

# Join our Noxious and Invasive Weed Mapping Project!



The screenshot shows a project page with a green header. On the left is a photo of a yellow, spiky weed flower. Below the photo is a black bar with the text 'Noxious & Invasive Weeds in Salt Lake County, Utah' and a small logo. To the right of the photo is a green sidebar with the title 'About' and a 'Members 2' indicator. The main text describes the project's purpose: to identify and track invasive and noxious weed populations in Salt Lake County and surrounding areas. It mentions that observations will assist the Salt Lake County Noxious Weed Program and its partners in strategic planning, including early detection and implementation. There is a 'Read More >' link, an 'Edit Project' button, and a 'NEWS' notification icon.

Help find and map noxious, invasive, and introduced plant species growing in Salt Lake County. Your data collection will help the Salt Lake County Noxious Weed Control Program track what's growing and how it's spreading.

Plus, it's cool to be a citizen scientist.



Learn about what's growing in your county, and add your own observations.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist project page for "Noxious Weeds in Salt Lake County, Utah". At the top, there is a banner image of succulent-like plants with a text overlay "Noxious Weeds in Salt Lake County, Utah". To the right of the banner, a dark blue box contains the text: "canyons. Observations will assist the Salt Lake County Noxious Weed Program and its partner organizations in strategic planning, and aid in the detection and mapping of new infestations." Below this text is a "Read More >" link and an "Edit Project" button. A "NEWS" notification bell icon is also present.

Below the banner, a navigation bar shows the following statistics: Overview, 47 OBSERVATIONS, 13 SPECIES, 9 IDENTIFIERS, and 30 OBSERVERS. A "Stats" button with a lightning bolt icon is on the right.

Below the navigation bar, there are several interactive buttons: "Map", "Grid", "List", "Identify", "Search", and "Export Observations".

The main content area features a map of Salt Lake County, Utah, with a yellow outline. The map is populated with green location pins representing observations. Major cities and landmarks are labeled, including Salt Lake City, West Valley City, West Jordan, and Sandy. The map includes a "Map" and "Satellite" toggle, a zoom-in (+) and zoom-out (-) button, and a "Recent Observations" section at the bottom left.

At the bottom of the map area, there is a horizontal carousel of seven small images showing various types of plants and flowers, likely examples of the noxious weeds being tracked.



**iNaturalist**

A tool for  
communities

- Learn about living organisms near you
- Contribute to scientific databases
- Connect with scientists, researchers, experts, and enthusiasts around the world



Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum Officinale*), Utah state listed noxious weed

# Taking part is easy, and actually pretty fun



Find plants in your neighborhoods, parks,  
and on your hikes



Take a picture or two of what you find

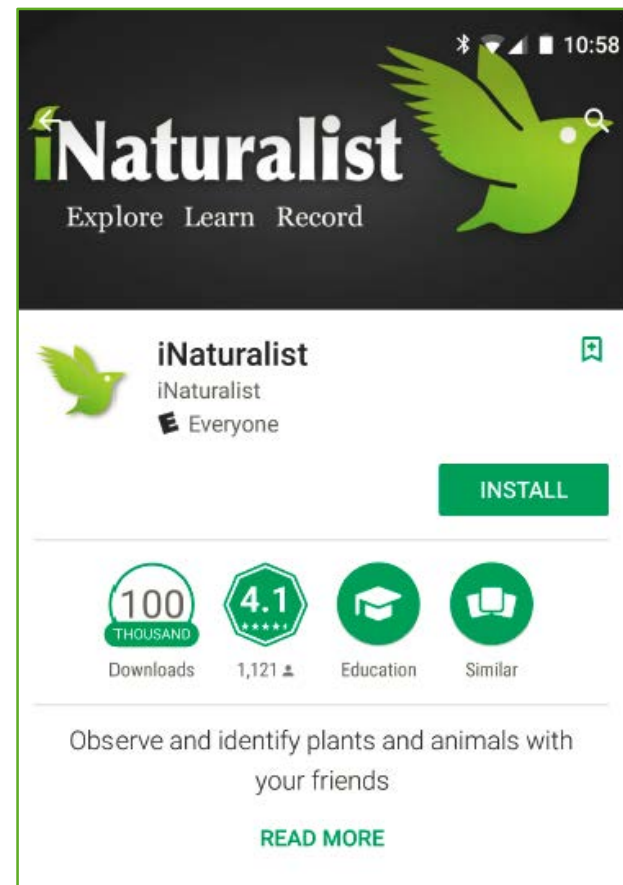
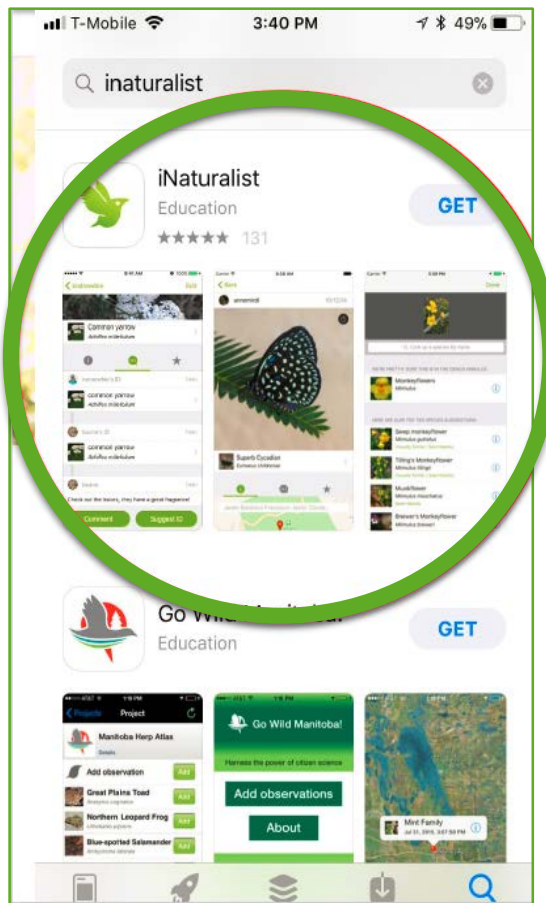


