



How to make a good iNaturalist observation



Korimako
Bellbird



Birds

Many birds have two ways to identify them – photos and sound!



Piwakawaka
Fantail



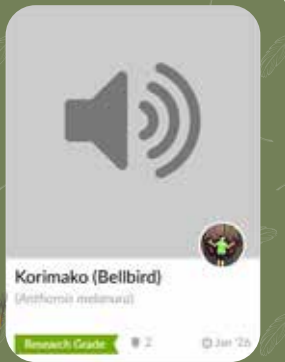
Kererū
Bluebottle77



Kererū
Bluebottle77

Sound

Some birds have distinct songs/calls that are identifiable by uploading a recording through iNaturalist NZ Mātaki Taiao.



Upload in-focus photos of:



- Bird shape and size.
- Beak shape and colour.
- Chest, throat and face, colours and patterns
- Wing-shape in flight.
- Feet and leg colour, length and shape.
A photo of footprints, too.
- Both male and female colour patterns if there is a difference.
- Wing and tail, colours, and shape.

FIELD NOTES

Write in the 'note' field anything you saw or heard, but may not have been able to photograph, like feather or flight patterns.

Follow these iNaturalists



bluebottle77
🌿 2,081 observations



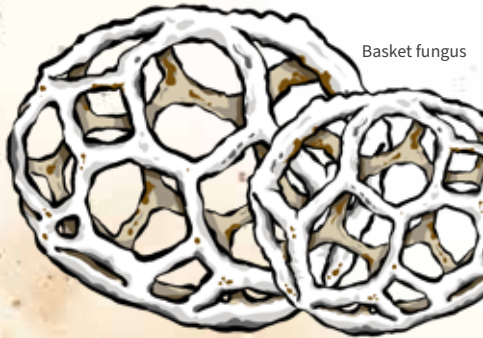
frazerdale
🌿 738 observations



How to make a good iNaturalist observation

Fungi and Lichens

The fruitbodies, textures, and habitat of fungi and lichens help to identify them.



Basket fungus



Brittlestems
Maxine-Ann

Follow these iNaturalists

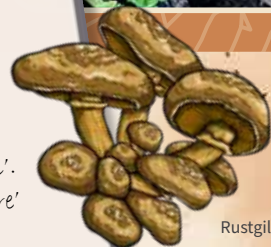
maxine-ann
2,418 observations

fuligogirl
5,959 observations

joknight_nz
36,758 observations

FIELD NOTES

Write extra details like the smell of the fungus in the 'note' field. Use the 'Search' feature under 'Identification' to label your observation to 'Kingdom Fungi'. only forage if you're really sure!



Rustgill

Upload in-focus photos of:



- The cap/bracket of the fungus fruitbody, or surface of the lichen – view from above and below.
- The gills/pores under the cap/bracket close-up.
- The ground, plant or rock, the fungus or lichen is growing out of.
- Fruitbodies at different life stages if there are multiple nearby.
- A photo with a ruler or everyday item to show scale.



Brittlestems
Maxine-Ann



Brittlestems
Maxine-Ann

Turkey tail
Kawakawa





How to make a good iNaturalist observation

Jumping spider



Insects and spiders

Insects and spiders both have exoskeletons and segmented bodies, but adult insects have six legs and spiders have eight.



Common copper

Yellow admiral

Follow these iNaturalists



jupal04

23,012 observations



tyler_mcbeth

3,425 observations



agmpie

400 observations

FIELD NOTES

Write details in the 'note' field you might not have been able to photograph. Use the 'search' feature under 'identification' to label your observation to Kingdom Animalia.



Ground Beetle tyler_mcbeth

Upload in-focus photos of:

- The whole insect or spider from above, below, front and back.
- Web pattern.
- Eggs.
- Eye location and pattern, for spiders.
- A photo of the habitat around the insect/spider, the plant it is on, and/or anything it is eating.
- Colours and patterns.
- Sound: For insects with distinct sounds, uploading a recording to iNaturalist NZ Mātaki Taiao might also help to identify.



Ground Beetle tyler_mcbeth



Rō



Hoverfly



Noke



How to make a good iNaturalist observation



Māhoe



Plants

Plants come in all shapes and sizes, from the tallest kauri to the tiniest moss.

Follow these iNaturalists

katrina_muir
🌿 3,091 observations

joknight_nz
🌿 36,758 observations

alice_shanks
🌿 9,031 observations

tommycopeland
🌿 150 observations

Kānuka



Red Beech
Tommy Copeland

Upload in-focus photos of:



- The whole plant, for size and shape.
- Leaf shape, the upper and lower leaf surfaces, and how the leaves attach to the stem.
- Buds and flowers from two angles, showing inside the flower and from the side.
- Cones, seeds, fruits, and/or fern spores.
- Bark pattern.
- A photo with a ruler or everyday item to show scale.



