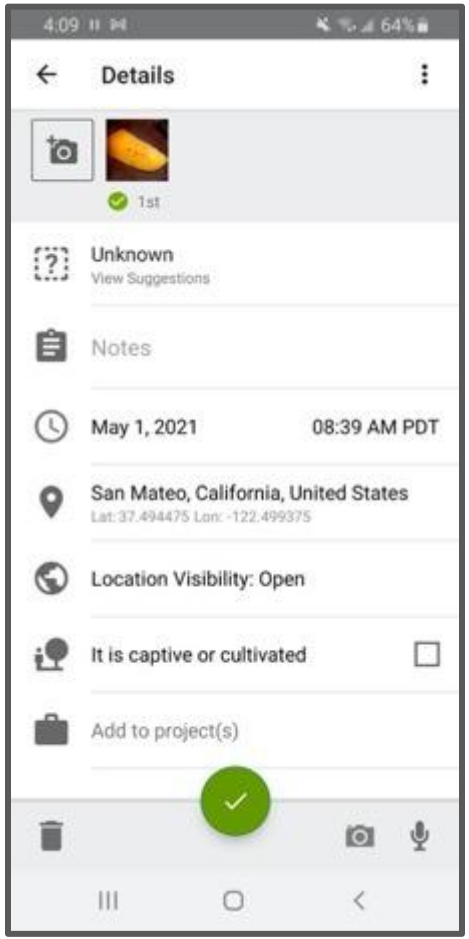
Using iNaturalist for Management, Conservation, Education, & Community Engagement

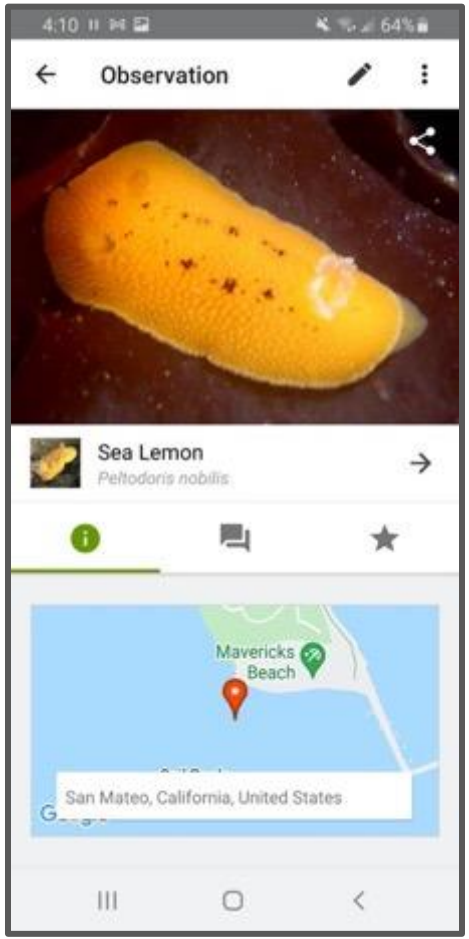
Dr. Rebecca Johnson & Alison Young
Co-Directors, Center for Biodiversity & Community Science
California Academy of Sciences
@rebafay
@alisonkestrel

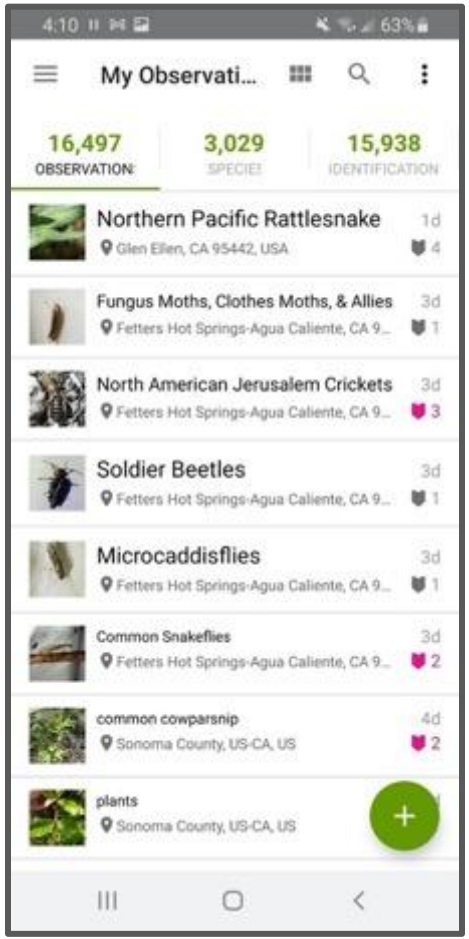
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

iNaturalist

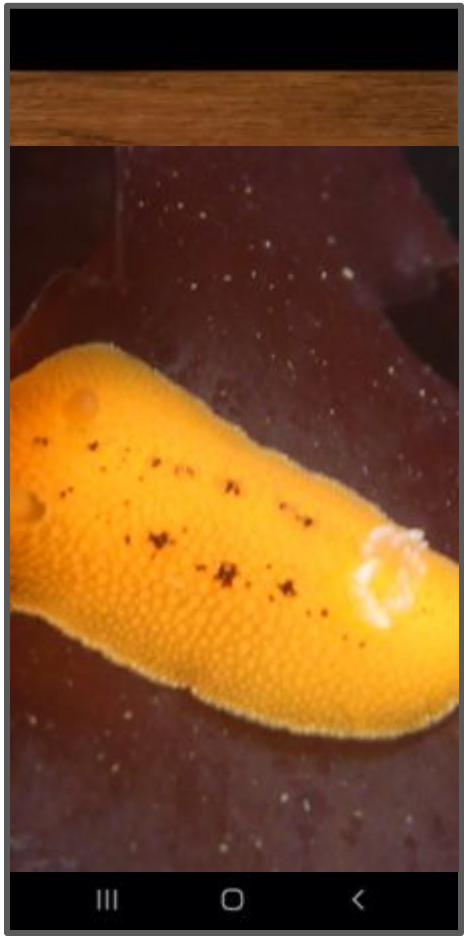
What is iNaturalist?

