



MVFN Lanark County Project iNaturalist guide (version 1.2)



Guide for joining iNaturalist and posting observations

Part 1: Getting an iNaturalist account

Part 2: Joining the MVFN Lanark County project

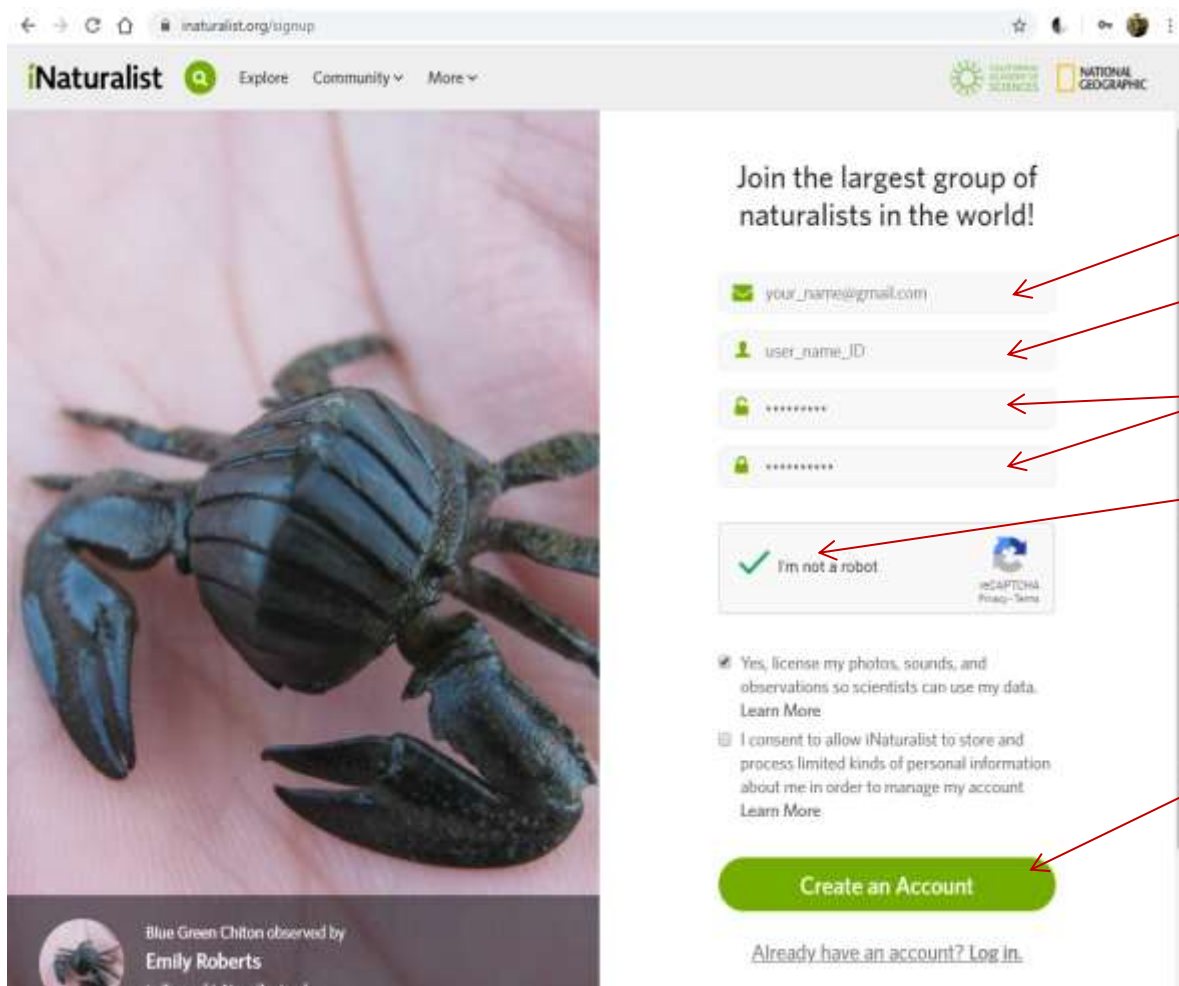
Part 3: Posting nature observations

Notes:

- 1) This guide is for joining and using iNaturalist via the web site at www.inaturalist.ca (e.g. for Windows PC).
- 2) There are simple-to-use apps available for Android and Apple devices.
- 3) iNaturalist has good instructions and help videos on their web site for Windows PC (web), Android, and Apple devices.
<https://inaturalist.ca/pages/help-inaturalist-canada-en>
<https://inaturalist.ca/pages/getting-started-inaturalist-canada>

First - Sign-up for an account

1) Go to www.inaturalist.ca/signup



Join the largest group of naturalists in the world!

