

# OTHER WAYS TO OBSERVE

## BIRD APPS

The Merlin Bird ID app can listen to your surroundings and identify the birds you're hearing. The eBird app is where you can submit your bird observations so that they can be accessed by researchers.

## NATURE JOURNALING

Get a journal and start recording your observations, using words, numbers, illustrations, and any other tools that you find useful or interesting.

The writer and philosopher Henry David Thoreau kept such detailed nature journals that his work is still used by scientists today to study how the seasons have shifted since the 1800s!



# TAKE FURTHER ACTION

Here are some other ways that you can help efforts to document and protect biodiversity:

1. Attend nature-focused community events.
2. Plant native plants at your home to support local wildlife and reduce dependence on water, pesticides, and fertilizers.
3. Get involved in local habitat restoration efforts.
4. Spread the word! Teach your friends and family how to use iNaturalist.



# Backyard BioBlitz

BY ECOLOGY ELLIE

A "bioblitz" is a way for individuals to participate in community science projects by documenting the animal, plant, and/or fungus species they observe.

While this is often done by larger groups of people in specified areas, people can also make efforts to participate in community science simply by submitting the wildlife observations they make in their own backyard!



# MAKING OBSERVATIONS

## GETTING THE SHOT

Try to get as close as possible to your subject and capture several clear photos from several angles so that it can be properly identified.

If using a phone camera, make sure your lens is clear of fingerprints, and become familiar with your settings. For best results, you may need to adjust exposure or use a macro setting.

## GATHERING OTHER DATA

At a minimum, you'll need to document the location and time\* of your observation. It may also be useful to jot down the habitat information and any behavior you witness.

\*If uploading pictures taken on your phone, iNaturalist can pull the location and time directly from the photo if your phone's settings allow for it.



# USING INATURALIST

## ADD YOUR PHOTO

Add your first photo and click the pencil icon in the top right corner to add any additional photos and information.

## ADD OTHER DATA

Add location and time. Add any other notes that you took.

## ADD YOUR IDENTIFICATION

If you don't know the species, narrow it down as closely as possible so that it has a better chance of being found by an expert on that species.

## CAPTIVE/CULTIVATED

Researchers get most value from observations of wild species. If you're submitting a cultivated plant or a captive animal, make sure you mark it as cultivated/captive.



# BIODIVERSITY BIG PICTURE

What is biodiversity?

The variety of life on earth

Why is biodiversity important?

Having a wide variety of species in our ecosystems ensures not only that those habitats remain healthy, but also that we humans have access to food, shelter, fuel, and medicine.

## IDENTIFYING SPECIES

The vast majority of species you observe will belong to the animal, plant, or fungus kingdoms.

Animals are divided into classes. Vertebrate classes include mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles. Invertebrate classes include insects, arachnids, gastropods, cephalopods, crustaceans, annelids, myriapods, and more.