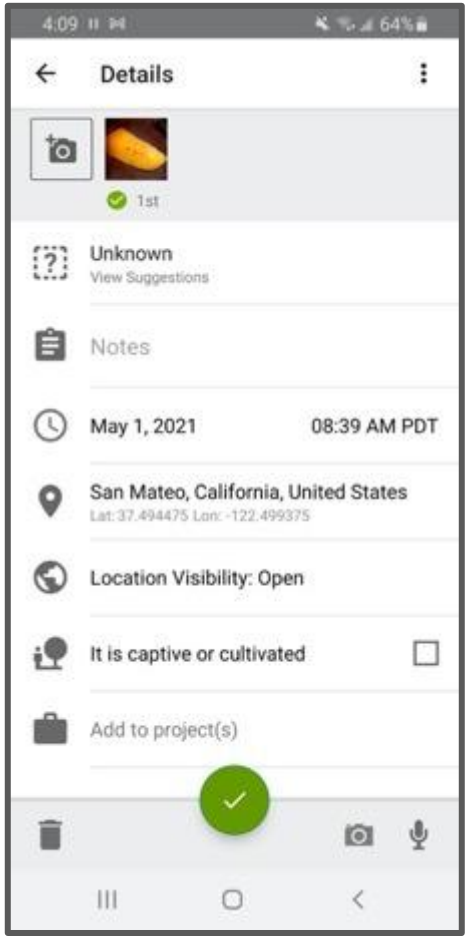


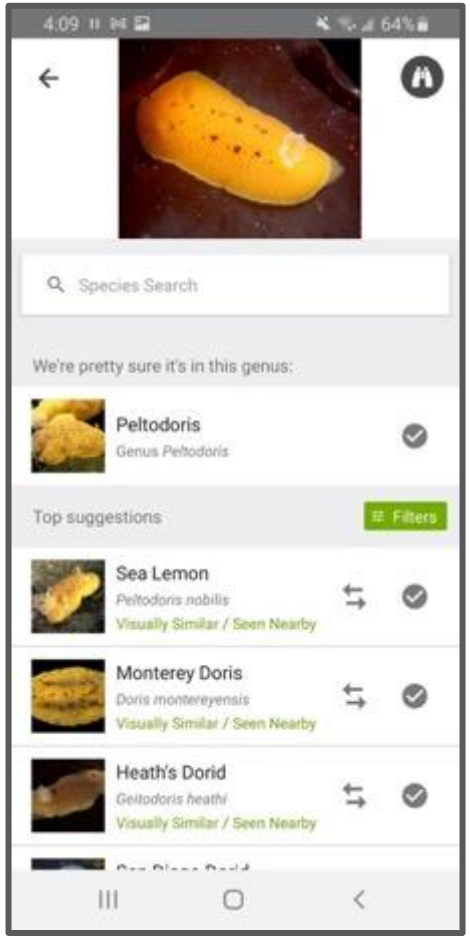




How does iNaturalist work?







1. Take a clear photo to make an observation
2. iNaturalist will give you a suggestion for ID
3. Pick from the list or type in your own ID
4. Hit "share" or ✓ to upload to iNaturalist

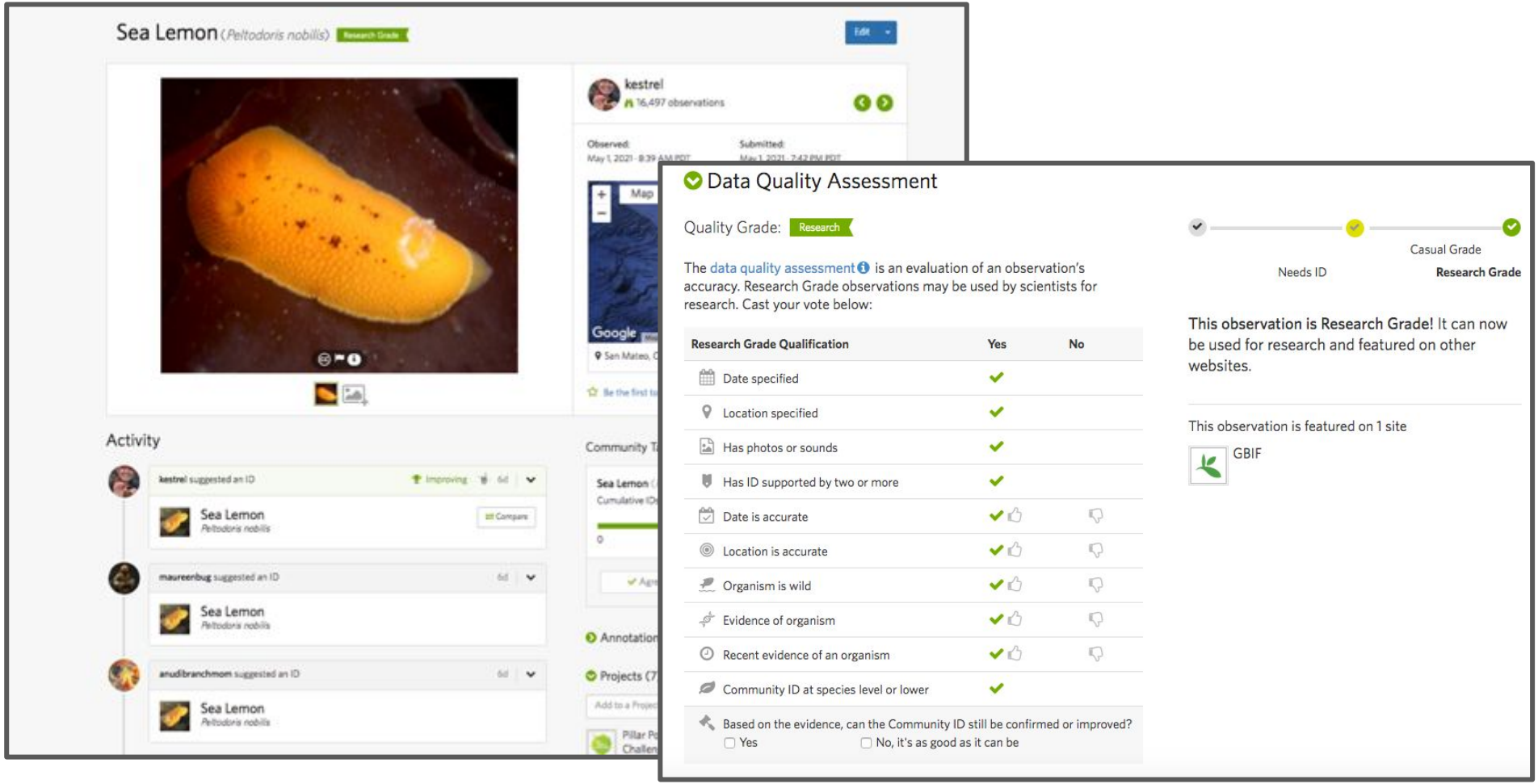
How does iNaturalist work?