Red Beech
Tommy Copeland



Red Beech
Tommy Copeland

FIELD NOTES

Write extra details, for example any insects on the plant, in the 'notes' field. Identify your observation to 'Kingdom Plantae' using the 'search' feature under 'identification'.



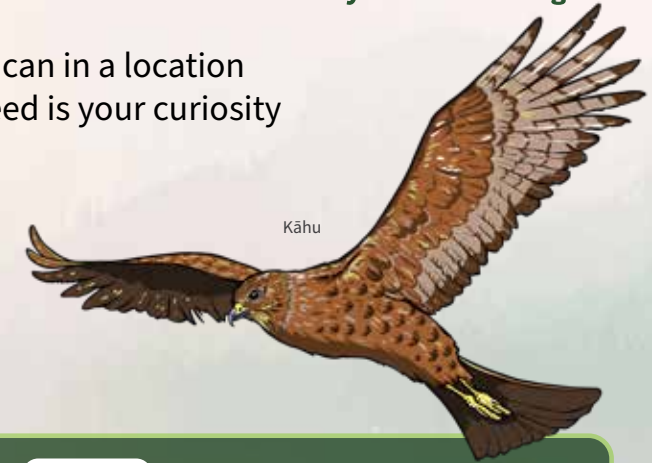
How to make a good iNaturalist observation

Bioblitz

A **bioblitz** is an event where people record as many species as they can in a location during a set time. Anyone can participate and contribute! All you need is your curiosity and a smartphone/digital camera.

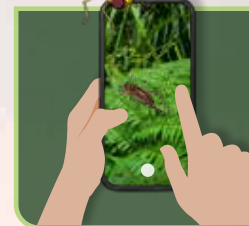
Why do a bioblitz?

- To discover and record what lives here.
- To observe changes in biodiversity over time.
- To contribute to science.
- To alert you to new weeds and pests.
- To connect with others who love nature.



Kāhu

Hoverfly



The iNaturalist NZ Mātaki Taiaio app makes it easy to record what you find. The app can also help identify the species you record.

Upload your photos of plants, animals and fungi via iNaturalist.nz

useful tools



Binoculars



Magnifying glasses



sweep nets and beating trays for insects



clear containers for holding specimens



flora/fauna identification guides



Whē



Mānatu

Native broom





How to make a good iNaturalist observation

Take a closer look

Kererū



Search for birds:

- Birds are often heard before they're seen
- Close your eyes for 30 seconds and listen
- Sit in one spot for ten minutes
- Use the Merlin app to help identify sounds

Good places to go:



Te Waihora Lake Ellesmere,
McCormacks Bay,
Kennedy's Bush Port Hills

Other good places to look for hidden life:

Rockpools, wild unkempt corners of the city, and your own backyard!



Canterbury spotted skink

Search for fungi:

- Around the bases of trees
- On dead logs, stumps and branches
- Mulched garden beds
- Grassy lawns
- On living tree trunks
- In leaf litter

Good places to go:



Bottle Lake Forest, Coronation Reserve Port Hills,
Ōtākaro Avon River Corridor.



Rustgill

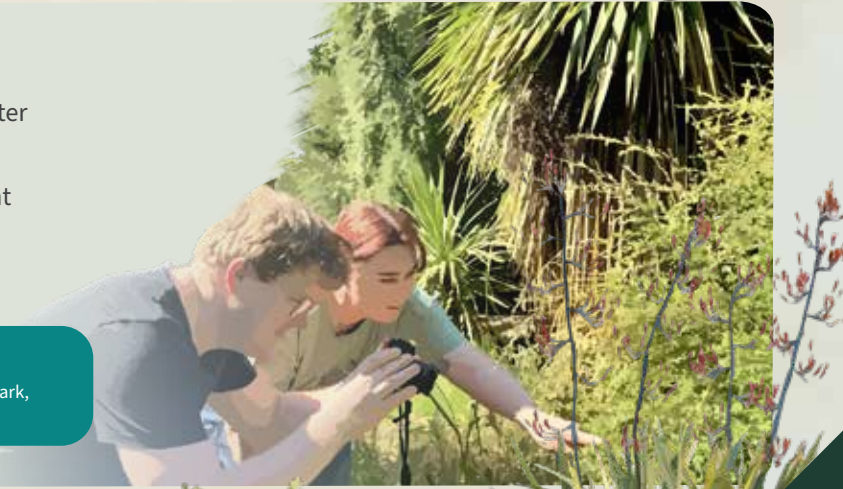
Search for insects:

- Under rocks, logs, and leaf litter
- On, or inside flowers
- Around outdoor lights at night
- On tree bark or leaves
- Near water

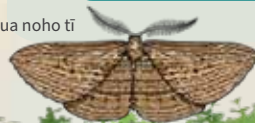
Good places to go:



Christchurch Botanic Gardens, Victoria Park,
Ōruapaeroa Travis Wetland



Pūrerehua noho ti



Koromiko

