

# How to Post Observations in iNaturalist

#SDintheField BioBlitz June 13-28<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## 1. Download the iNaturalist mobile app, OR visit the iNaturalist website (inaturalist.org)



Scan this code with  
your iPhone or  
Android device to  
download the  
iNaturalist app

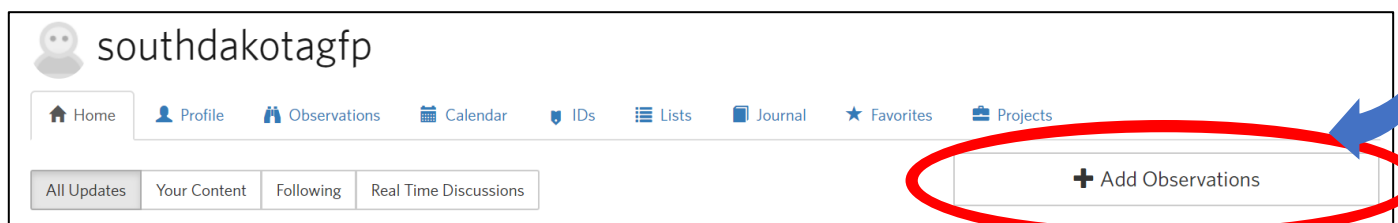


## 2. Posting a single observation on the website

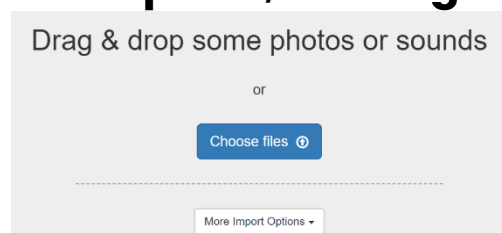
**Before you can post an observation, you will need to sign up to create an account, or sign into your existing account**



**Once logged in, click on the “Add observations” button in the dashboard menu**



**Choose how you want to upload your observation(s) photo(s) from your computer, or drag and drop them**



Enter in **1. what** the species is (it's okay to leave this blank if you aren't sure **OR** enter something simple like "flower"!), **2. when** you made your observation, and **3. where** you made your observation. Then, **4. add a description** if you feel necessary, **5. add the project** (#SDintheField), and **6. submit** your observation by clicking the "Submit Observation" button.

The screenshot shows the 'Editing 1 observation' form. It has a left sidebar with tabs: Details, Tags, Projects, and Fields. The main form area contains fields for:
 

- 1. What:** A dropdown menu currently showing 'Flowering Plants'.
- 2. When:** A date and time field showing '2020/05/24 8:20 PM -0600'.
- 3. Where:** A location field showing 'South Dakota, USA'.
- 4. Description:** A text area containing 'Wildflower found in Badlands National Park in South Dakota'.
- 5. Add the project:** A dropdown menu showing 'Location is public'.
- 6. Submit:** A green button at the top right labeled 'Submit 1 observation'.



 Arrows point from green callout boxes with numbers 1-6 to these specific fields.

If you take multiple photos of one observation, combine them by selecting the photos with your cursor and then select the "combine" button.

The screenshot shows the 'Editing 2 observation' form. At the top, there are buttons: '+ Add', 'X Remove', and 'Combine'. The 'Combine' button is circled in red. Below these are two observation cards. Each card has a photo, a species name field, a date/time field, a location field, and a description field. The first card is for '2016/02/29 12:01 PM NZD' at 'Bexley, Christchurch 8061'. The second card is for '2016/02/29 12:01 PM NZI' at 'Bexley, Christchurch 8061'.

**After you hit the “submit” button, you will be taken to your observations page. Don’t worry if you’ve made a mistake or want to add more details later. After you’ve submitted, you can still edit your observations, add extra fields, or add them to other projects.**





The screenshot shows the 'Your Observations' page on iNaturalist. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: Home, Observations, Calendar, Favorites, Lists, Journal, IDs, Projects, and Profile. Below this are buttons for 'Add Observations', 'Batch edit', and a search bar. The main content area is a table of observations with columns: Photos / Sounds, Species / Taxon Name, Date observed, Place, and Date Added. Two observations are listed: 'Flowering Plants' (Subphylum Angiospermae) and 'Prairie Pasqueflower' (*Pulsatilla nuttalliana*). The 'Prairie Pasqueflower' observation has a 'Research Grade' badge and one identifier. To the right of the table is a map showing the location of the observations in South Dakota, USA.