DEMONSTRATION: making an observation using the iNaturalist app

1. Take a clear photo to make an observation
2. iNaturalist will give you a suggestion for ID
3. Pick from the list or type in your own ID
4. Hit "share" or ✓ to upload to iNaturalist

iNaturalist: turning photos into data

iNaturalist: turning photos into data



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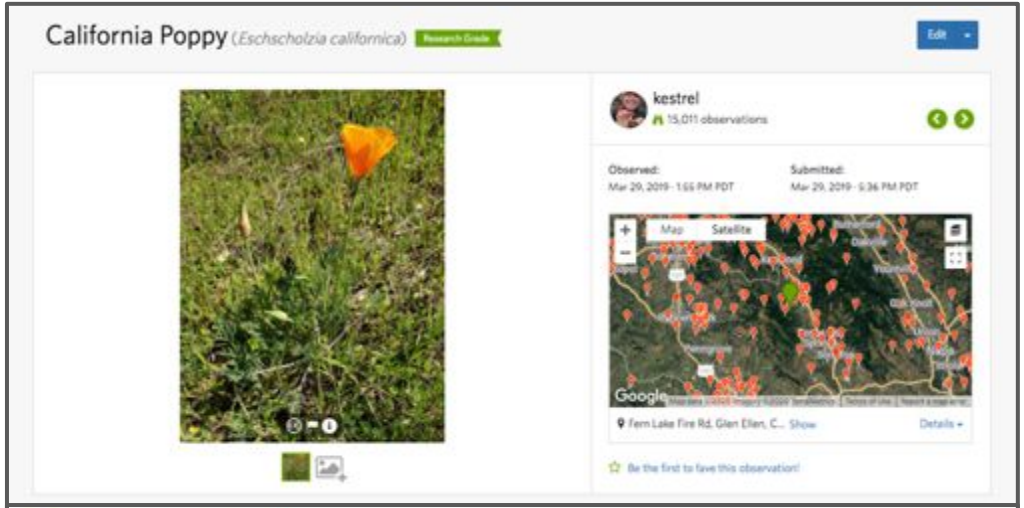
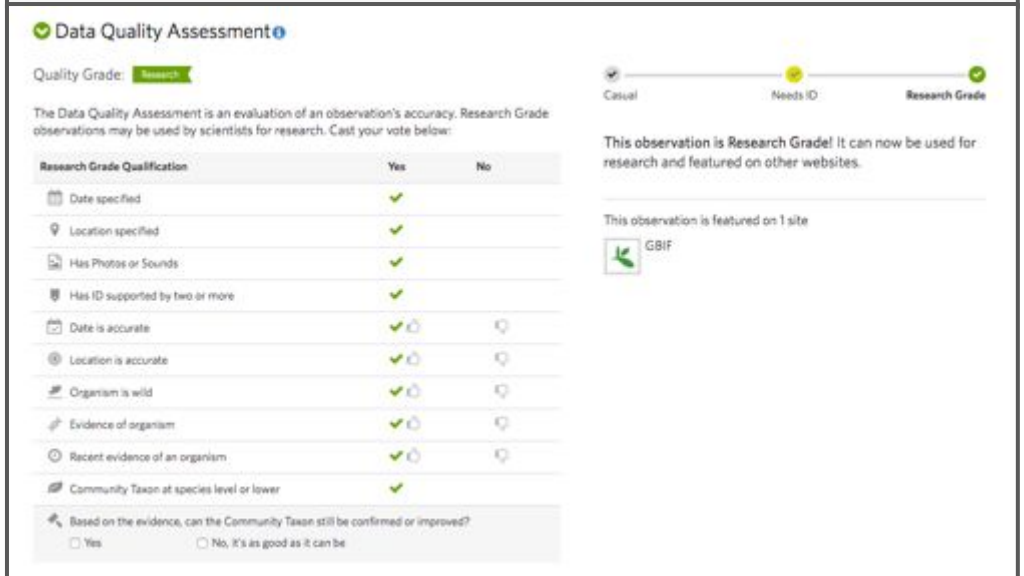
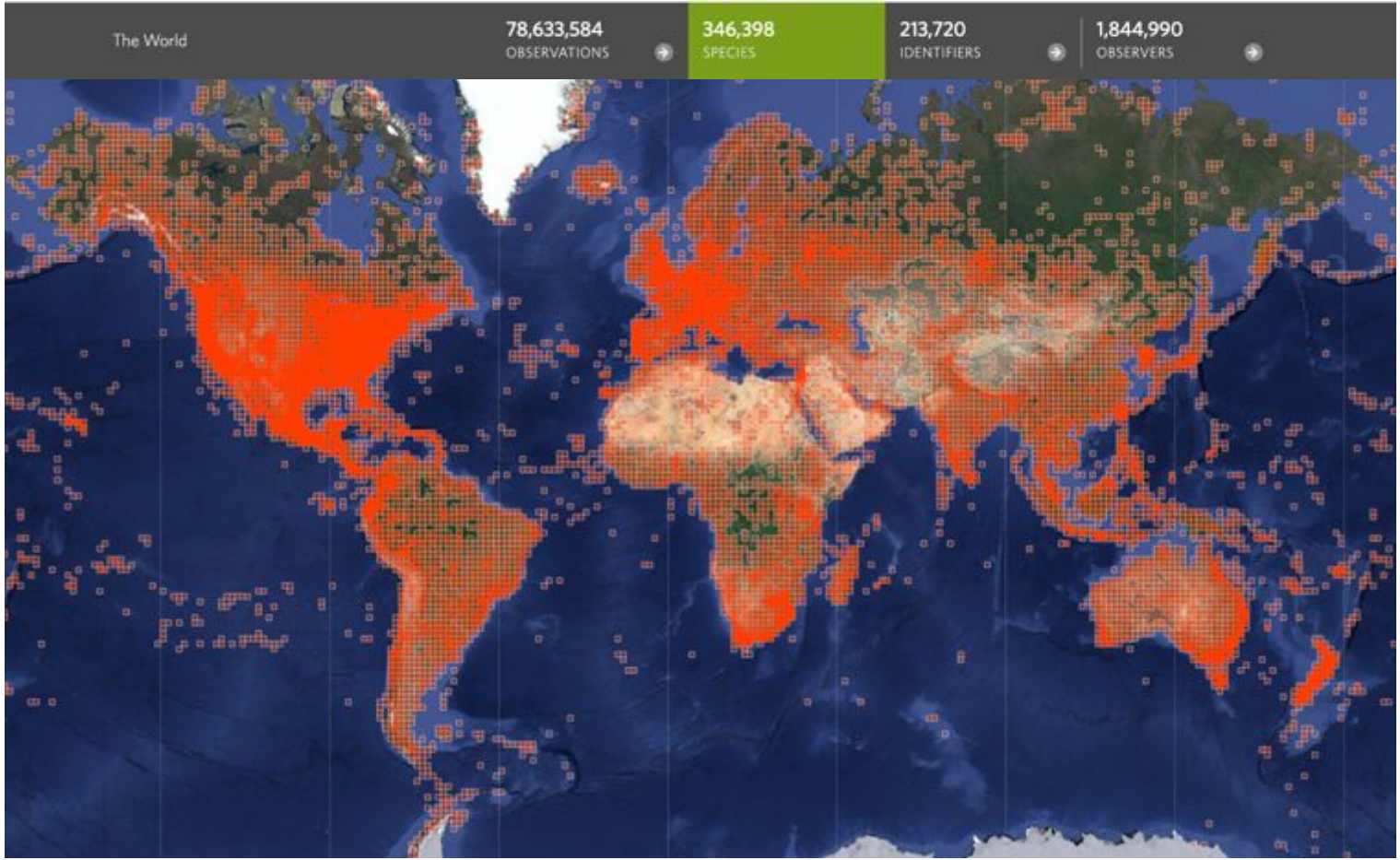
232259
1127831
copyright reserved
Plants of Mount Tamalpais


California Poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
Research Grade
Edit
kestrel
15,011 observations
Observed:
Mar 29, 2019 · 1:55 PM PDT
Submitted:
Mar 29, 2019 · 5:36 PM PDT
Map
Satellite
Google
Fern Lake Fire Rd, Glen Ellen, C...
Show
Details
Be the first to fave this observation!