I'm not a robot

Yes, license my photos, sounds, and observations so scientists can use my data. [Learn More](#)

I consent to allow iNaturalist to store and process limited kinds of personal information about me in order to manage my account. [Learn More](#)

[Create an Account](#)

[Already have an account? Log in.](#)

2) Enter your preferred email address

3) Enter a unique user ID

4) Enter a password (twice)

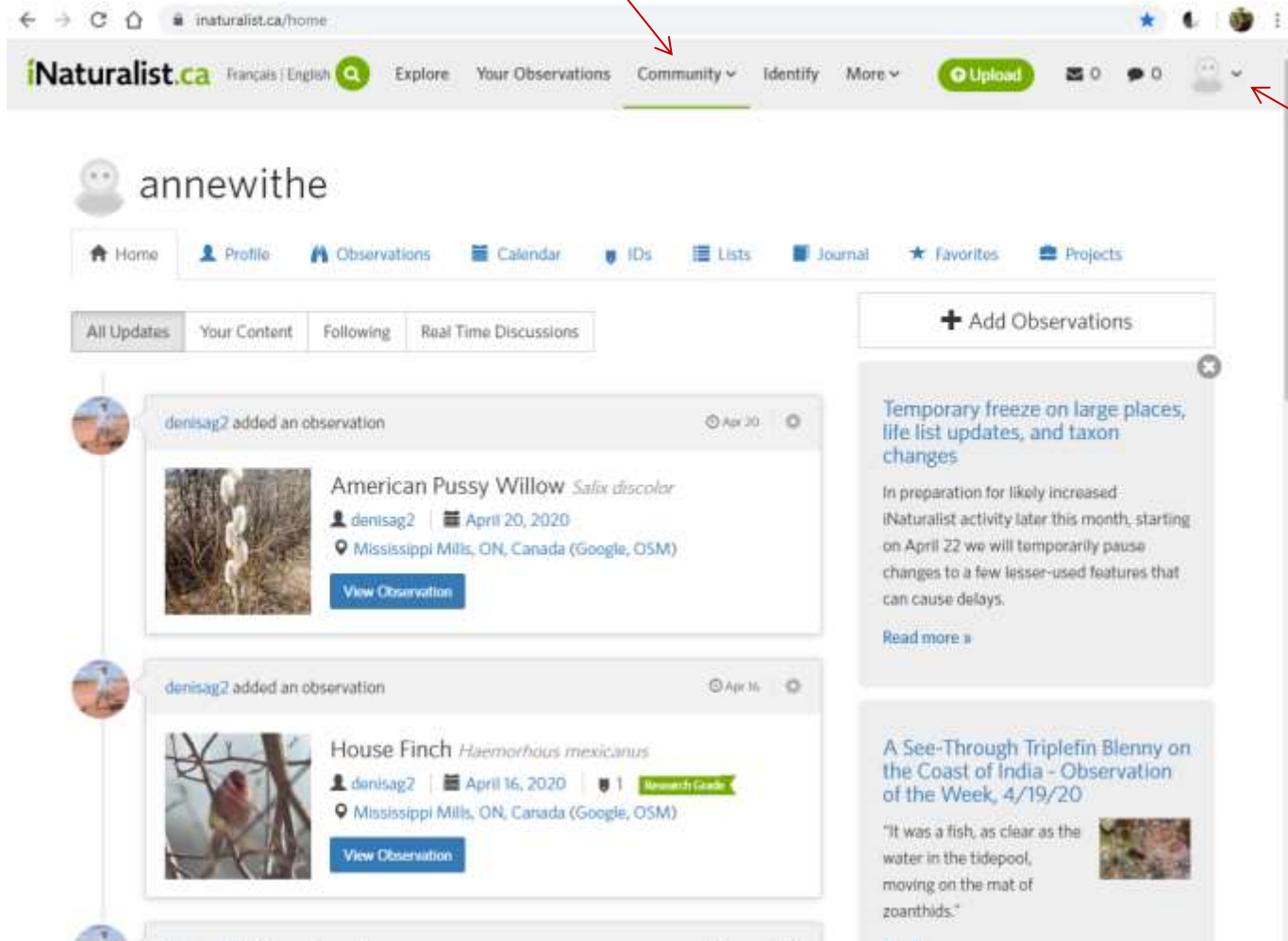
5) Click the “I’m not a robot” checkbox

6) Click the “Create an Account” button. You are done!

iNaturalist signup web page.

Second – Join the MVFN Lanark County project (1)

1) Under “Community” pull-down menu, select “Project”.



FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.

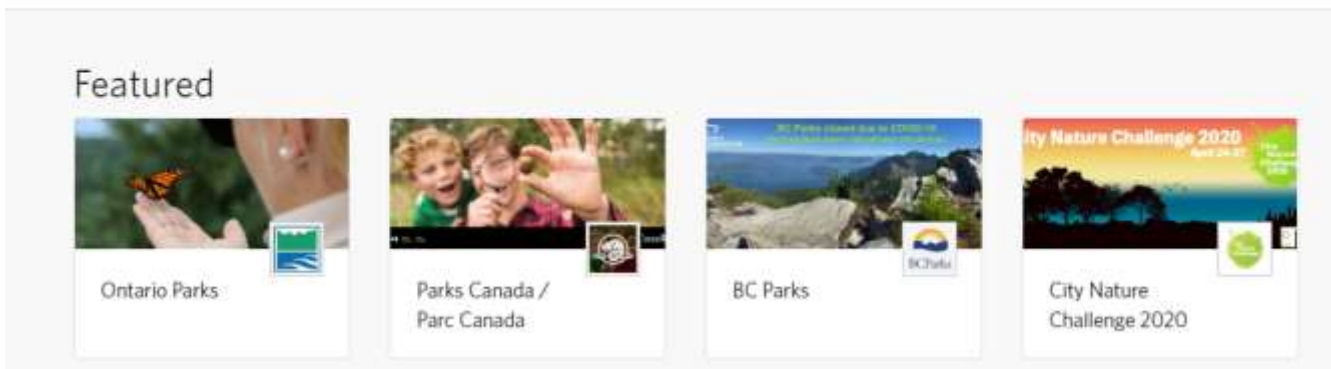
Your Home screen
after logging in.

