



MVFN Turtle Watch project

iNaturalist guide (version 0.3 draft)



Painted Turtle, Mississippi River



Common Snapping Turtle, Clyde River

Guide for joining iNaturalist and posting observations

Part 1: Getting an iNaturalist account (page 3)

Part 2: Joining the MVFN Turtle Watch project (page 4)

Part 3: Posting nature observations via the “Add Observations” on the MVFN Turtle Watch project page (page 10)


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>

Part 1 - 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.](#)

Key Deer observed by **Judd Patterson**
In Florida, United States

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 “Citizen Science” checkbox

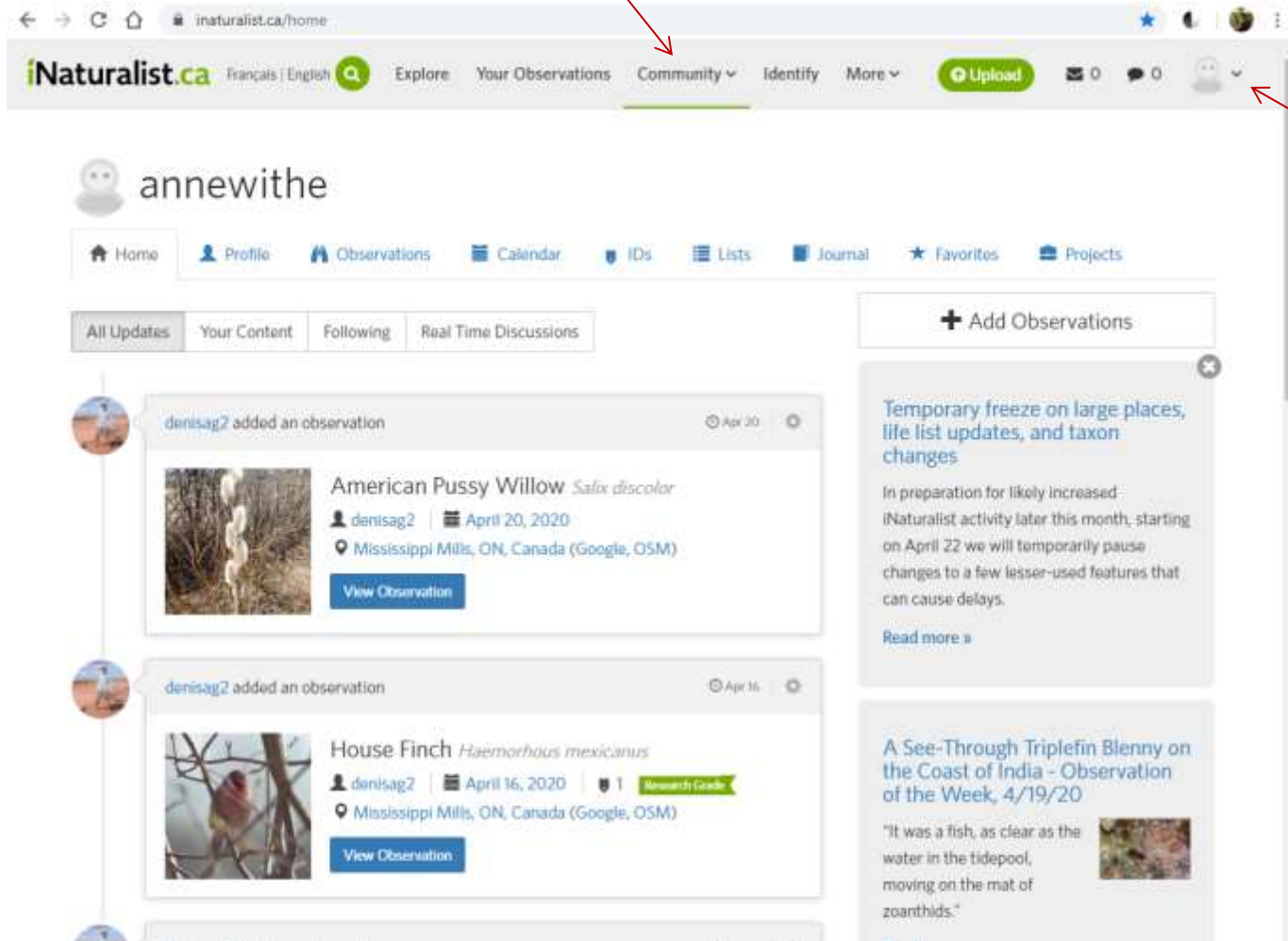
7) Click the “Privacy” permission checkbox

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

iNaturalist signup web page.

Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (1)

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



FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.

Your Home screen
after logging in.

Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (2)

- 1) In the Search box, type “MVFN Turtle Watch”; click the Go button.

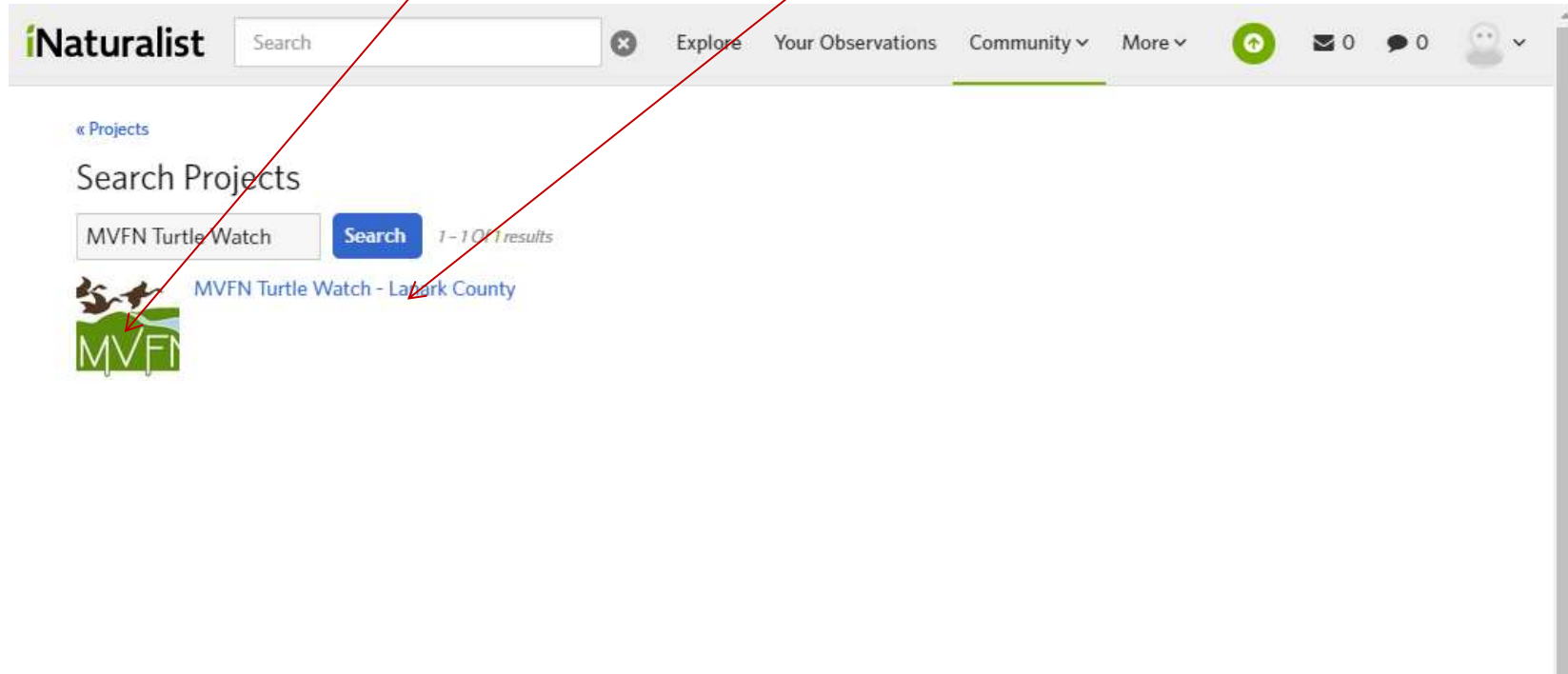
The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, the iNaturalist logo is on the left, followed by a search bar containing the text "MVFN Turtle Watch". To the right of the search bar are navigation links: "Explore", "Your Observations", "Community", and "More". Further right are icons for a home button, a notification bell with "0", a chat bubble with "0", and a user profile icon with a dropdown arrow. Below the navigation bar is a large banner for the "City Nature Challenge 2020" (April 24-27) with a "Start a Project" button. Below the banner is a search bar with "MVFN Turtle Watch" and a "Go" button. To the right of the search bar is a "Manage Your Projects" button. Below the search bar is a "Featured" section with a "City Nature Challenge 2020" banner and a "BowerBird" logo.

FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.

iNaturalist Project
screen.

Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (3)

- 1) Click on the MVFN logo or MVFN Turtle Watch – Lanark County.



Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (4)

1) Click on “Join this project”.

« Projects [Terms & Rules](#) | [Join this project](#)

Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists

Connecting people with nature in Ontario's Mississippi Valley

MVFN Turtle Watch – Lanark County

ADD OBSERVATIONS

Stats

Totals	Most Observations	Most Species	Most Observed Species
10 Observations »	 denisag2 9 observations	 denisag2 3 species	 Painted Turtle 7 observations
3 Species »	 frigonp 1 observation	 frigonp 1 species	 Common Snapping Turtle 2 observations
2 People »			 Northern Map Turtle 1 observation

Map **Satellite**

Members

2 members

[View All Members »](#)

FYI.
Your iNaturalist
Control pull-down
menu.

MVFN Turtle Watch
Home page

Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (5)

- 1) Click the “Yes, but only if I add the observation to the project myself”.
- 2) Click the “Yes, I want to join” button. You are done!

iNaturalist Search [x] Explore Your Observations Community More [+] 0 0 [user icon]

« MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County

Join MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County?

Project Curators

frigonp 1 observations

denisag2 271 observations

Rules for Adding Observations

- must have observation field 'On Road?' filled out
- must have observation field 'Turtle nesting activity' filled out
- must be quality grade research, needs_id

Other

Receive updates from this project
Receive updates about this project on your dashboard and in the daily updates email.

Do you want to make your private/obscured observation coordinates visible to the project curators?

Yes, but only if I add the observation to the project myself.

Yes, no matter who adds the observation to the project.

No.

Note: You can also choose to share the hidden coordinates of observations in this project on a case-by-case basis. These are just the defaults for new observations added to the project.

Part 2 – Join the MVFN Turtle Watch project (6)

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist interface for the 'MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County' project. At the top, the iNaturalist logo and navigation menu are visible. A yellow banner reads 'Welcome to MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County'. Below this is a project banner with the text 'Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists' and 'MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County', along with an 'ADD OBSERVATIONS' button. The 'Stats' section displays: 10 Observations, 3 Species, and 2 People. It also lists 'Most Observations' by user 'denisag2' (9 observations) and 'frigonp' (1 observation), and 'Most Observed Species' including Painted Turtle (7 observations), Common Snapping Turtle (2 observations), and Northern Map Turtle (1 observation). At the bottom, there is a map and a 'Members' section showing 3 members and a 'View All Members' link.

The iNaturalist welcome message.

Your user ID should show-up on the members list.

Welcome to the MVFN Turtle Watch citizen science project!

You can now start exploring and posting.

