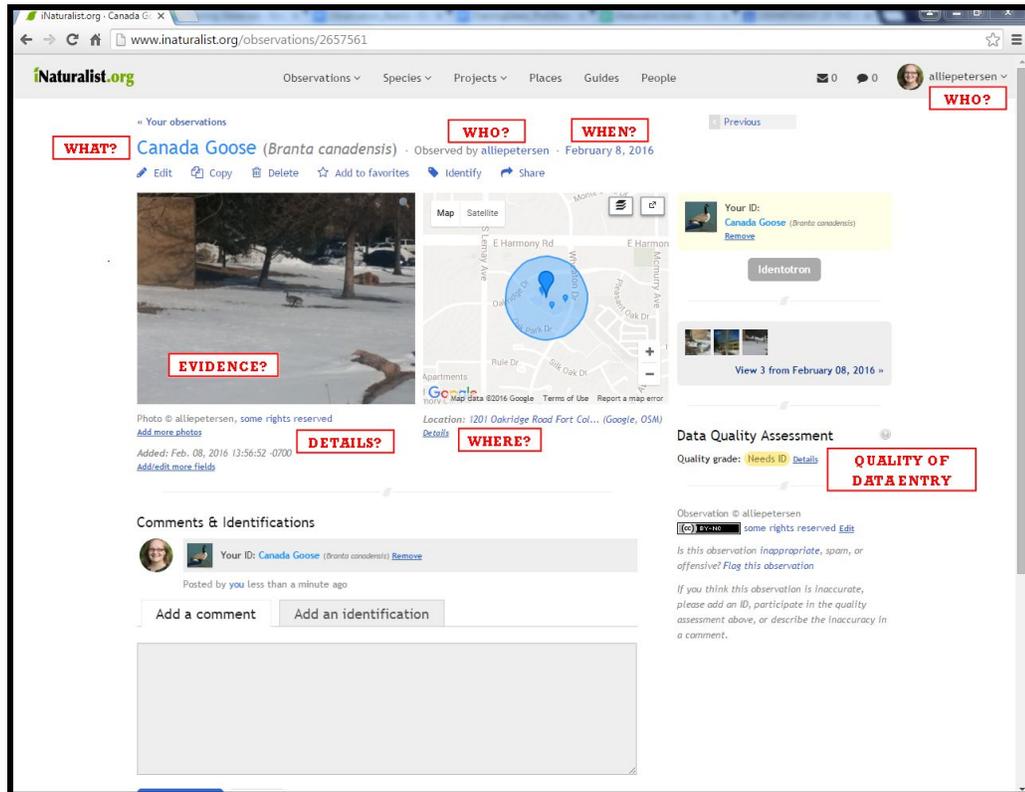
a. If you know the species you're recording:

Enter as much information as you know on the “Add an observation” form, including photo(s), then click “Save observation” at the bottom of the page. See further explanation below.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website's "Add an observation" form. The form is titled "Add an observation" and includes several sections: "WHAT?" with a dropdown menu showing "Canada Goose"; "WHERE?" with a text input field containing "1201 Oakridge Road Fort Collins, CO 80523" and a map showing the location; "WHEN?" with a date input field showing "2016-02-08"; "EVIDENCE?" with a "Choose Files" button and a file name "browser_kn...goose.jpg"; and "DETAILS?" with a large text area for description. The form also includes a "Save observation" button and a "Save and add another" button.

- **WHAT:** Search for the common or scientific name of the species you're recording and select from the drop down list.
- **WHERE:** For the location you can type in a street address or latitude-longitude coordinates or click on the map to drop a pin where you made the observation.
- **EVIDENCE:** Select photo(s) from your computer/camera memory card to upload with the observation.
- **WHO:** iNaturalist user (you) is automatically applied to the observation when you're logged in to the www.inaturalist.org website.
- **WHEN:** Enter the date you observed the species.
- **DETAILS:** You may add additional details to your observation such as the habitat type, behavior, or other details that may not be captured in photos.

Once your observation is saved it will appear on the “Your observations” page. To view details, simply click on the observation and you will see all the parts of an observation.

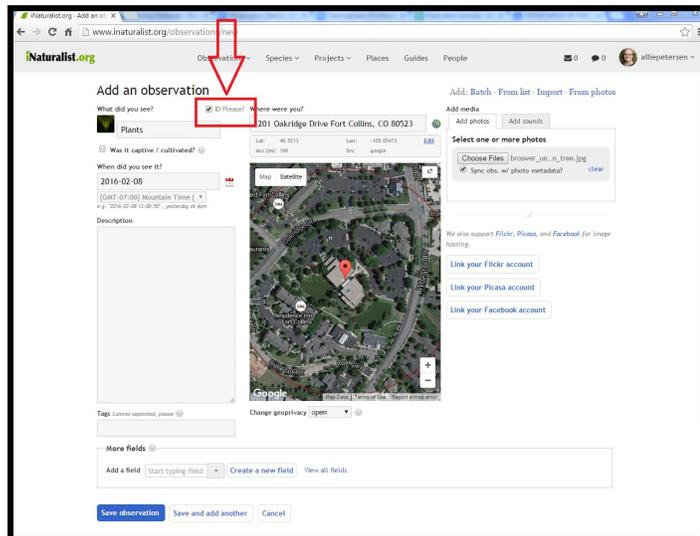


Even though I know the species I'm recording, the **Quality of Data Entry** is “Needs ID” because it needs to be verified to at least a species level by at least 2 other iNaturalist users to become “Research” grade.

b. If you do not know the species you're recording:

If you're unsure about the name of the species you're recording you follow the same steps as in part a. but be sure to check the "ID Please?" box between the **What** and **Where** parts of the observation.

Again, I was recording an unknown tree species so I simply searched "plants" and selected the "Plants" kingdom from the drop down list.



The observation will look like that of a known species, but the **What** will be "Plants (Kingdom Plantae)" because you did not input a species name.