Second – Join the MVFN Lanark County project (2)

1) In the Search box, type “MVFN Lanark County”; click the Go button.



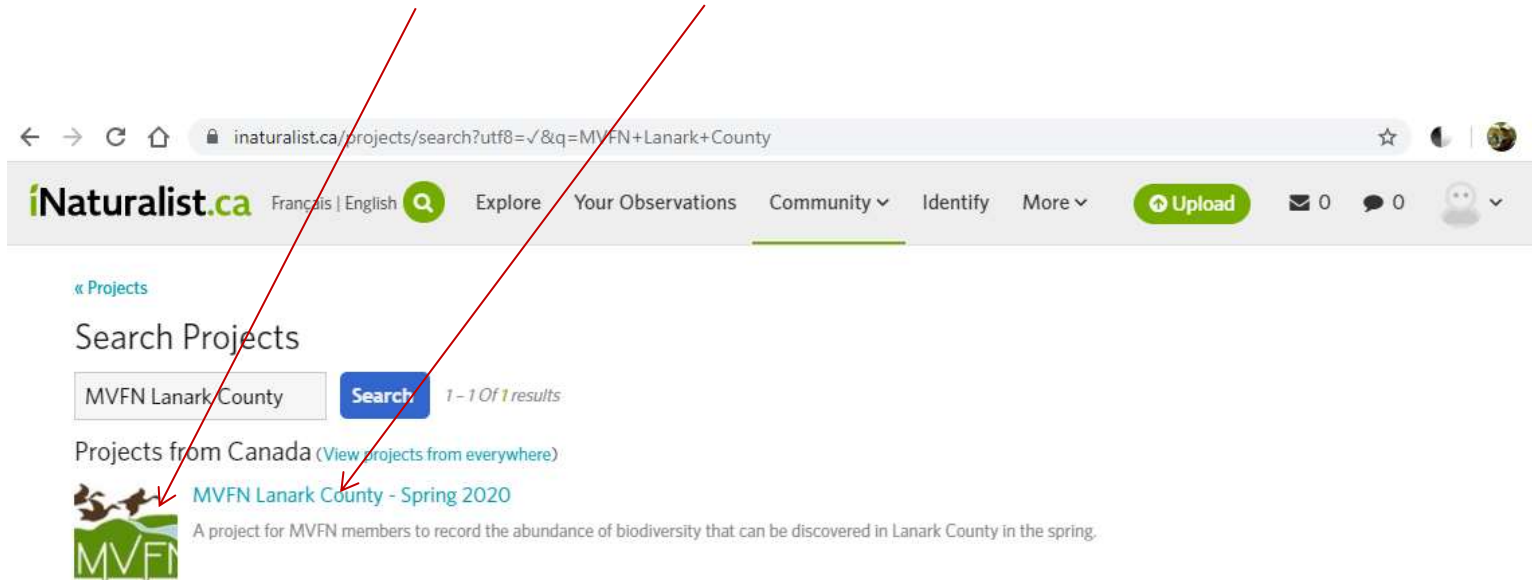
FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.



iNaturalist Project
screen.

Second – Join the MVFN Lanark County project (3)

1) Click on the MVFN logo or MVFN Lanark County.



The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca website interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: inaturalist.ca/projects/search?utf8=✓&q=MVFN+Lanark+County. The website header includes the iNaturalist.ca logo, language options (Français | English), and navigation links: Explore, Your Observations, Community, Identify, and More. There is also an Upload button and notification icons for messages and comments.

The main content area shows a search for "MVFN Lanark County" with a search button and the text "1 - 1 Of 1 results". Below this, there is a section titled "Projects from Canada" with a link to "View projects from everywhere". The search results list a single project: "MVFN Lanark County - Spring 2020". The project description reads: "A project for MVFN members to record the abundance of biodiversity that can be discovered in Lanark County in the spring." The project logo features a map of Lanark County and the MVFN logo.

Two red arrows originate from the text "Click on the MVFN logo or MVFN Lanark County." and point to the MVFN logo and the project title "MVFN Lanark County - Spring 2020" respectively.

Second – Join the MVFN Lanark County project (4)

1) Click the “Join” button.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with the iNaturalist logo, language options (Français | English), and various menu items like 'Explore', 'Your Observations', 'Community', 'Identify', and 'More'. There's also an 'Upload' button and notification icons. A red arrow points from the 'Join' button in the 'About' section to the text 'Click the “Join” button.' Another red arrow points from the user profile icon in the top right to the text 'FYI. Your iNaturalist Control pull-down menu.'

The main content area features a large banner for the 'Mississippi Field Natu' project, which is an 'EVENT IN PROGRESS'. The banner includes the text 'MVFN Lanark County - Spring 2020' and the dates 'MAR 19, 2020 - JUN 20, 2020'. Below the banner, there's a summary of the project: 'About' section with a 'Join' button and a 'Project Journal' button. The 'About' text reads: 'A project for MVFN members to record the abundance of biodiversity that can be discovered in Lanark County in the spring. Read More >'. Below this, there's a 'Stats' button.