Photos / Sounds	Species / Taxon Name	Date observed	Place	Date Added	
	<b>Flowering Plants</b> Subphylum Angiospermae	May 24, 2020 08:20 PM CST	South Dakota, USA (Google, OSM)	May 29, 2020 02:43 AM UTC	Needs ID <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">View »</a>
	<b>Prairie Pasqueflower</b> <i>Pulsatilla nuttalliana</i>	April 26, 2020 02:15 PM MDT	Black Hills National Forest, Rapid City, SD, US (Google, OSM)	May 04, 2020 02:52 PM UTC	1 ID <b>Research Grade</b> <a href="#">Edit</a>   <a href="#">View »</a>

**Once your observation is on iNaturalist, you’ll start getting other users (identifiers) adding their identifications to it and perhaps leaving some helpful comments. You can see all the activity on your observations on your dashboard.**

The screenshot shows the activity feed on the iNaturalist dashboard. It features a vertical timeline of activity. The top entry shows a user adding an identification to an observation by the user. Below this is a detailed view of the 'Prairie Pasqueflower' observation, including its photo, name, date, location, and a 'View Observation' button. The bottom entry shows another user adding an identification to the same observation, with an 'Agree?' button and a 'View Observation' button. A 'Show More...' button is at the bottom right.

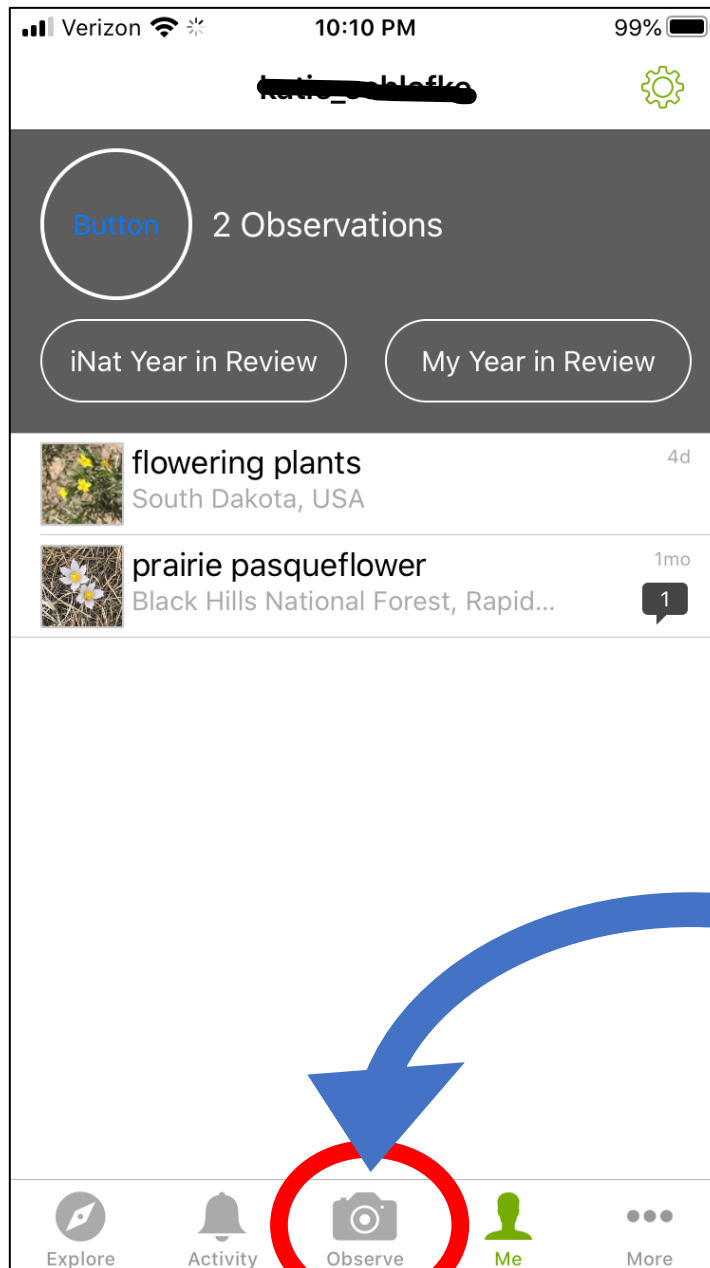
Activity feed entries:

-  [User] added an identification to an [observation](#) by you May 5
-  **Prairie Pasqueflower** *Pulsatilla nuttalliana*  
[User] | April 26, 2020 | 1 **Research Grade**  
Black Hills National Forest, Rapid City, SD, US (Google, OSM)  
[View Observation](#)
-  [User] added an identification May 5  
 **Prairie Pasqueflower** (*Pulsatilla nuttalliana*)  
[View Observation](#) [Agree?](#)

[Show More...](#)

### 3. Posting observations using the iNaturalist mobile app

Posting an observation from your smart phone is easy if you download the iNaturalist app. Once downloaded, you will need to sign up to create an account, or sign into your existing account. Once logged into your account, you should see a display on your home screen similar to the picture below.