Part 3 - Posting Turtle Sightings

Via the “Add Observations” button on the MVFN Turtle Watch project page



Part 3 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (1)

- 1) Go to the MVFN Turtle Watch project page and click the “Add Observations” button.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the iNaturalist logo, a search bar, and links for Explore, Your Observations, Community, Identify, and More. A green 'Upload' button is also visible. Below the navigation bar, the project page for 'Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists' is displayed, with a sub-project 'MVFN Turtle Watch - Lanark County'. A prominent red button labeled 'ADD OBSERVATIONS' is highlighted with a red arrow. Below the project banner, there is a 'Stats' section with four columns: 'Totals' (10 Observations, 3 Species, 2 People), 'Most Observations' (listing users denisag2 and frigorp), 'Most Species' (listing users denisag2 and frigorp), and 'Most Observed Species' (listing Painted Turtle, Common Snapping Turtle, and Northern Map Turtle). At the bottom, there is a map of the region and a 'Members' section showing 3 members and a 'Your Membership' section.

Part 3 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (2)

- 1) In the “What did you see?” box, type the Turtle species you observed and select from the drop-down menu.
Note: If not sure of turtle species, you can just enter “Turtle” as a placeholder.
 - 2) Check the “Sync obs. with photo metadata?” box (require to automatically load the date and location), then click the “Choose Files” button to upload 1 or more pics.

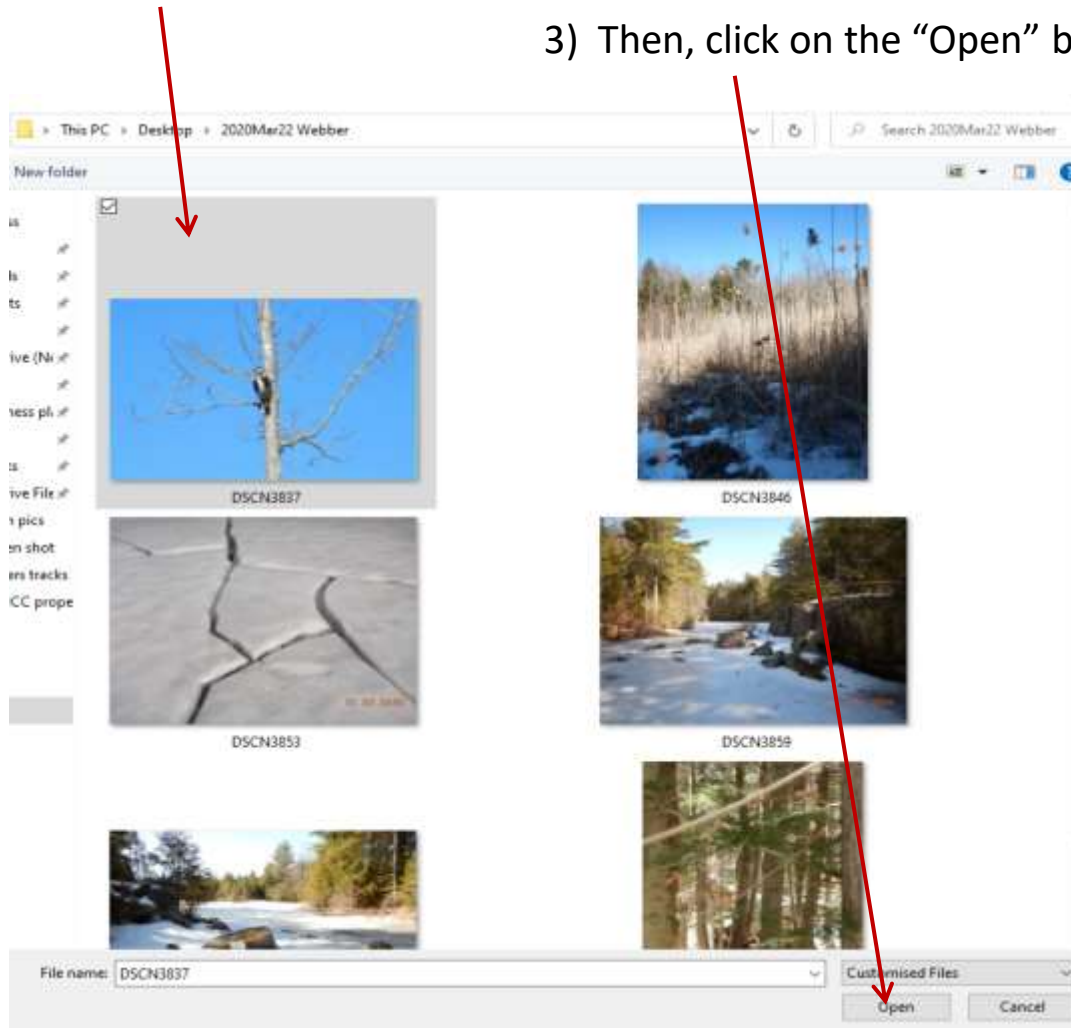
The screenshot shows the iNaturalist 'Add An Observation' form for the 'MVFN Turtle Watch' project. The form is divided into several sections: 'What did you see?' with a search box and a dropdown menu; 'Where was it seen?' with a map and location input; 'When did you see it?' with a date and time selector; 'Add media' with a 'Choose Files' button and a 'Sync obs. with photo metadata?' checkbox; and 'Project observation fields' with dropdowns for 'On Road?' and 'Turtle nesting activity?'. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Save observation', 'Save and add another', and 'Cancel'. Red arrows from the text above point to the 'What did you see?' field, the 'Sync obs. with photo metadata?' checkbox, and the 'Choose Files' button.