Below the stats, there's a 'Recent Observations' section with a 'View All' button. The section displays three observation cards:

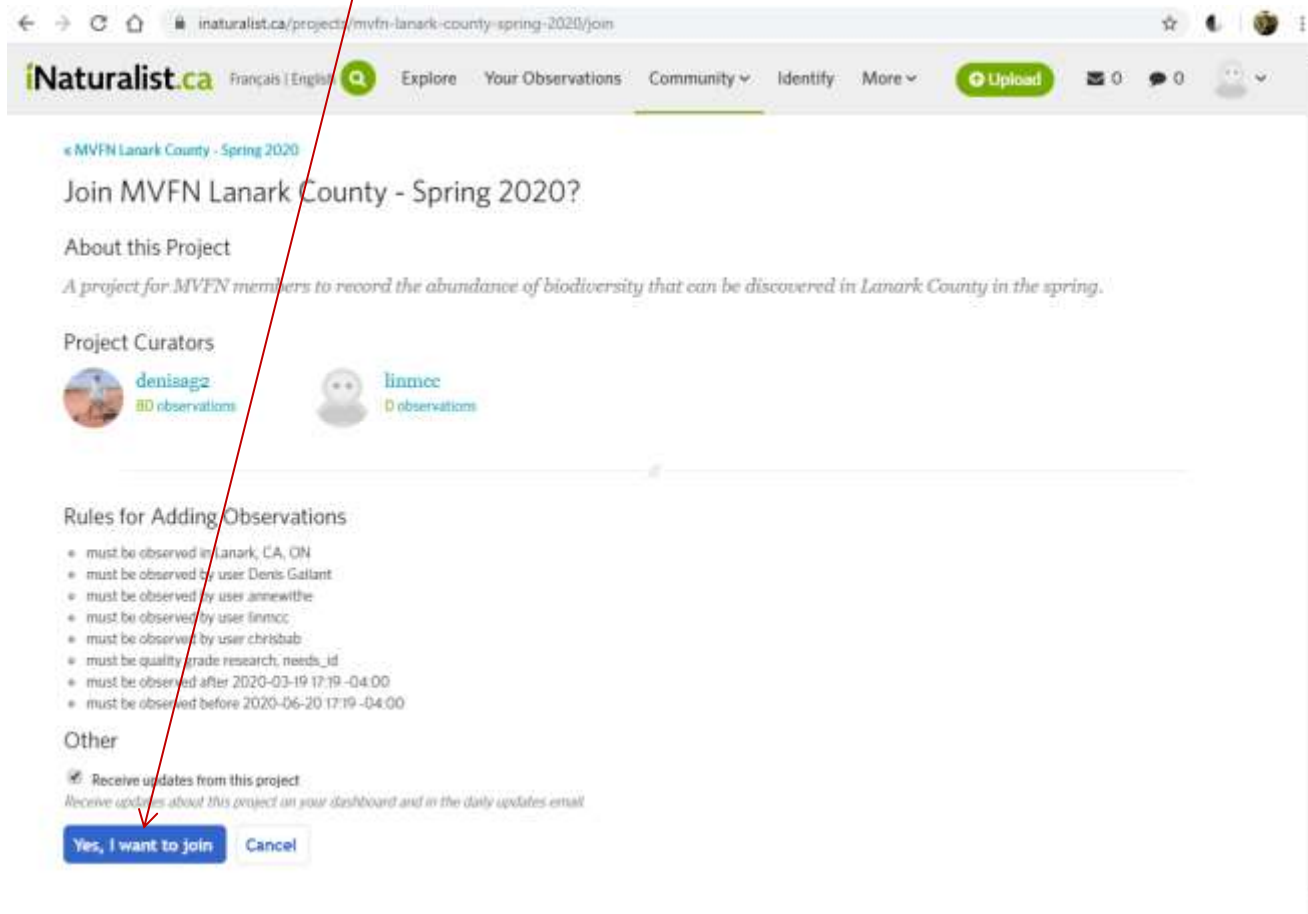
- American Pussy Willow** (*Salix discolor*) - 21h
- House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) - 1 5d
- Turkey Vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) - 1 14d

FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.

MVFN Lanark County
Home page

Second – Join the MVFN Lanark County project (5)

- 1) Click the “Yes, I want to join” button. You are done. Congratulations and welcome!
- 2) Next, it’s time to start posting some nature observations.



The screenshot shows the Naturalist.ca website interface. The browser address bar displays the URL: `inaturalist.ca/projects/mvfn-lanark-county-spring-2020/join`. The page title is "Join MVFN Lanark County - Spring 2020?". Below the title, there is a section "About this Project" with the description: "A project for MVFN members to record the abundance of biodiversity that can be discovered in Lanark County in the spring." The "Project Curators" section lists two users: "denisag2" (80 observations) and "linnicc" (0 observations). The "Rules for Adding Observations" section lists several criteria, including location (Lanark, CA, ON), user restrictions, quality grade, and observation dates (March 19 to June 20, 2020). At the bottom, there is an "Other" section with a checked checkbox for "Receive updates from this project" and a note: "Receive updates about this project on your dashboard and in the daily updates email". Two buttons are visible: "Yes, I want to join" (highlighted with a red arrow) and "Cancel".