Share your observations by uploading them  
to iNaturalist

# Making A Mobile Observation

## 1. Download the free app

iPhone

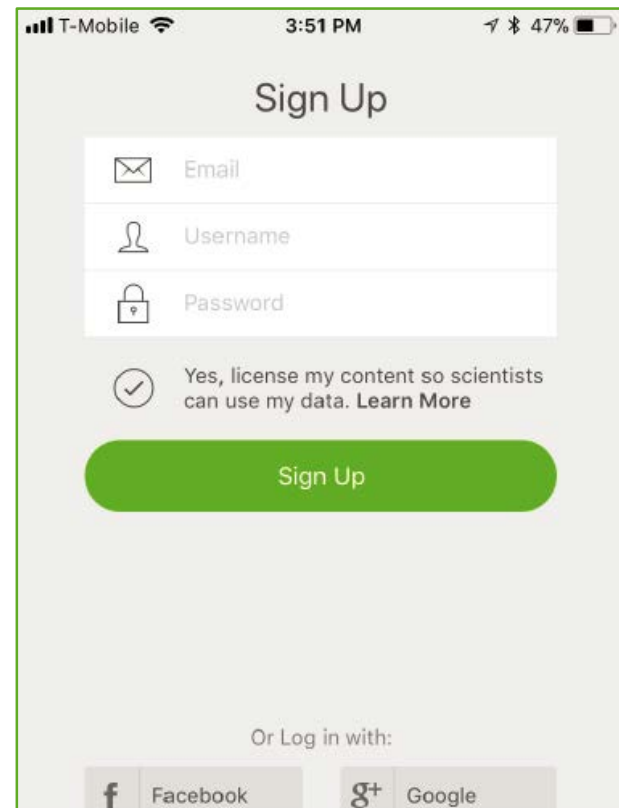


Android

# Making A Mobile Observation

## 2. Create an account

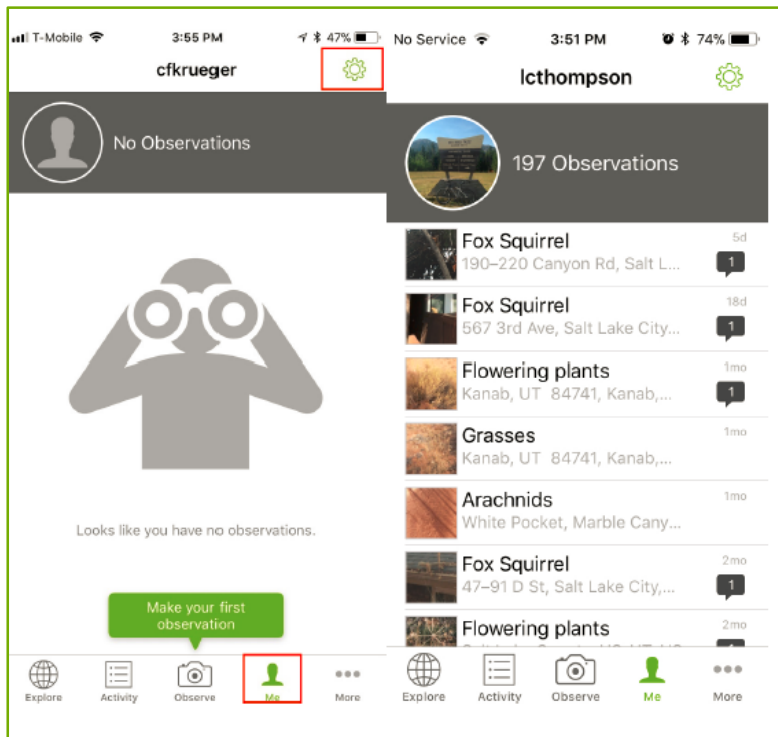