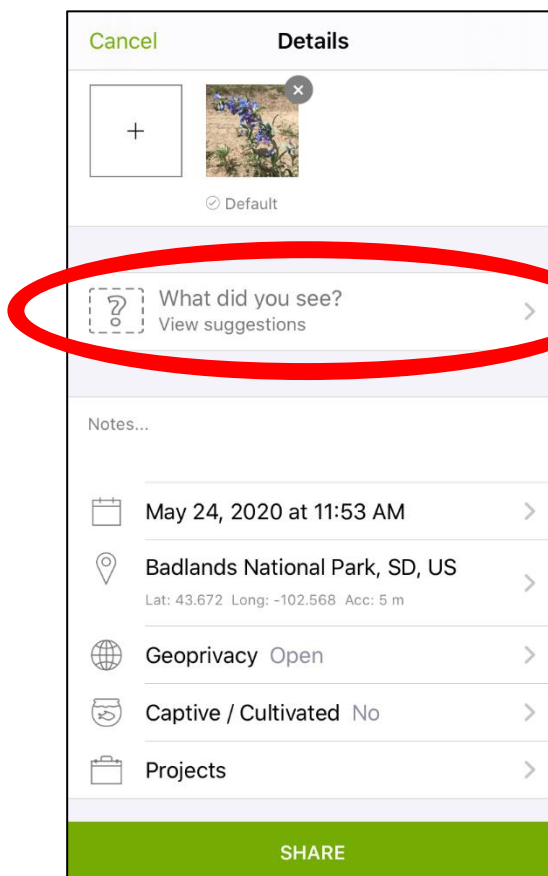


Click the “camera” button or icon to either take a picture(s) of your observation or select a photo(s) you have taken previously from your phones photo album.

**Once you have selected the photo(s) of your observation, click the "NEXT" button.**

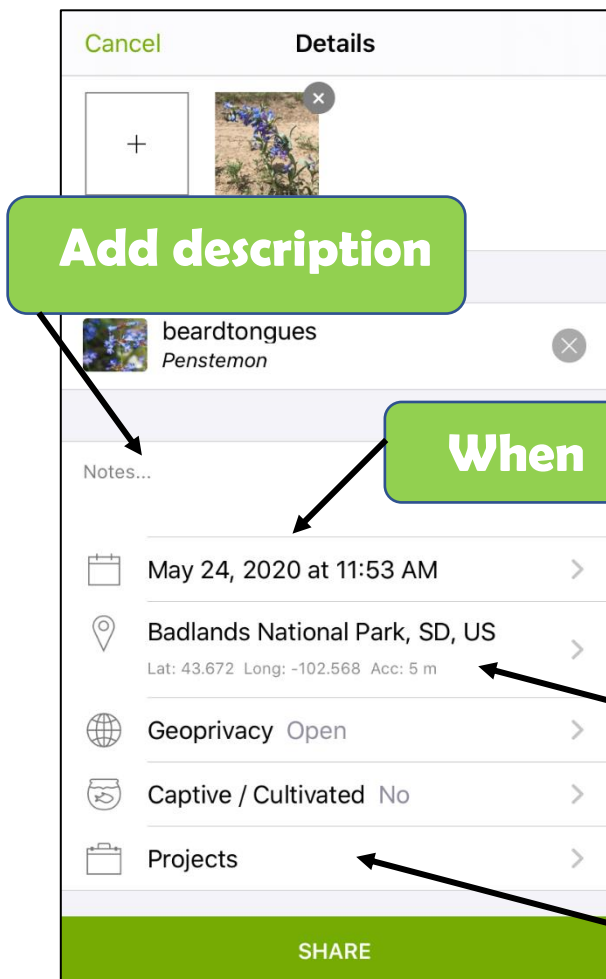
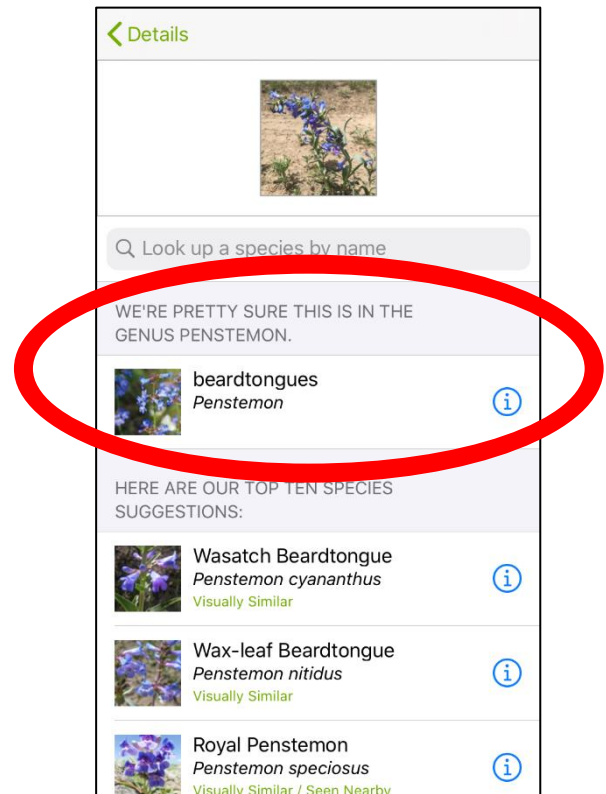


**Once your photo(s) of your observations have been uploaded, click on the "What did you see?" tab**





When you click the “What did you see?” tab, the app will automatically come up with some species suggestions for your observation. You can either select one of the recommended options OR leave it blank.