Notes:

- 1) If your photo doesn't have a Date or has the wrong Date, proceed with Photo upload and the Date will be entered in the next step (p. 14)
- 2) If your photo doesn't have embedded Location data (i.e. GPS co-ordinates), proceed with the Photo upload and the Location will be entered in the next step (p. 14)
- 3) Any manual entry will override the photo's metadata

Part 3 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (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.



Part 3 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (4)

- 1) If the Date needs to be changed or added, you can modify it here.

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist interface for adding an observation. The 'When did you see it?' field is highlighted with a red arrow. The 'Add Photos' button is also highlighted with a red arrow. The 'Select One or More Photos' section is highlighted with a red arrow. The 'Link your Flickr account' button is highlighted with a red arrow. The 'Link your Facebook account' button is highlighted with a red arrow. The map shows a location in Ontario, Canada, with a red location pin.

- 2) If the Location needs to be added manually,

a) Make the map full screen,

b) Expand the desired area of interest (e.g. using computer mouse),

c) Click on the desired Location of the observation

d) If required, grab the red Location symbol with your mouse and move it to the appropriate location

e) Go back to Observation page by clicking the fullscreen icon at the top right of map screen

Part 3 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (5)

- 1) In Field data “On Road?” box, select one of the following:
(Alive on road, Dead on road, Injured on road, or Not on road)

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist 'Add An Observation' form for the project 'MVFN Turtle Watch'. The form is titled 'Add An Observation to MVFN Turtle Watch - La...'. It includes a search bar, navigation links, and an 'Upload' button. The main form fields are:

- What did you see?**: Snapping Turtles
- Where were you?**: Name of the place you made the observation, with a map showing the location in Ottawa, Ontario.
- When did you see it?**: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time (U...)
- Notes**: A text area for additional information.
- Tags**: A field for adding tags.
- Fill out project observation fields**:
 - On Road? ***: A dropdown menu with 'Not on Road' selected.
 - Turtle nesting activity ***: A dropdown menu with 'No activity seen' selected.
- More Fields**: A section for adding additional fields.
- Buttons**: 'Save observation', 'Save and add another', and 'Cancel'.