iPhone



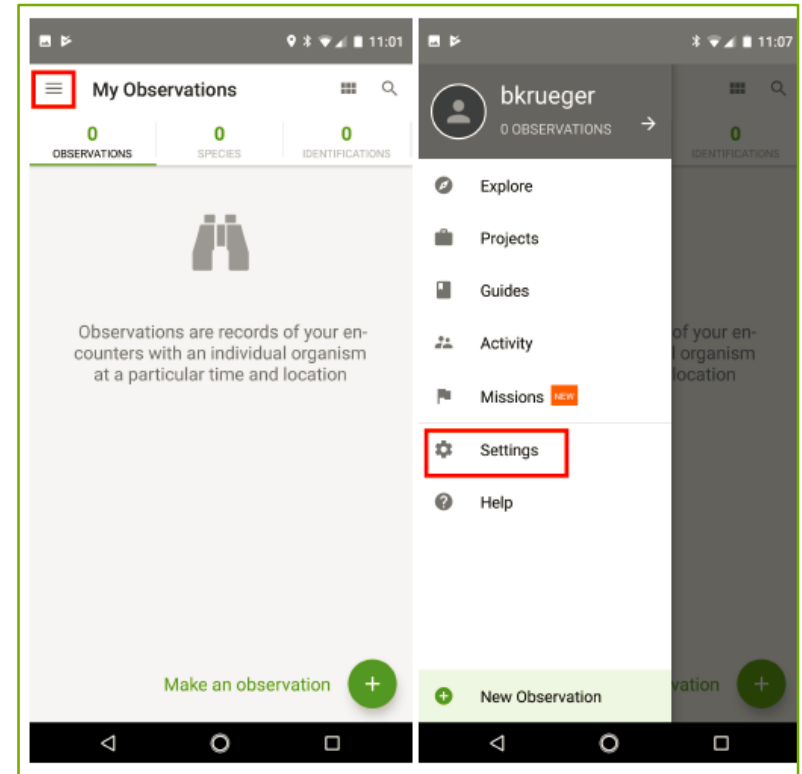
Android

# Making A Mobile Observation

## 3. Go to "My Observations"



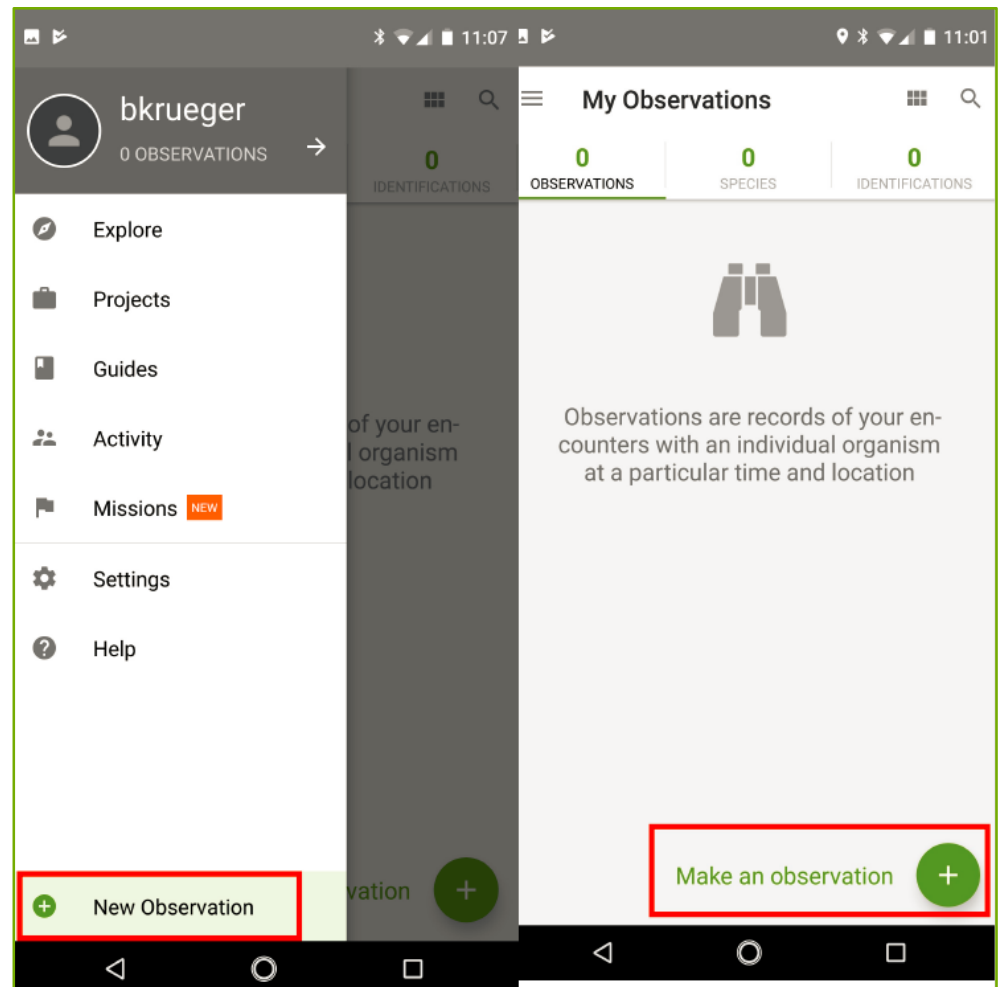
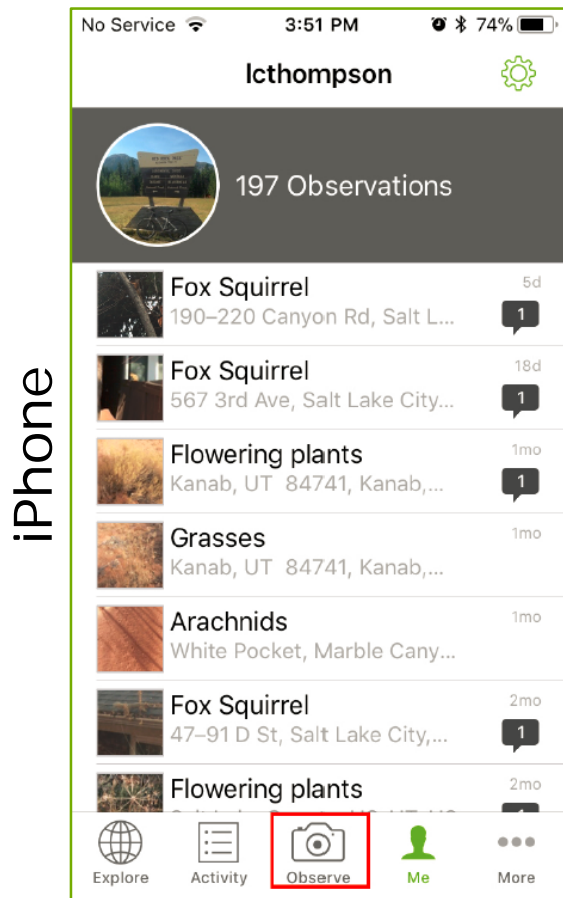
iPhone