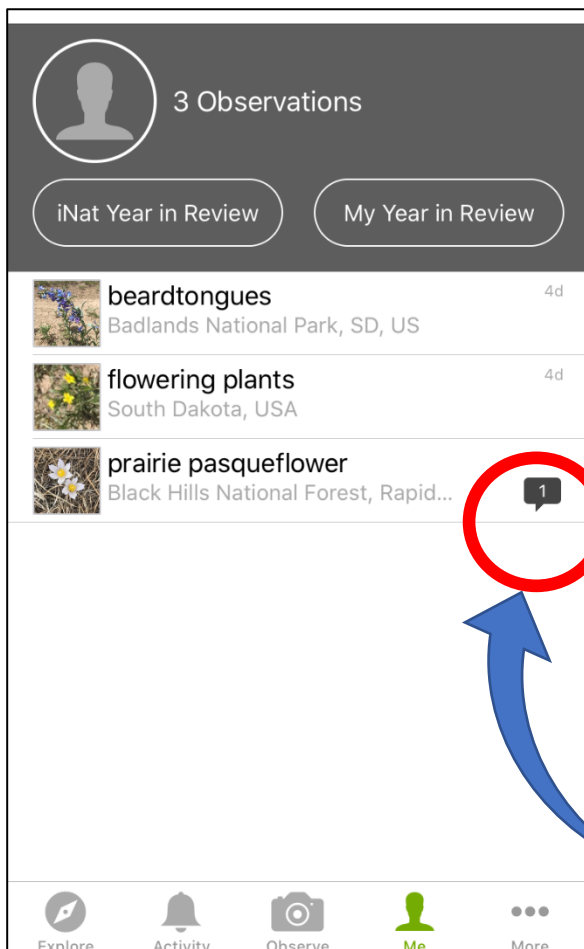
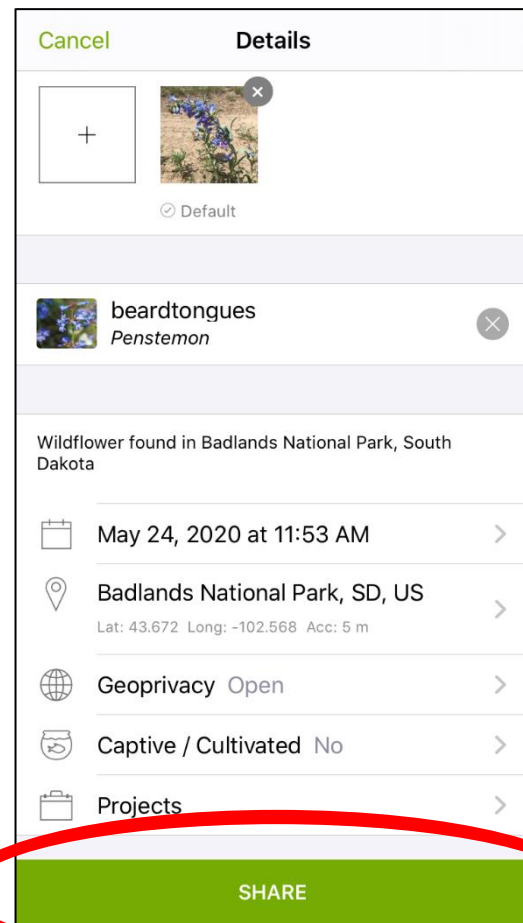


After you choose a species suggestion, or leave your observation blank, the app will take you back to the previous screen. You will likely notice that your phone and the app automatically fill in **when** and **where** your observation was made. If not, click on each of these tabs and enter in the required information. You can also add a **description** in the notes section. At this point, you can also **add a project** (#SDintheField) to share your observation to.

Where

Add project #SDintheField

**After entering as much information as you can, go ahead and click the "share" button at the bottom of your screen.**



**Once you share your observation, the app will automatically direct you to your "Me" page. This is where you can see all the observations you have made. Once your observation is on iNaturalist, you will start getting other users (identifiers) adding their identifications to it and perhaps leaving some helpful comments. You can see these identifications by the messaging icon.**

**You can also view any activity made on your observations by clicking the “bell” icon or button.**