Third – Posting observations on the web (1)

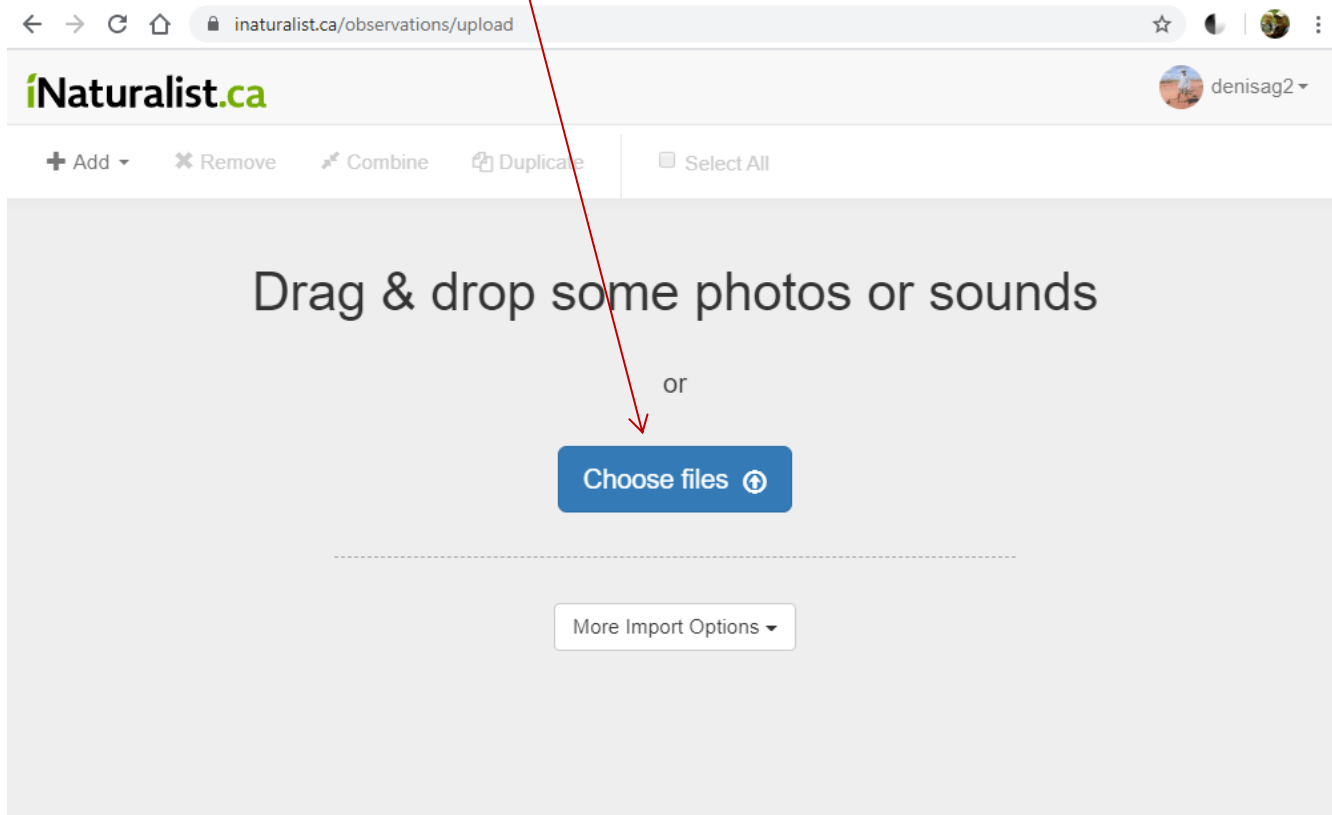
1) From the Home page, click on the “Upload” button.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca website interface. The top navigation bar includes the iNaturalist.ca logo, a search bar, and several menu items: "Explore", "Your Observations", "Community", "Identify", and "More". A prominent green "Upload" button is located in the top right of the navigation bar. To its right are icons for notifications (0), messages (0), and a user profile picture. A red arrow points from the "Upload" button to the user profile picture. Below the navigation bar is the user profile for "denisag2", featuring a profile picture and a set of navigation tabs: "Home", "Profile", "Observations", "Calendar", "IDs", "Lists", "Journal", "Favorites", and "Projects". Underneath these tabs are four filter tabs: "All Updates", "Your Content", "Following", and "Real Time Discussions". The main content area displays a list of observations. The top observation is titled "Ontario Willows (*Salix* spp.) curators added some of your observations" and dated "Apr 20". It features a photo of a willow branch and details for an "American Pussy Willow" (*Salix discolor*) observed by "denisag2" on "April 20, 2020" in "Mississippi Mills, ON, Canada (Google, OSM)". A "View Observation" button is present. Below this is another observation by "jzahavich" titled "Sunflowers, Daisies, Asters, and Allies" from the "Family Asteraceae". On the right side of the page, there is a "+ Add Observations" button and a notification box with the heading "Temporary freeze on large places, life list updates, and taxon changes". The notification text states: "In preparation for likely increased iNaturalist activity later this month, starting on April 22 we will temporarily pause changes to a few lesser-used features that can cause delays." and includes a "Read more »" link. Another notification box below it is partially visible with the heading "A See-Through Triplefin Blenny on the Coast of India - Observation".

Note:
To return to the Home page at any time, pull-down the Control panel and select “Dashboard”, or simply click the iNaturalist logo on the upper left of page.