Android

# Making A Mobile Observation

4. Follow prompts to make an observation, depending on your device.





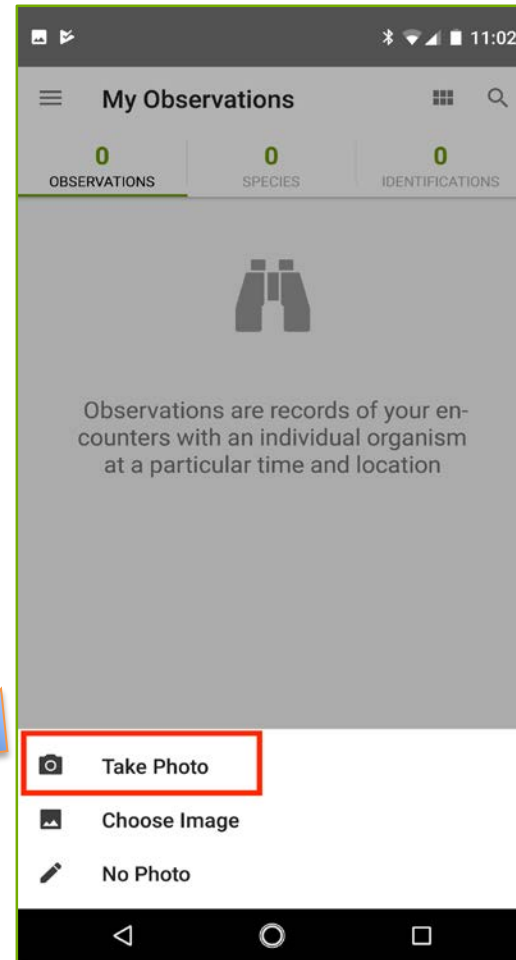
# Making A Mobile Observation

5. Take a photo, or upload one you have already taken

iPhone

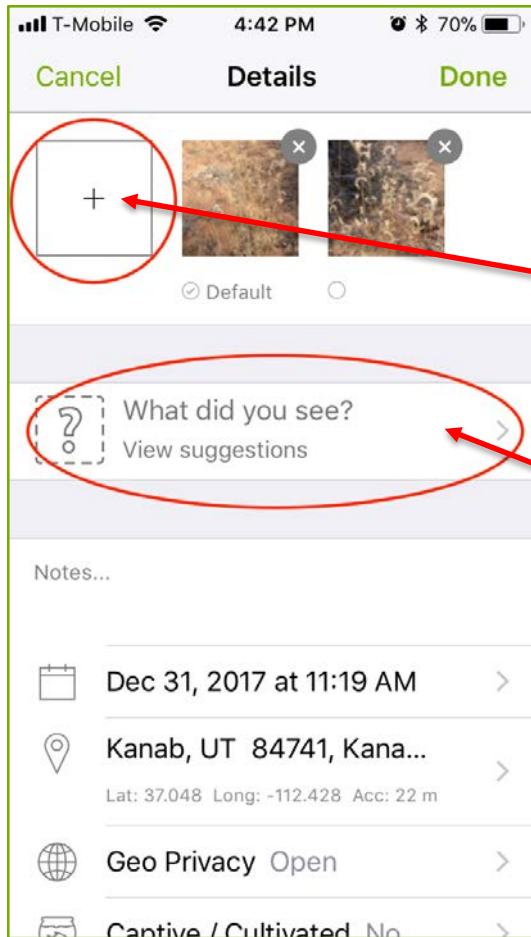


Android



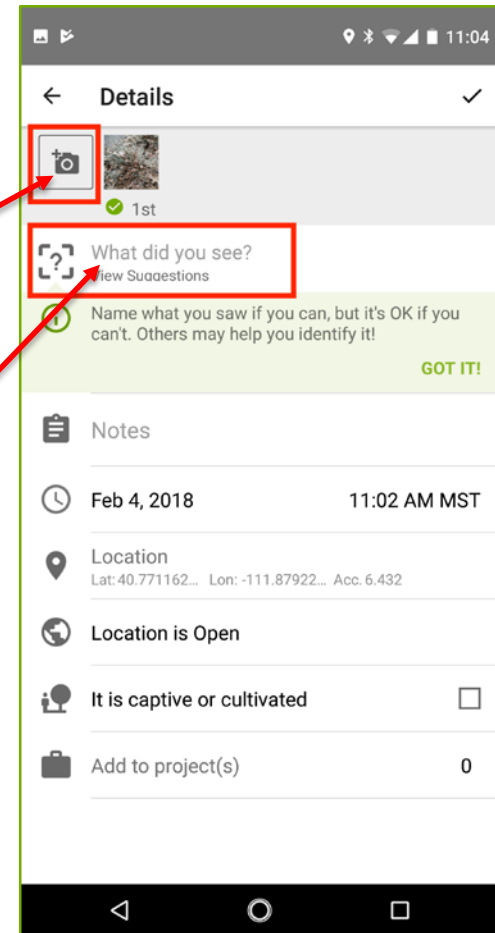
# Making A Mobile Observation

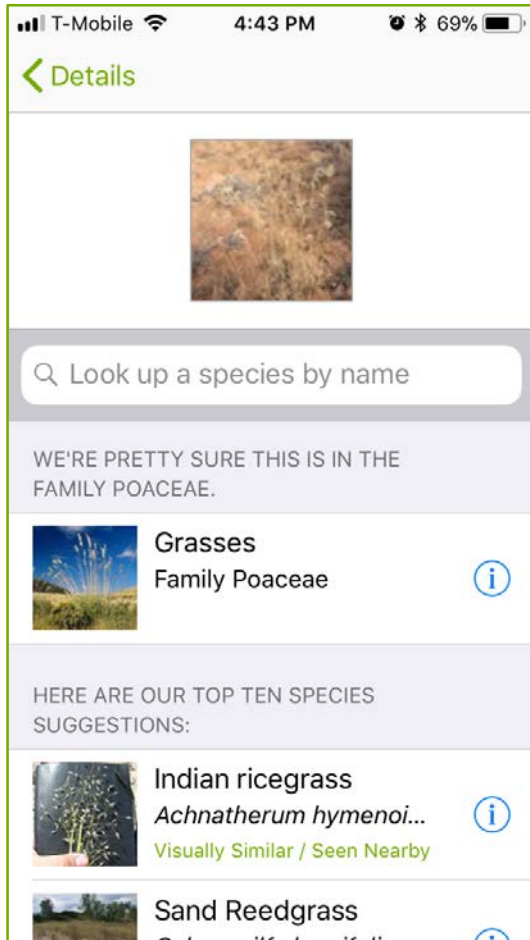
iPhone



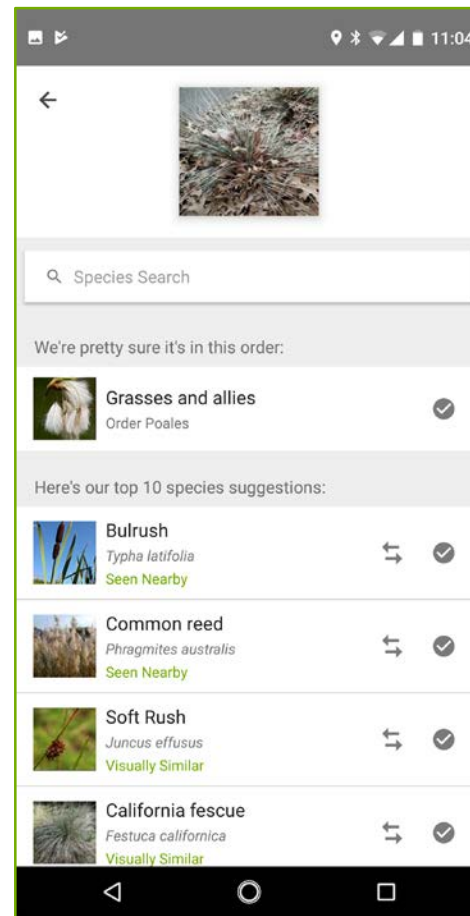
Add more photos, then identify what you found.