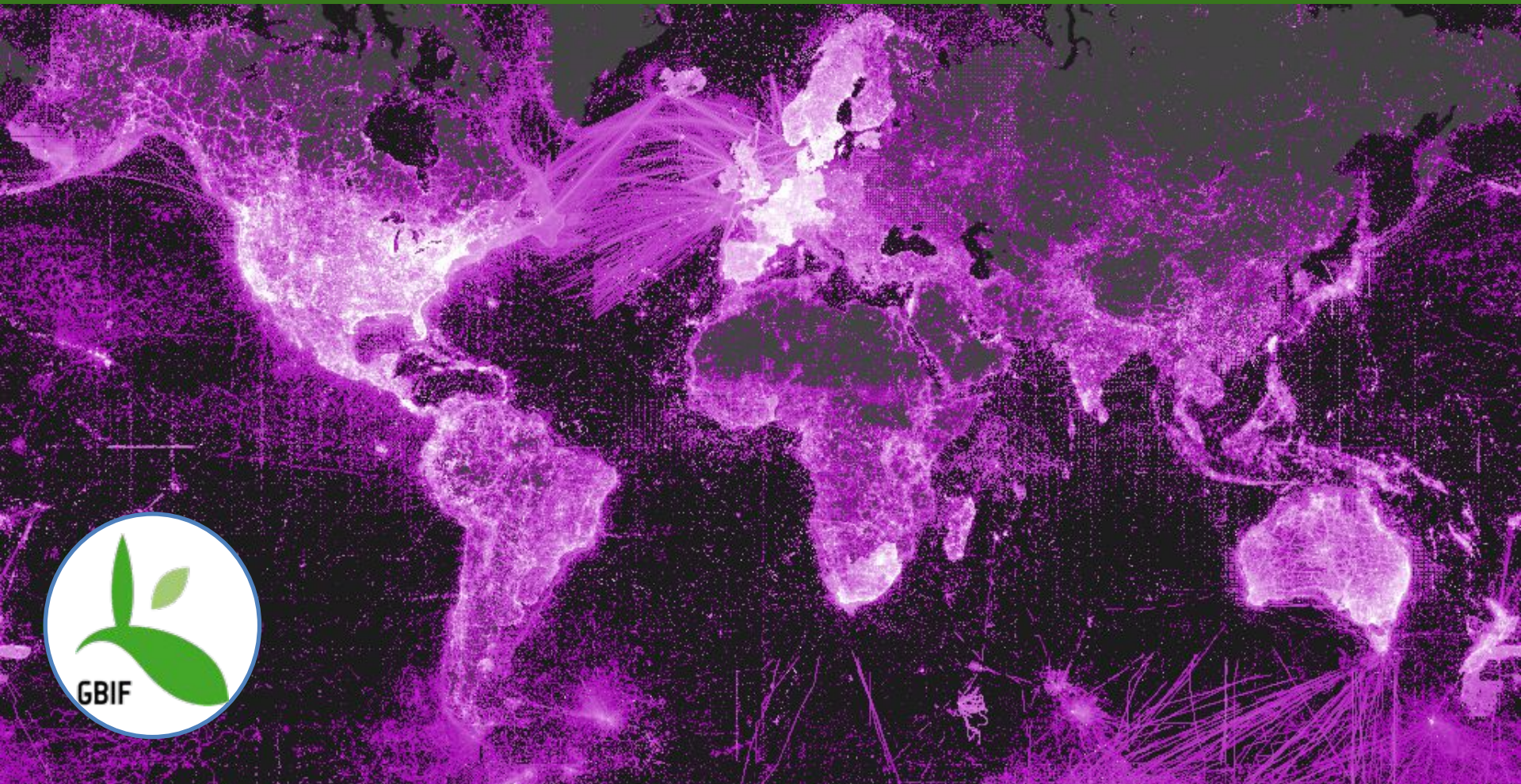

Data Quality Assessment
Quality Grade:
Research
The Data Quality Assessment is an evaluation of an observation's accuracy. Research Grade observations may be used by scientists for research. Cast your vote below:
Research Grade Qualification
Yes
No
Date specified
Location specified
Has Photos or Sounds
Has ID supported by two or more
Date is accurate
Location is accurate
Organism is wild
Evidence of organism
Recent evidence of an organism
Community Taxon at species level or lower
Based on the evidence, can the Community Taxon still be confirmed or improved?
Yes
No, it's as good as it can be
Casual
Needs ID
Research Grade
This observation is Research Grade! It can now be used for research and featured on other websites.
This observation is featured on 1 site
GBIF

iNaturalist: turning photos into data



Your observations are contributing to a global database of when and where species are found!

iNaturalist data usage: big data



iNaturalist data usage: big data

Studies That Used iNaturalist Data in 2020

Click the flower charts for more information about what the numbers and colors mean. Impact data and charts courtesy of Altmetric. Information about data usage courtesy of our friends at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Cooper, J., Pimiento, C., Ferrón, H., and Benton, M.
Body dimensions of the extinct giant shark Otodus megalodon: a 2D reconstruction
Scientific Reports
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.34gv5k

Dorey, J., Fagan-Jeffries, E., Stevens, M., and Schwarz, M.
Morphometric comparisons and novel observations of diurnal and low-light-foraging bees
Journal of Hymenoptera Research
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.92zbgq doi:10.15468/dl.c5ugss doi:10.15468/dl.f55tu7 doi:10.15468/dl.kg7tch doi:10.15468/dl.m8hpxs doi:10.15468/dl.m8ud4s doi:10.15468/dl.narxm7 doi:10.15468/dl.nk7d69 doi:10.15468/dl.skwz9j doi:10.15468/dl.w8gw8v

Siqueira, A., Morais, R., Bellwood, D., and Cowman, P.
Trophic innovations fuel reef fish diversification
Nature Communications
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.9vzatq

Lim, J., Svenning, J., Göldel, B., Faurby, S., and Kissling, W.
Frugivore-fruit size relationships between palms and mammals reveal past and future defaunation impacts
Nature Communications
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.8ojwyx

Craven, D., Sande, M., Meyer, C., Gerstner, K., Bennett, J., Giling, D., Hines, J., Phillips, H., May, F., Bannar-Martin, K., Chase, J., and Keil, P.
A cross-scale assessment of productivity–diversity relationships
Global Ecology and Biogeography
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.mka2y5