Third – Posting observations on the web (2)

- 1) To upload one or more photos from your computer desktop or folder; click on the “Choose files” button.



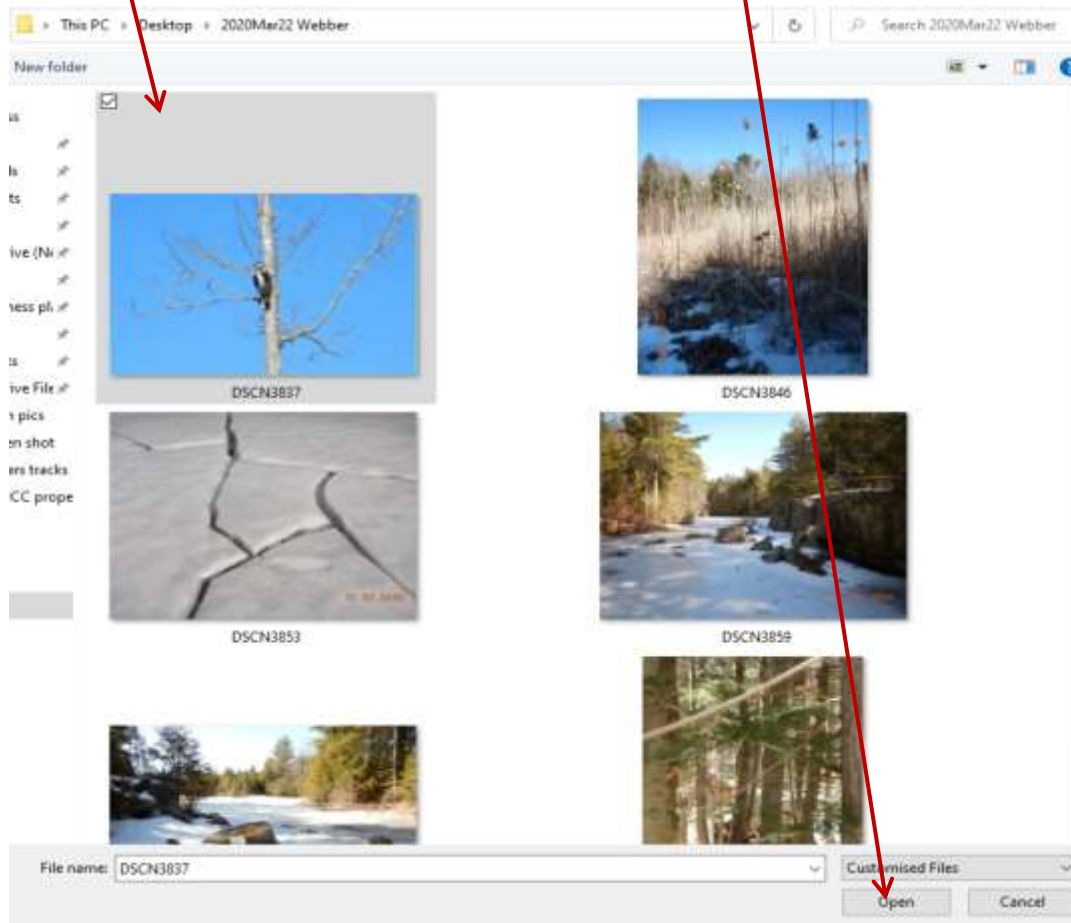
Note:

It's a good idea to include at least one photo for each nature observations that you are posting. Observations without a photo will never get verified in the iNaturalist database.

Help video on taking good photos for iNaturalist:
<https://inaturalist.ca/pages/video+tutorials+%252f+tutorials+video#idable>

Third – Posting observations on the web (3)

- 1) Navigate to the folder of interest (i.e. where your photos are located)
- 2) Choose/select the pics that you want to upload for your observation.
- 3) Then, click on the “Open” button.



Third – Posting observations on the web (4)

1) Click on the “Species Name” box.

or

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca interface for editing an observation. On the left, there is a sidebar with fields for 'Species name', date, location, description, and other details. The main area shows a photo of a woodpecker on a tree. A green box highlights the 'Species name' input field, which has a dropdown menu open. The dropdown menu lists several woodpecker species, with 'Hairy Woodpecker' selected. A red arrow points from the text '2) From the drop down menu, select the most appropriate species.' to the 'Hairy Woodpecker' entry in the dropdown menu.

2) From the drop down menu, select the most appropriate species.

Note:
The iNaturalist community will review your species selection and will agree with you or they will make other suggestions.
So not to worry, if you are not sure.

Third – Posting observations on the web (5)

- 1) Check the date and correct it if required.
- 2) Click on the “Location” button/box.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca interface for editing an observation. The browser address bar is inaturalist.ca/observations/upload. The user is logged in as [denisag2](#). The page has a navigation bar with options: + Add, ✕ Remove, ✎ Combine, 📄 Duplicate, and ☑ Select All. A green button says "Submit 1 observation".