Android

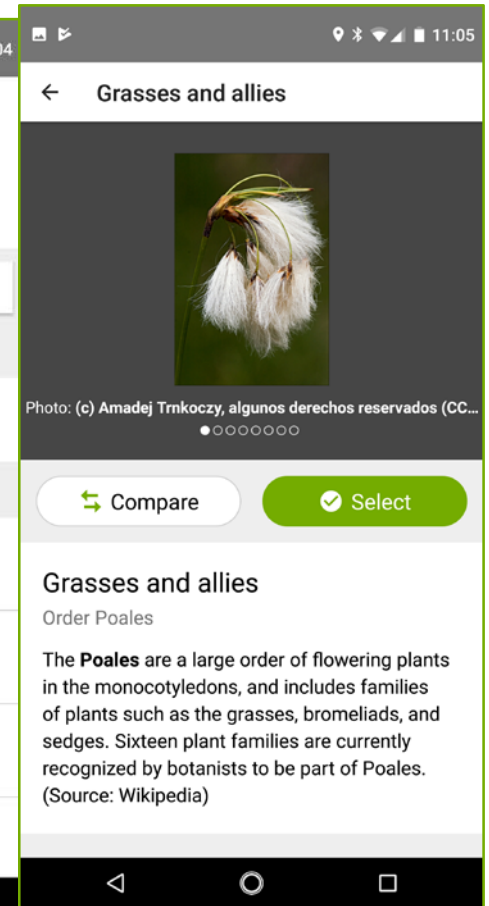




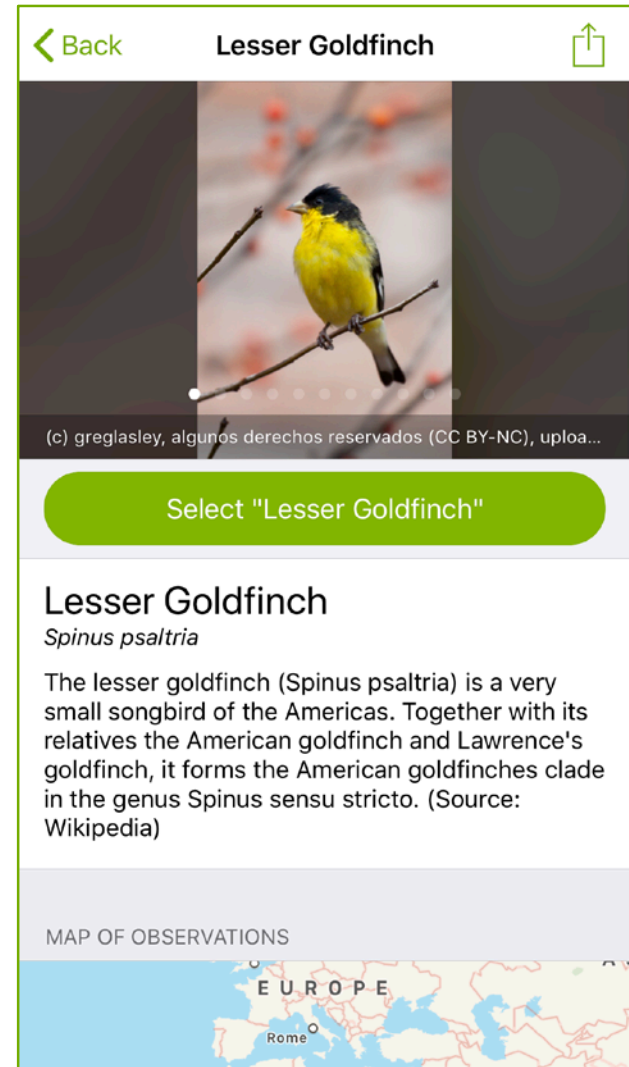
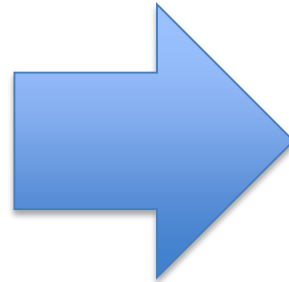
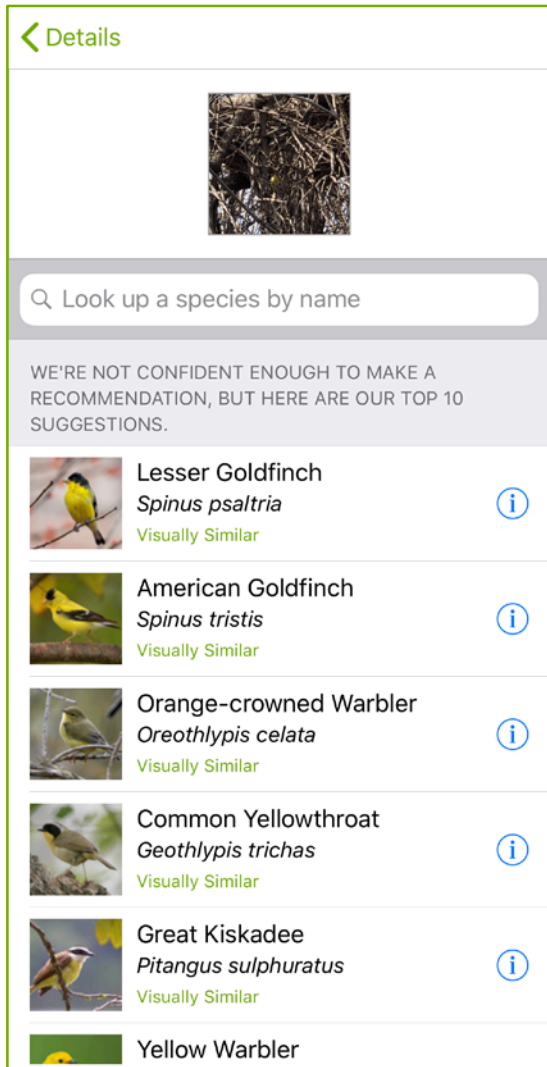
iPhone



Android



iNaturalist will use A.I. to try and ID the species




Examine the suggestions that iNaturalist gives, and if you think you find a match, select it

