An observation records an encounter with an individual organism at a particular time and location. This includes encounters with signs of organisms like tracks, nests, or things that just died. When you make an observation, you’ll record:

- **Who you** Create an iNaturalist account to post your observations
- **Where you saw it** Record coordinates and their accuracy (you can hide this from the public)
- **What you saw** Identify the organism as specifically as you can. The community can use your evidence to help with the identification
- **When you saw it** Record the date you encountered the organism
- **Evidence of what you saw** Photos or sound files can help the community add, improve, or confirm the identification. Take clear, well-framed photos from different angles.

Your observations don’t need to include all of these parts, but they do in order to become research quality observations for science.

- Remember to make separate observations for each separate critter encounter.
- If you observed something not wild, like a lion in the zoo or a planted rose in your garden, make sure to mark it as captive/cultivated.
- Make observations with your camera and upload them directly to the iNaturalist website—more instructions are available online.

More tips and tricks at: inaturalist.org/pages/getting+started
iPhone App

1. Tap observe
2. Add 1 or more photos or sounds as evidence
3. Enter what you saw (or leave blank)
4. When you saw it should be automatically added
5. Where you saw it should be automatically added (if not check Privacy in app Settings)
6. Save observation
7. Upload to share with the community. Uploads happen automatically. You can turn AutoUpload off in "Me" tab in app settings
8. Check back for community activity on your observation

If your phone’s space fills up, log out and log back in and your cache is cleared.

Android App

1. Tap observe button on My Observations tab
2. Add 1 or more photos or sounds as evidence
3. Enter what you saw (or leave blank)
4. When you saw it should be automatically added
5. Where you saw it should be automatically added (if not check Privacy in app)
6. Save observation
7. Upload to share with the community. Uploads happen automatically. You can turn AutoUpload off in app settings
8. Check back for community activity on your observation

If your phone’s space fills up, log out and log back in and your cache is cleared.