The main content area is titled "Editing 1 observation:". On the left is a sidebar with sections: Details, Description, Location is public, Captive / Cultivated, Tags, Projects, and Fields. The "Details" section is expanded, showing:

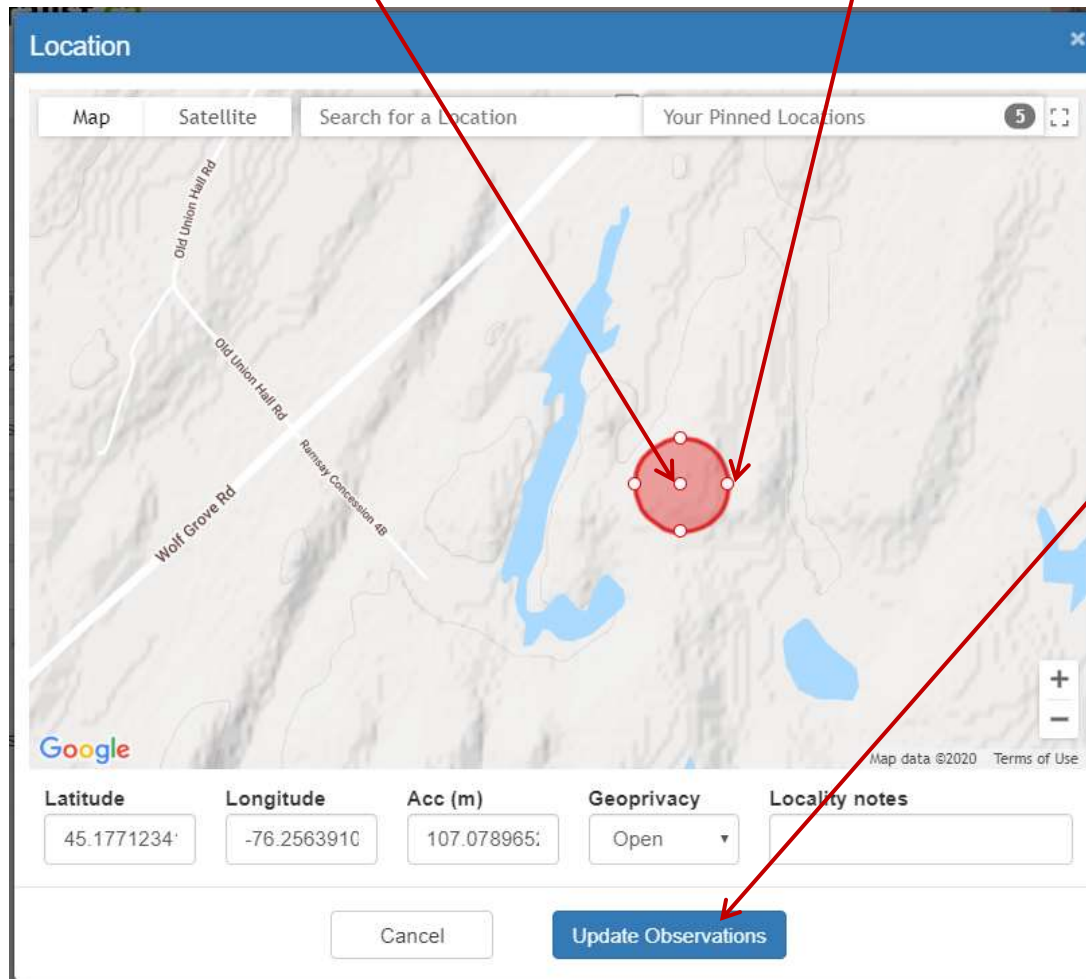
- Species: Hairy Woodpecker
- Date: 2020/03/22 8:53 AM EDT
- Location: Mississippi Mills, ON, Cana

In the center, there is a preview of the observation. It includes a photo of a Hairy Woodpecker on a tree, the species name "Hairy Woodpecker", the date "2020/03/22 8:53 AM EDT", and the location "Mississippi Mills, ON, Car". A green rectangular box highlights the photo and the date and location fields. Two red arrows originate from the instructions above: one points to the date field in the sidebar, and the other points to the location field in the preview.

Note:
For good citizen science, it's important to have the correct date and location of the observation.

Third – Posting observations on the web (6)

- 1) With your mouse/pointer, grab the center dot of the red circle and move it to the appropriate location on the map.
- 2) If required, adjust the size of the red circle by grabbing the dots on the circumference.



- 3) Then, click on the “Update Observation” button.

Note:

If your camera adds GPS coordinates to your photos, iNaturalist will automatically do the location step for you. But, it's still a good idea to check the location.

Third – Posting observations on the web (7)

- 1) Change the “Location is public” if required; using pull-down menu.
- 2) Check the Captive/Cultivate checkbox, if appropriate.
- 3) You are all done! Click the “Submit 1 observation” button.

button.