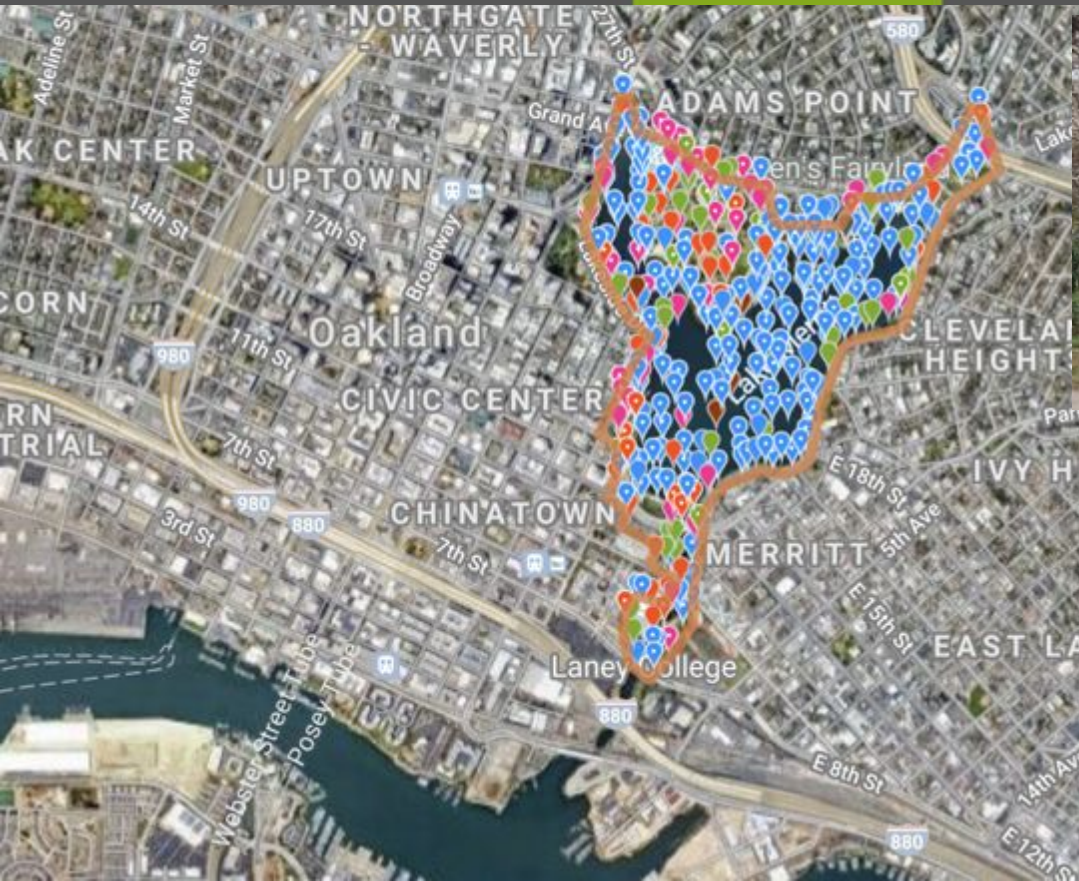
Simpson, K., Jardine, E., Archibald, S., Forrestel, E., Lehmann, C., Thomas, G., and Osborne, C.
Resprouting grasses are associated with less frequent fire than seeders
New Phytologist
Data used: doi:10.15468/dl.rckugp

375+ papers published using iNaturalist data in 2020

iNaturalist data usage:management & more

Lake Merritt

14,493 OBSERVATIONS	1,194 SPECIES	2,005 IDENTIFIERS	972 OBSERVERS



Lake Merritt

14,493 OBSERVATIONS | 1,194 SPECIES | 2,005 IDENTIFIERS | 972 OBSERVERS

Black-crowned Night-...
(*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

American White Pelican
(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

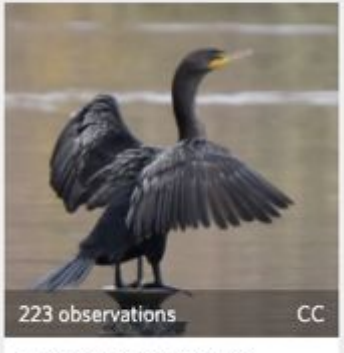
Snowy Egret
(*Egretta thula*)

Mallard
(*Anas platyrhynchos*)

American Coot
(*Fulica americana*)

Common Raccoon
(*Procyon lotor*)

Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*)



Double-crested Cormo...
(*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Great Egret
(*Ardea alba*)

Fox Squirrel
(*Sciurus niger*)

iNaturalist data usage: unexpected finds

yetinaturalist
489 observations

Observed:
Apr 28, 2018 · 1:00 PM PDT

Submitted:
Apr 28, 2018 · 2:46 PM PDT

Unnamed Road, Oakland, CA 94610,... Show

Details

edpl faved this observation

Activity

yetinaturalist suggested an ID — Maverick 3y

Broadhead Planarians
Genus *Bipalium*

Compare | Agree

edpl suggested an ID* — Improving 3y

Diversibipalium multilineatum
a member of Hammerhead Worms
(Subfamily Bipaliinae)

Compare | Agree

* **edpl** disagrees this is **Broadhead Planarians (Genus *Bipalium*)**

edpl commented 3y

The exact same comment I just wrote to @carly100 :

I am almost 100% sure D. multilineatum has never been reported before in the US. Up to the date only B. kewense, B. adventitium, B. vagum and B. pennsylvanicum were known in America (all of them introduced from Asia). First time I see that...It would be very interesting to report this finding in a scientific publication.

edpl commented 3y

Let me add that I just saw in the location map that they were found close to a "Japanese garden", which is rather interesting taking into account that the species is supposed to be native to Japan. It might be that the specimens you took photos of were introduced by accident along with plants from Japan (I am assuming there are plants from Japan there).

jaimem100 suggested an ID 3y

Diversibipalium multilineatum
a member of Hammerhead Worms (Subfamily Bipaliinae)

piterkeo suggested an ID 3y

Diversibipalium multilineatum
a member of Hammerhead Worms (Subfamily Bipaliinae)

bekahwal suggested an ID 2mo

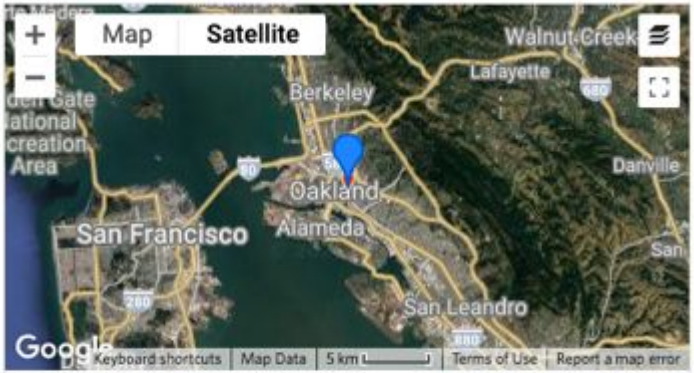
Diversibipalium multilineatum
a member of Hammerhead Worms (Subfamily Bipaliinae)