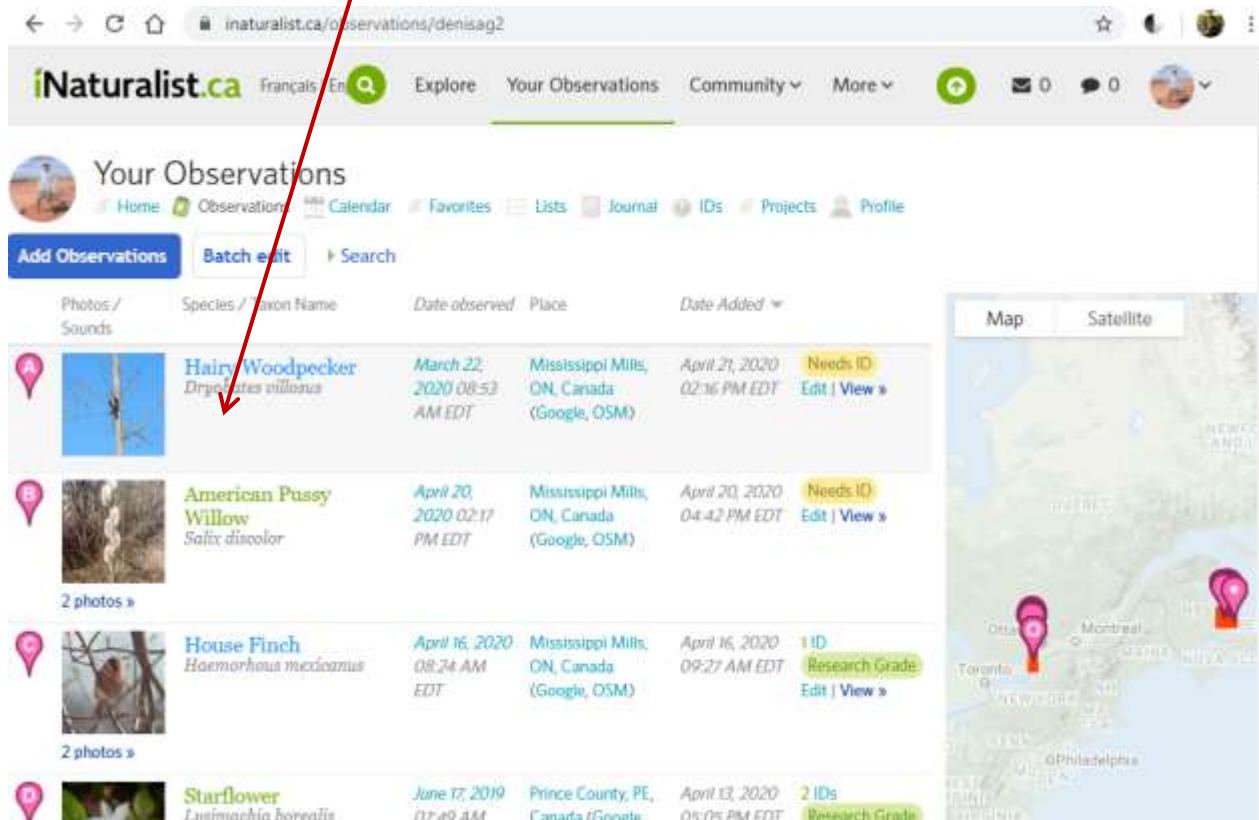
- 2) In field “Turtle Nesting Activity?” box, select one of the following:
(No activity seen,
Female in the act of nesting,
Intact nest, or
Depredated/disturbed nest)

- 3) You are done.
Click on “Save Observation”.





Part 4 – Posting observations via the “Add Observations” button (6)

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

Congratulations and keep posting/sharing!



The screenshot shows the iNaturalist.ca website interface. The top navigation bar includes the iNaturalist.ca logo, language options (Français, English), and menu items like Explore, Your Observations, Community, and More. Below the navigation is the user's profile section, 'Your Observations', with tabs for Home, Observations, Calendar, Favorites, Lists, Journal, IDs, Projects, and Profile. A blue 'Add Observations' button is prominent. Below this is a table of observations:

Photos/Sounds	Species / Common Name	Date observed	Place	Date Added	Additional Info
	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 locations of the observations. The map includes a 'Map' and 'Satellite' toggle. Two red location pins are visible on the map, corresponding to the locations of the Hairy Woodpecker and American Pussy Willow observations.



MVFN Turtle Watch project

iNaturalist guide

(v0.3 draft, denisag2)



Northern Map Turtle, Mississippi River



Common Snapping Turtle, Almonte Street