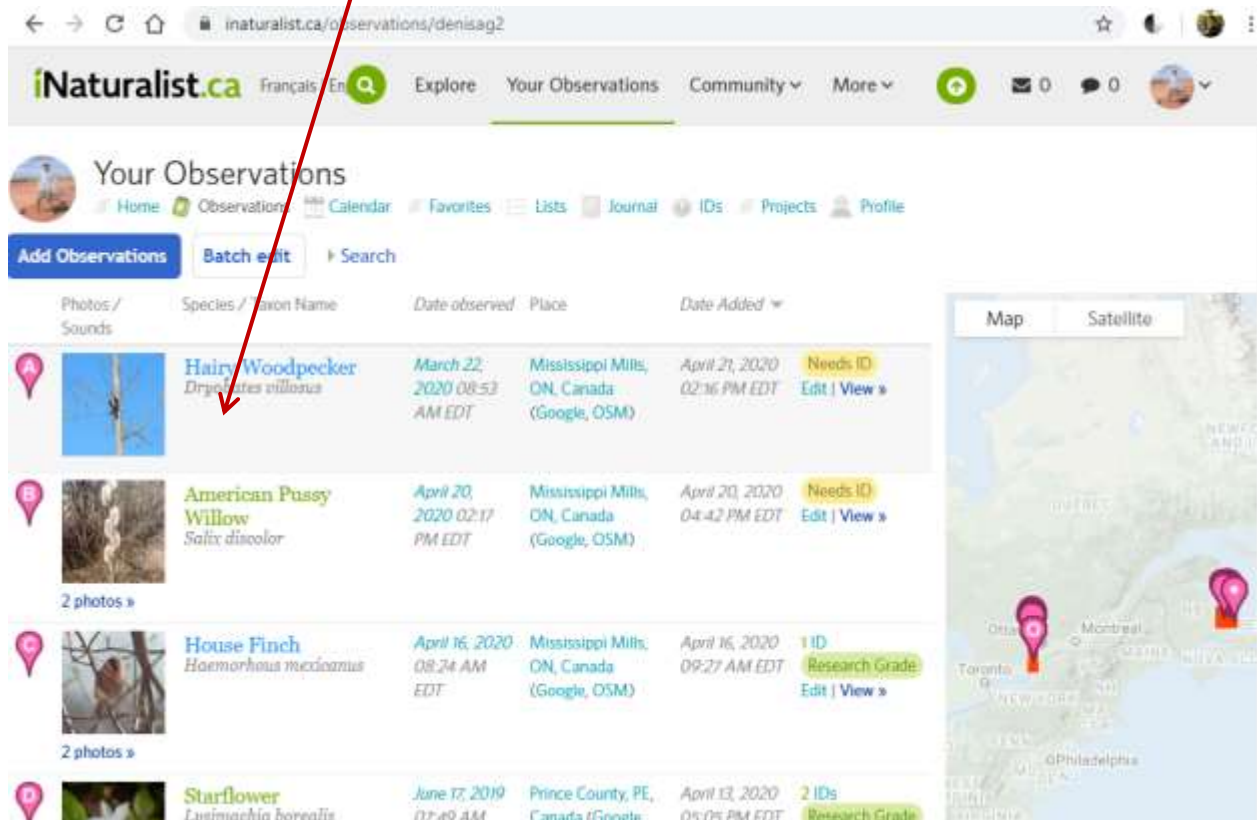
The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca 'upload' page. The browser address bar is 'inaturalist.ca/observations/upload'. The user is logged in as 'denisag2'. The page has navigation buttons: '+ Add', 'x Remove', 'Combine', 'Duplicate', and 'Select All'. A green 'Submit 1 observation' button is at the top right. The main content is 'Editing 1 observation:'. On the left, there is a 'Details' section with a pencil icon. It contains: a species dropdown set to 'Hairy Woodpecker', a date field '2020/03/22 8:53 AM EDT', a location field 'Mississippi Mills, ON, Cana', a 'Description' text area, a 'Location is public' dropdown menu (highlighted with a red arrow), a 'Captive / Cultivated' checkbox, and expandable sections for 'Tags', 'Projects', and 'Fields'. On the right, a preview area (highlighted with a green box) shows a photo of a hairy woodpecker on a tree, with the same species, date, and location information below it.

Note:
iNaturalist will let you post anything but the preference is for wild fauna and flora.





Third – Posting observations on the web (8)

You are all done, your new observation should show up here.

Congratulations and keep posting and sharing!



The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca website interface. The main heading is "Your Observations" with navigation links for Home, Observations, Calendar, Favorites, Lists, Journal, IDs, Projects, and Profile. Below this are buttons for "Add Observations" and "Batch edit", along with a search bar. The main content is a table of observations with columns for Photos/Sounds, Species / Latin Name, Date observed, Place, Date Added, and a status label. A red arrow points to the first observation, "Hairy Woodpecker".

Photos / Sounds	Species / Latin Name	Date observed	Place	Date Added	Status
	Hairy Woodpecker <i>Dryobates villosus</i>	March 22, 2020 08:53 AM EDT	Mississippi Mills, ON, Canada (Google, OSM)	April 21, 2020 02:16 PM EDT	Needs ID Edit View
	American Pussy Willow <i>Salix discolor</i>	April 20, 2020 02:17 PM EDT	Mississippi Mills, ON, Canada (Google, OSM)	April 20, 2020 04:42 PM EDT	Needs ID Edit View
	House Finch <i>Haemorrhous mexicanus</i>	April 16, 2020 08:24 AM EDT	Mississippi Mills, ON, Canada (Google, OSM)	April 16, 2020 09:27 AM EDT	1 ID Research Grade Edit View
	Starflower <i>Luzimachia borealis</i>	June 17, 2019 07:49 AM	Prince County, PE, Canada (Google)	April 13, 2020 05:01 PM EDT	2 IDs Research Grade

On the right side of the page, there is a map showing the location of the observations with red pins. The map includes labels for cities like Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Philadelphia.



MVFN Lanark County Project

iNaturalist guide

(v1.2, denisag2)