Diversibipalium multilineatum Research Grade

yetinaturalist
489 observations

Observed:
Apr 28, 2018 · 1:00 PM PDT

Submitted:
Apr 28, 2018 · 2:46 PM PDT



Unnamed Road, Oakland, CA 94610,... Show

Details

edpl faved this observation

Oakland

78,837 OBSERVATIONS | 3,879 SPECIES | 4,638 IDENTIFIERS | 6,173 OBSERVERS

Black-crowned Night-...
(Nycticorax nycticorax)

Snowy Egret
(Egretta thula)

American White Pelican
(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)

Mallard
(Anas platyrhynchos)

Monarch
(Danaus plexippus)

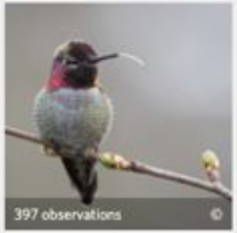
Double-crested Cormo...
(Phalacrocorax auritus)

American Coot
(Fulica americana)

Canada Goose
(Branta canadensis)

Western Honey Bee
(Apis mellifera)

Fox Squirrel
(Sciurus niger)



Anna's Hummingbird
(Calypte anna)

Western Fence Lizard
(Sceloporus occidentalis)

Coast Live Oak
(Quercus agrifolia)

California Slender Sala...
(Batrachoseps attenuatus)

Common Goldeneye
(Bucephala clangula)

Bioblitzes

Double Rock
South Basin
KIPP Bayview Academy
St Paul of the Shipwreck Church
Bret Harte Elementary School
True Hope Church
Gilman Playground
Bayview Park
Bayview Park Rd
Candlestick Point State Recreation Area
Crescent Way
Little Hollywood Park
Beatty Ave

About

Leave 6

Join Literacy for Environmental Justice, California State Parks, the San Francisco Public Library, and the California Academy of Sciences as we explore our City's State Park. We'll work together to document as many plants and animals as we can!

Read More >

Your Membership

Edit Project

Project Journal

Overview | 1,300 OBSERVATIONS | 252 SPECIES | 195 IDENTIFIERS | 62 OBSERVERS | Stats

Most Observations

1st	catchang	115
	mallorina	69
	zoemonosson	50
	metsa	47
	rachmono	46
	robberfly	46

View All | View Yours

Most Species

1st	catchang	101
	robberfly	42
	mallorina	35
	laurahersz	25
	rbgb	23
	rachmono	22

View All | View Yours

Most Observed Species

	Coyote Brush	63
	Fennel	34
	Fleshy Russian Thistle	32
	Yellow Shore Crab	21
	Toyon	20
	Bristly Oxtongue	20

View All | View Yours

iNaturalist & OSLA: bioblitzes

Overview

602 OBSERVATIONS | **137** SPECIES | **58** IDENTIFIERS | **28** OBSERVERS

Stats

Most Observations

dpom	62
maureenbug	57
greasewood	38
chilipossum	38
kentstrother	36
rebeccafay	36

View All | View Yours

Most Species

dpom	52
chilipossum	35
greasewood	19
marinmaverick	19
ktnoon	16
rebeccafay	16

View All | View Yours

Most Observed Species

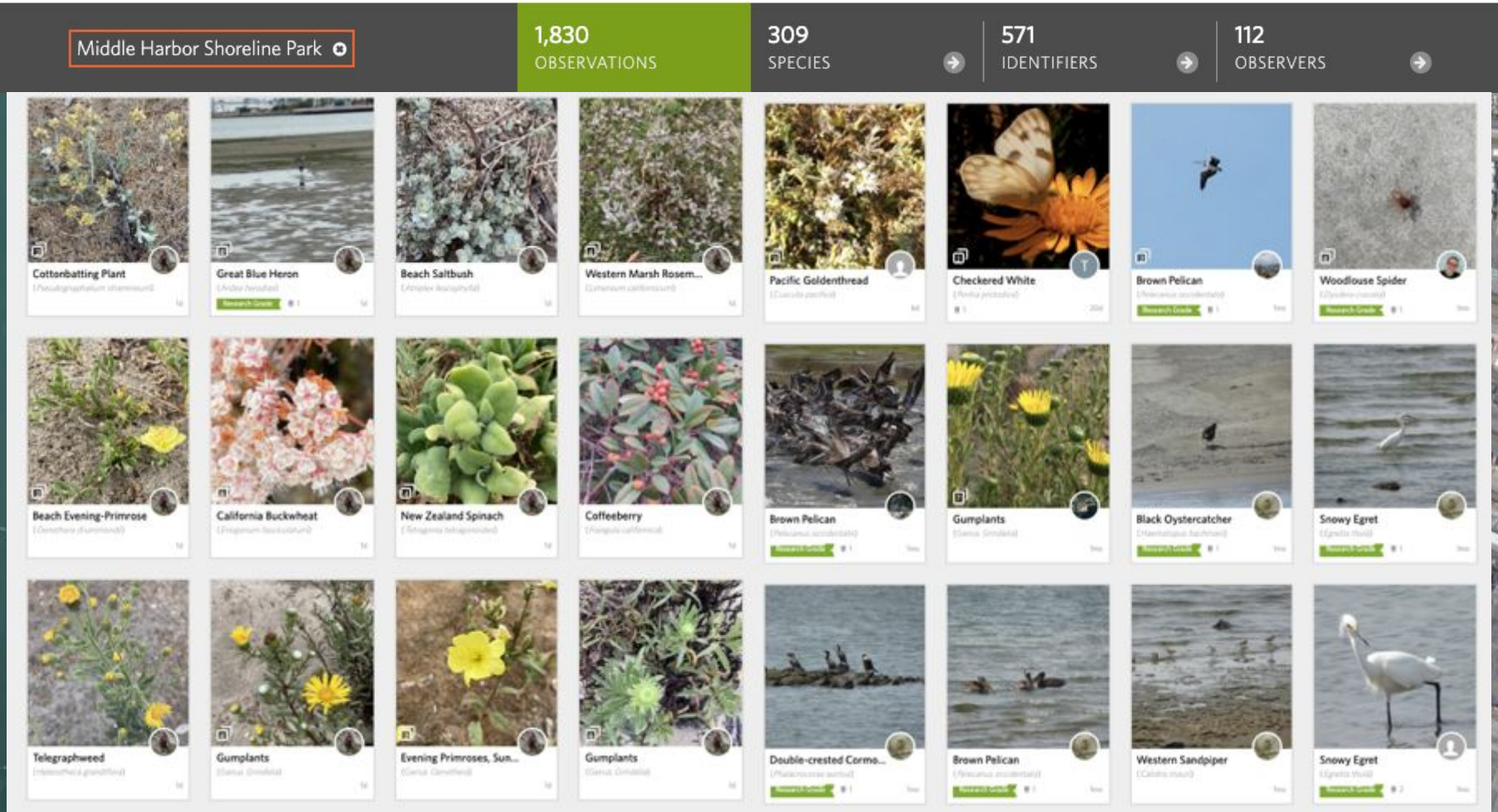
Hedgpeth's Sapsucker	52
Yellow Shore Crab	28
Japanese Littleneck	24
Rockweed	14
Genus *Polysiphonia*	9
Sea Spaghettis	9