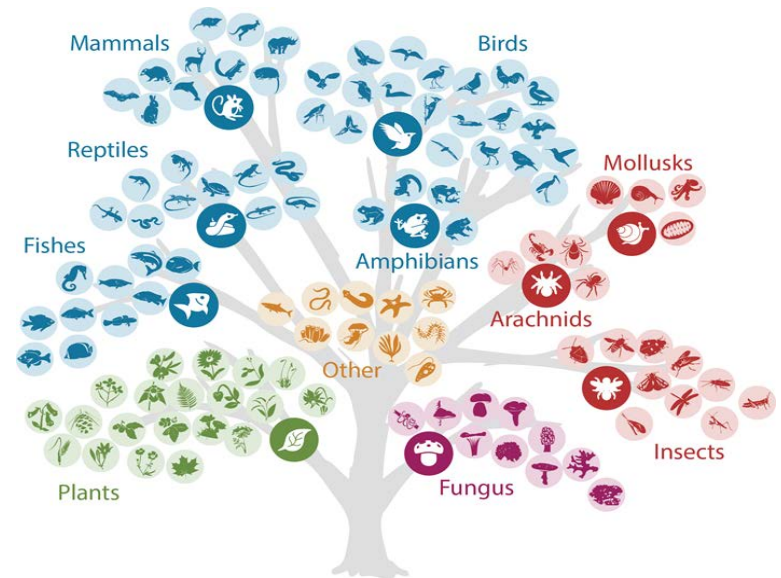
# Get as specific as you can,

but if you're not sure what species you saw, choose a higher level and let the iNaturalist community help you identify your photo.

Scientists classify plants and animals with a system of groups:

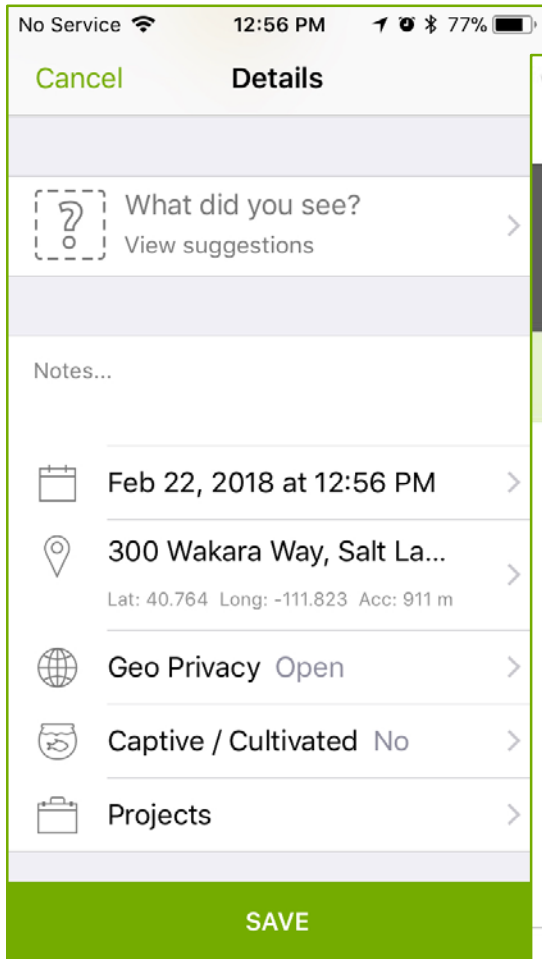
## Example: Scotch Thistle

- 
- Kingdom – e.g. Plantae
  - Phylum – e.g. Magnoliophyta
  - Class – e.g. Magnoliopsida
  - Order – e.g. Asterales
  - Family – e.g. Asteraceae
  - Genus – e.g. Onopordum
  - **Species** – e.g. Onopordum acanthium L

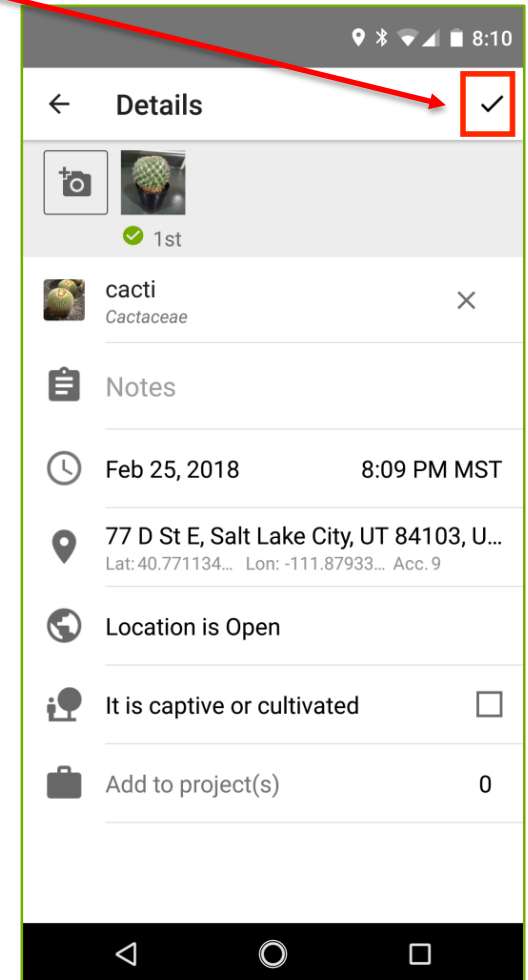
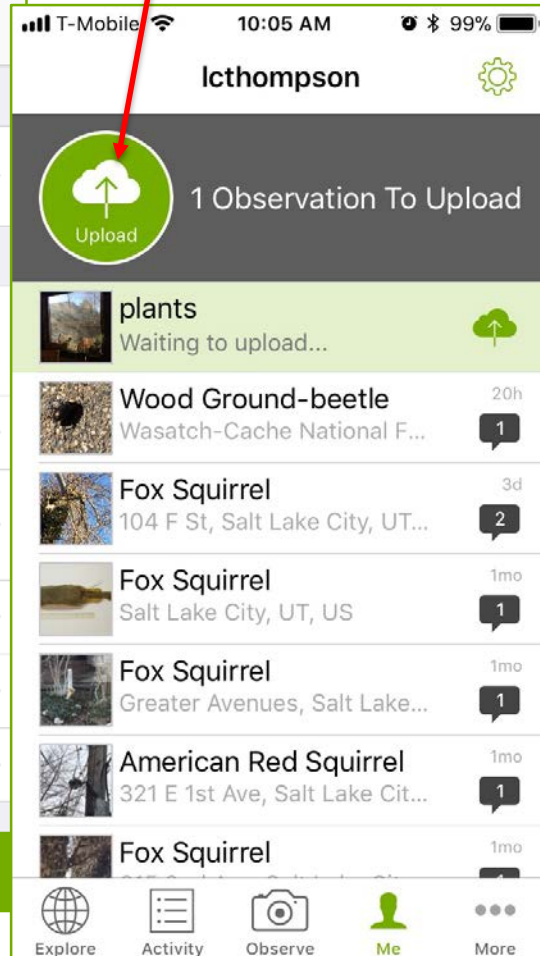


Getting your observation to the **species** level is the goal, but if you're not at all sure, at least ID your observation as a "Plant."