View All | View Yours

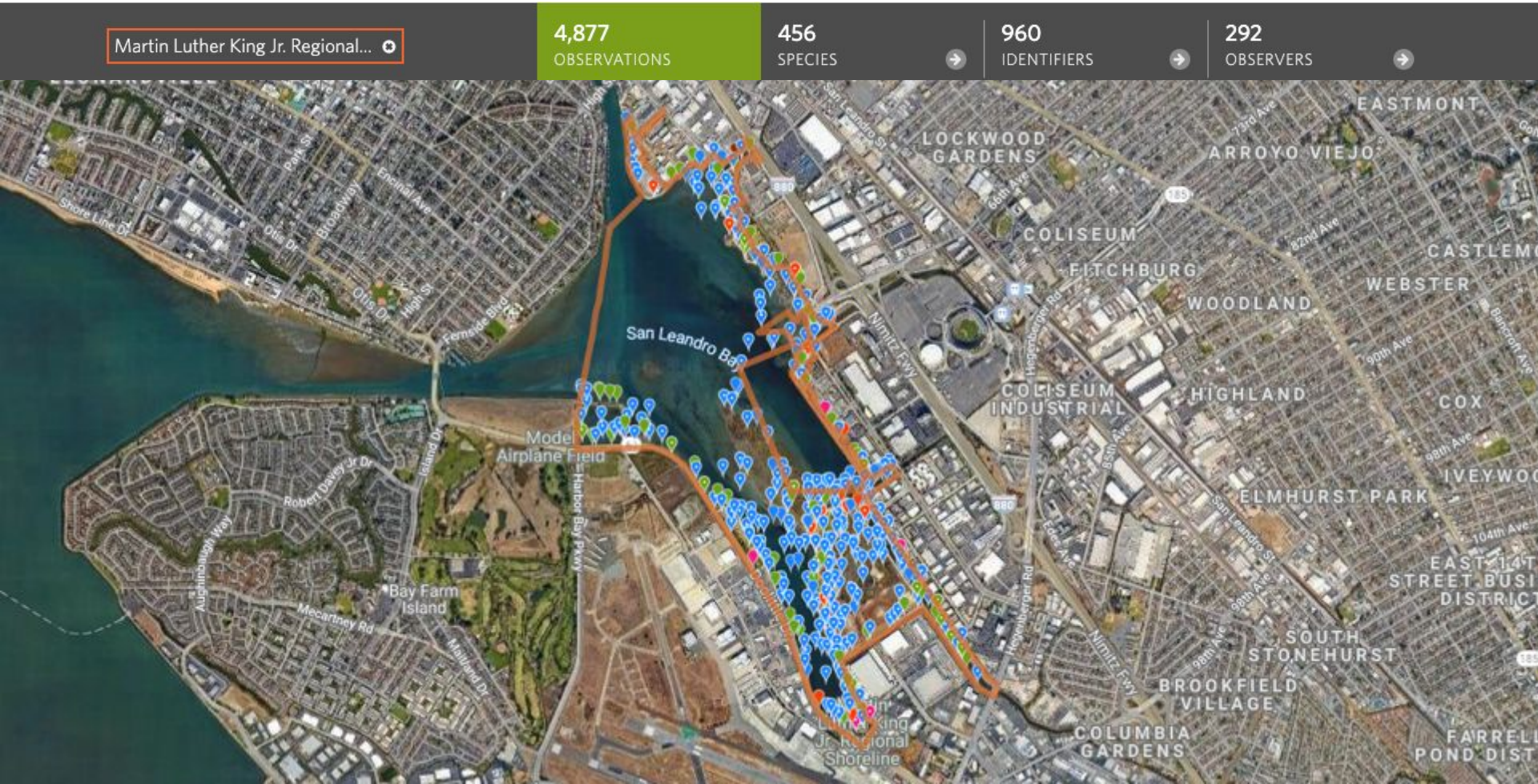
iNaturalist & OSLA: bioblitzes

DEMONSTRATION: making a bioblitz project in iNaturalist

iNaturalist & OSLA: looking at existing data



iNaturalist & OSLA: looking at existing data

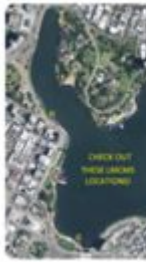


iNaturalist & OSLA: looking at existing data

DEMONSTRATION: how to find data from a particular place in iNaturalist

Guides

lake merritt



Common Birds

A few of the more common birds you're likely to s

All 28

TAXONOMY

- Waterfowl 8
  Order Anseriformes
- Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds, and Allies 1
  Order Caprimulgiformes
- Shorebirds and Allies 4
  Order Charadriiformes
- Pigeons and Doves 1
  Order Columbiformes
- Cranes, Rails, and Allies 1
  Order Gruiformes
- Perching Birds 3
  Order Passeriformes
- Pelicans, Herons, Ibises, and Allies 6
  Order Pelecaniformes
- Grebes 3
  Order Podicipediformes
- Gannets, Cormorants, and Allies 1
  Order Suliformes

Print

Layout

(●) grid
Grid of single images, no descriptions

( ) book
Complete guide including all photos and descriptions, spanning multiple pages.

( ) journal
Split page, species info on the left, room for notes on the right. Species info will be truncated to fit on the page.

Taxa to include

(●) All taxa in this guide

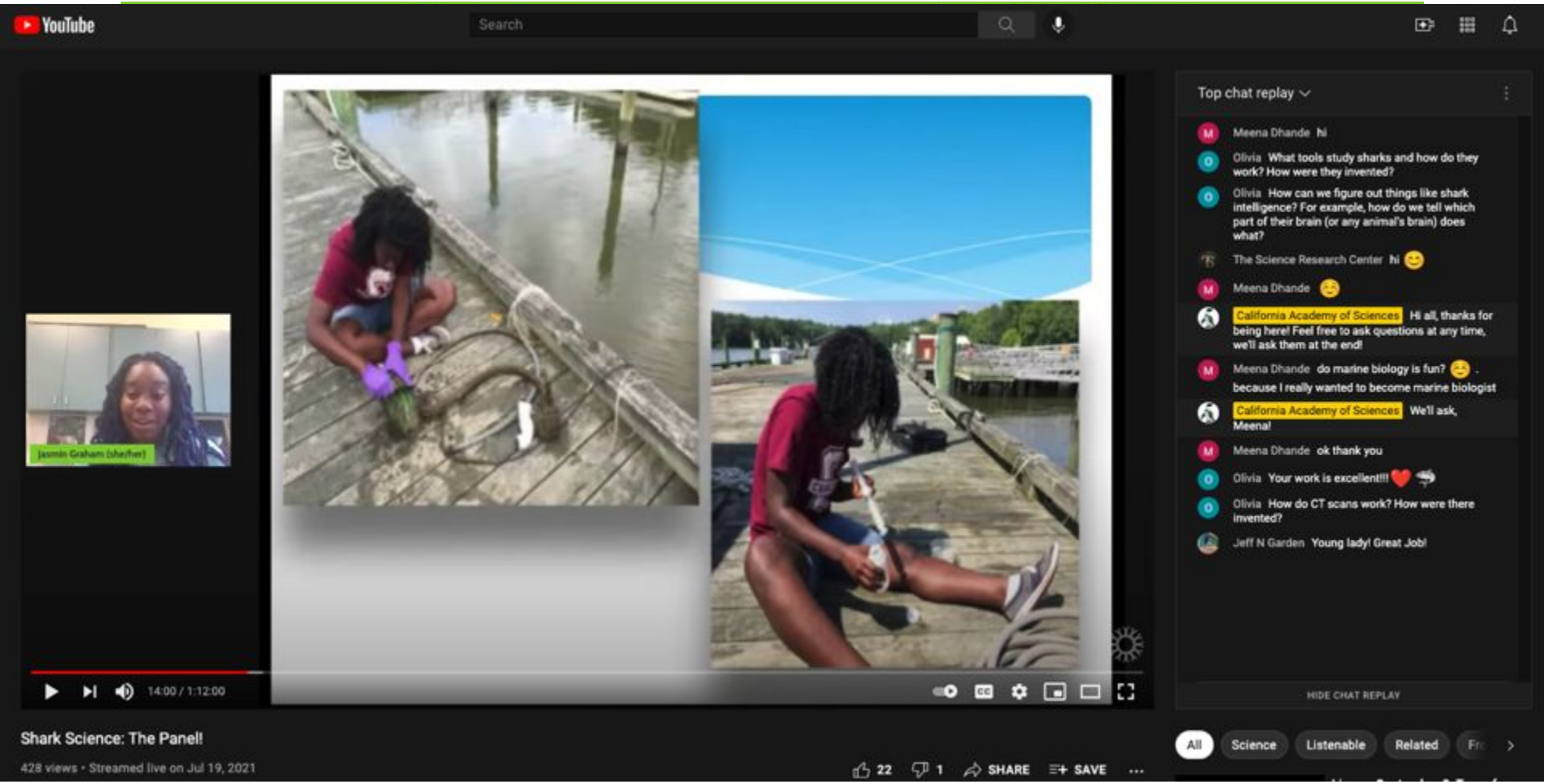
( ) 28 taxa matching current filters

Note: most browsers have an option to print to PDF

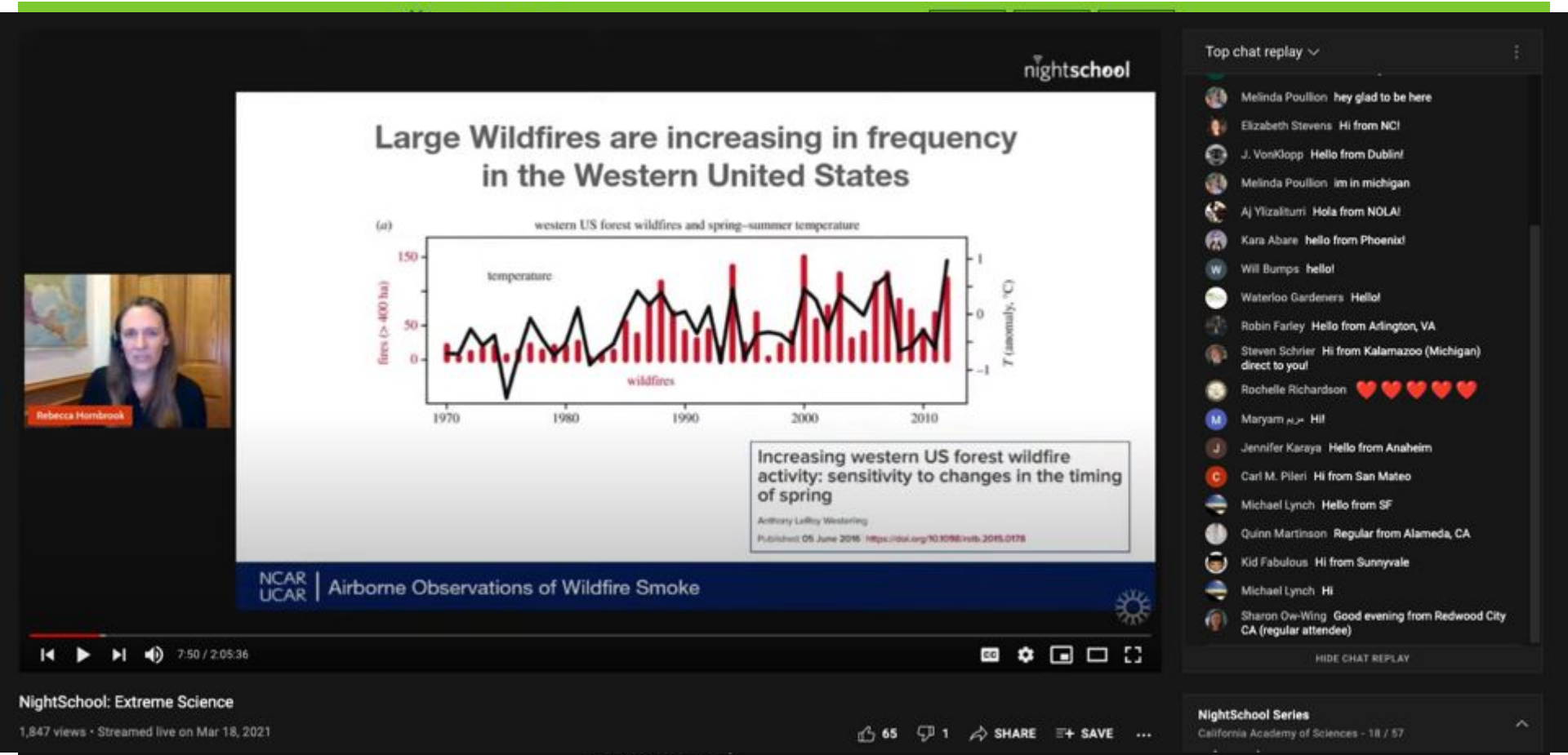
Print

Terms of Use

Cal Academy & OSLA: communications



Cal Academy & OSLA: communications



THANK YOU!

Dr. Rebecca Johnson:
rjohnson@calacademy.org
@rebeccafay
@rebafay

Alison Young:
ayoung@calacademy.org
@alisonkestrel
@kestrel

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