# Save and/or Upload, depending on device



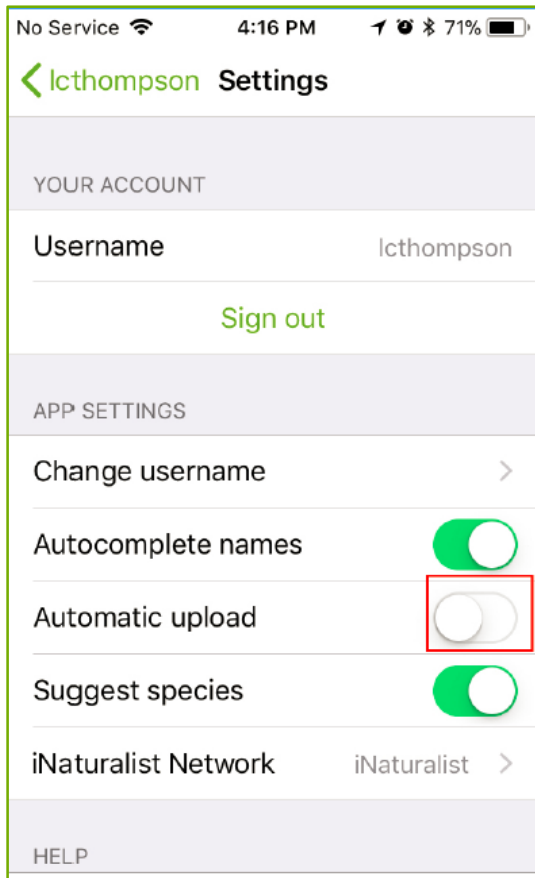
iPhone



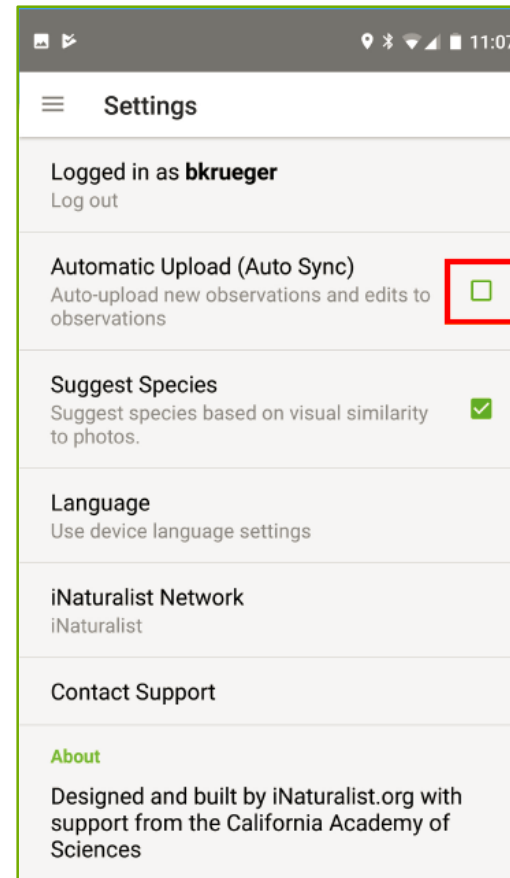
Android

TIP: To save on phone battery and data usage when you're away from WiFi:

iPhone

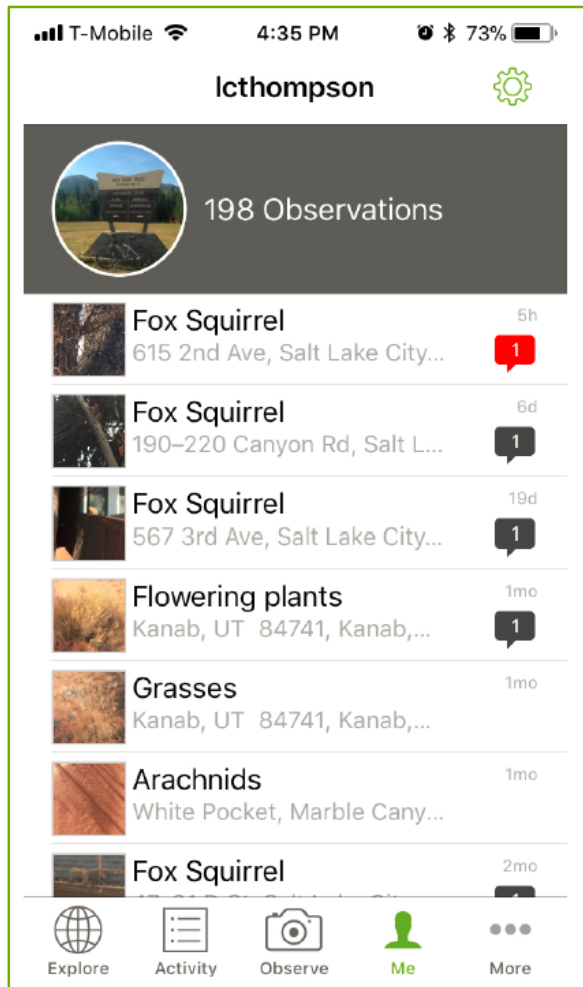


Android



Under "Settings," turn Auto Upload to "Off."

# Making A Mobile Observation



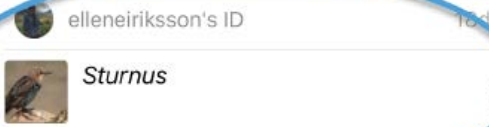
Watch your observation page for identifications from the iNaturalist community



elleneiriksson Mar 25, 2019

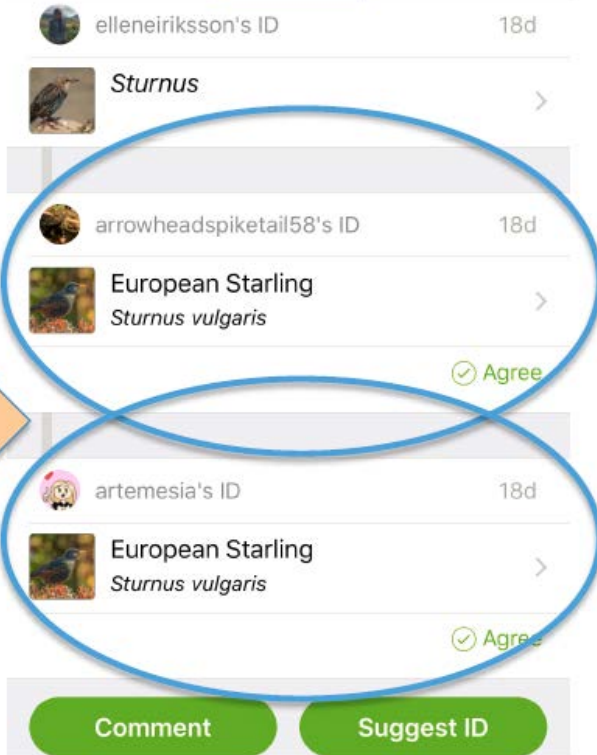


Step #1: Post observation with your ID suggestion

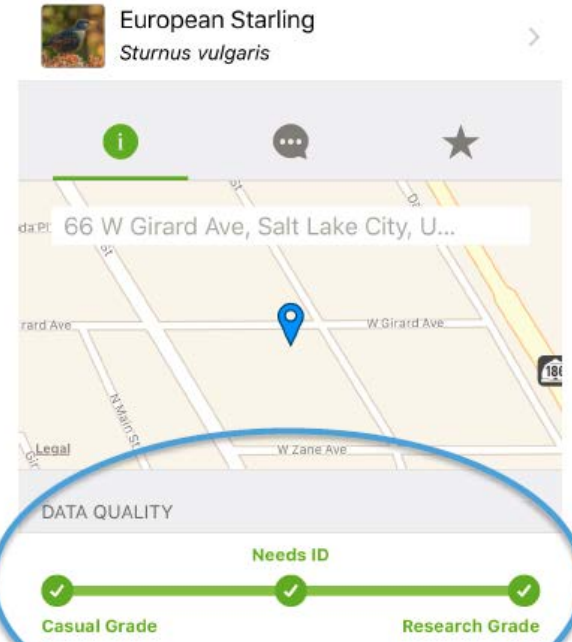


Step #2: iNaturalist members weigh in on the post with confirmation or other suggestions

Input from the iNaturalist community



Step #3: Once 2/3 of identifiers agree on a taxon, observation becomes "research grade," and is considered scientifically valid



# What Observations Should I Contribute to the Noxious Weeds Project?

Flowers in a meadow



Trees in a park



Weeds in the sidewalk



Ornamental plants  
spreading outside of  
manicured land



Flowers in a planter



Weeds in someone's garden



Take clear photos:  
*Practice focusing at different  
distances*



Make it obvious what plant you are identifying — *Get close and fill the frame if you can*

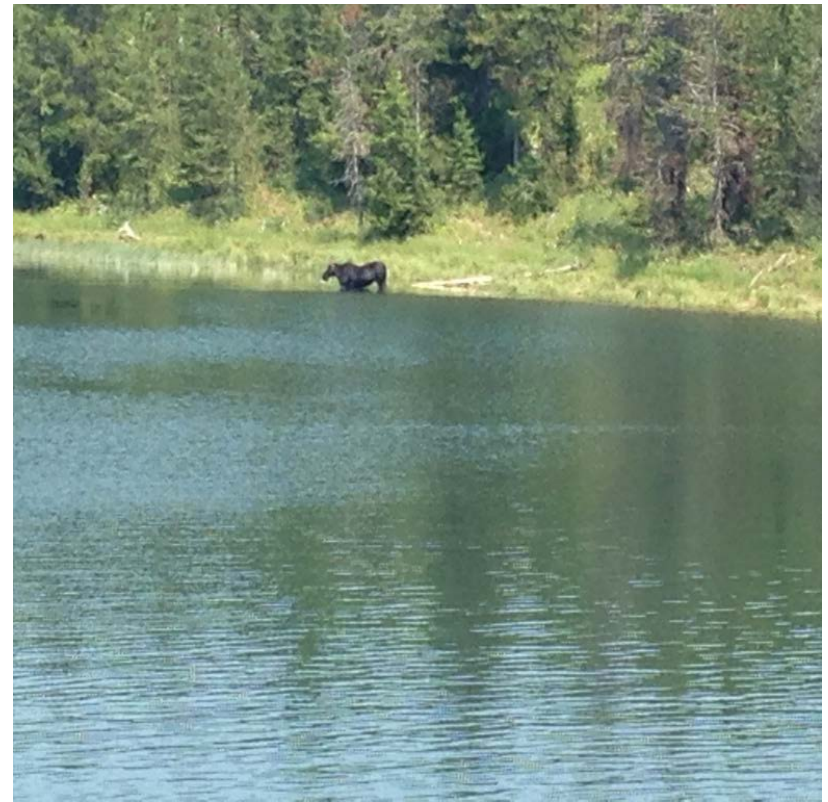


**Vs.**



Garlic mustard (*Alliaria pettiolata*), Utah state listed noxious weed

Sometimes you can't get close.  
*Use your zoom*



Take multiple photos:  
*Different parts (e.g. flower, leaf)*  
*and the whole plant*



Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), Utah state listed noxious weed

# Join our project, and have fun!

- Free to use
- Easy way to identify plants
- Help scientists and agencies do important research
- Identify potential infestations of invasive species
- Track the spread of escaped ornamental plants



Help us protect our native plants and wild spaces!

For problems with the app and troubleshooting, please contact:  
[inaturalist.org/pages/help](https://inaturalist.org/pages/help)



For questions or concerns specific to Salt Lake County's Noxious Weed Control Program, and for tons of useful education and information about noxious weeds, please visit [slco.org/weeds](https://slco.org/weeds)



# Adapted from:

## iNaturalist: A Platform for Community Science Engagement

A special thanks to:

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**NATURAL HISTORY**  
MUSEUM OF UTAH



**iNaturalist**