



THE CITY NATURE  
CHALLENGE  
IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY

*Bruce Neville*  
*Texas Master Naturalist*

*18 April 2024*



# WHAT IS THE CITY NATURE CHALLENGE?



# BEGUN IN 2016



Image credit:  
[https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/usa\\_map.htm#google\\_vignette](https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/usa_map.htm#google_vignette)

# 2023 RESULTS WORLDWIDE

- 1,870,763 Observations
- 57,227 Species
- 66,394 Participants
- 440ish Cities?



# 2024 CITIES (700+)





# WHAT TO DOCUMENT



Post Oak, Mark McDermott, Texas A&M University, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/159137498>.  
Bald Eagle, Brent Cox, Texas, cc-by, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/157907773> [cropped].  
Macrolepiota, Dwight Bohlmeyer, College Station, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/157910978> [cropped].



# OTHER WAYS TO DOCUMENT



Image credits on final slide(s).














# WHAT NOT TO DOCUMENT



Image credits on final slide(s).



# 2024 TIMELINE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April					26 	27 
28 	29 	30 	May 1 	2 	3 	4 
5 	6 					

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE  
CNC IN THE BRAZOS VALLEY?

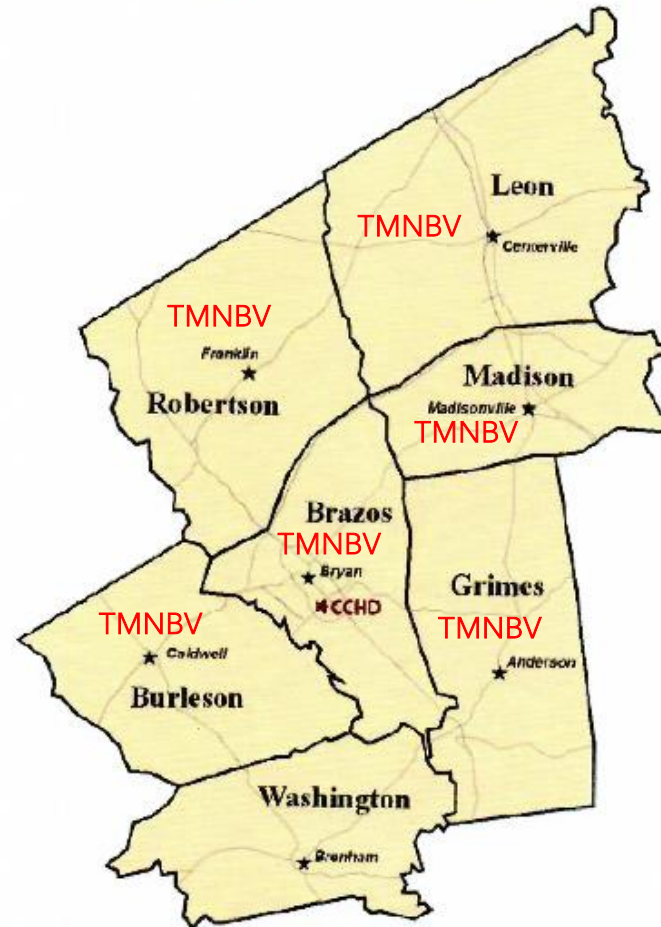




# BRAZOS VALLEY CNC TERRITORY

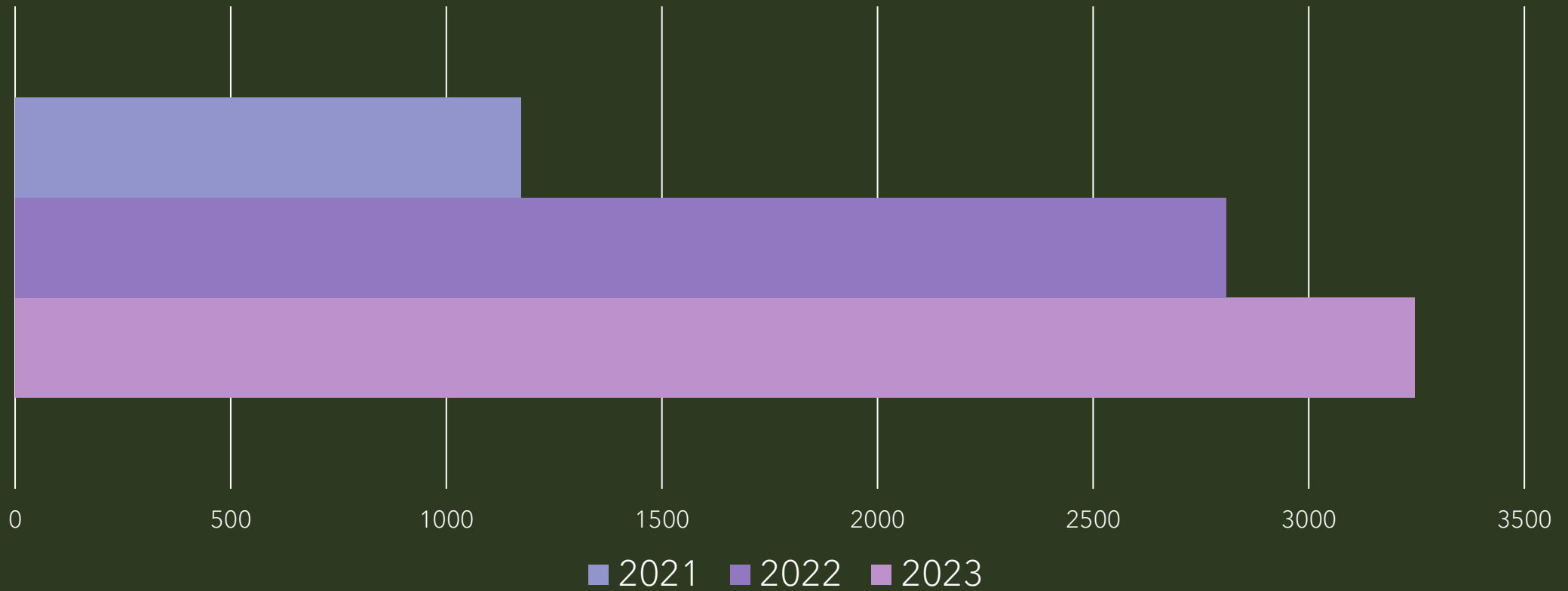
Note: Washington County is NOT included, but this is the map I had.

## Appendix A: Map of the Brazos Valley Region



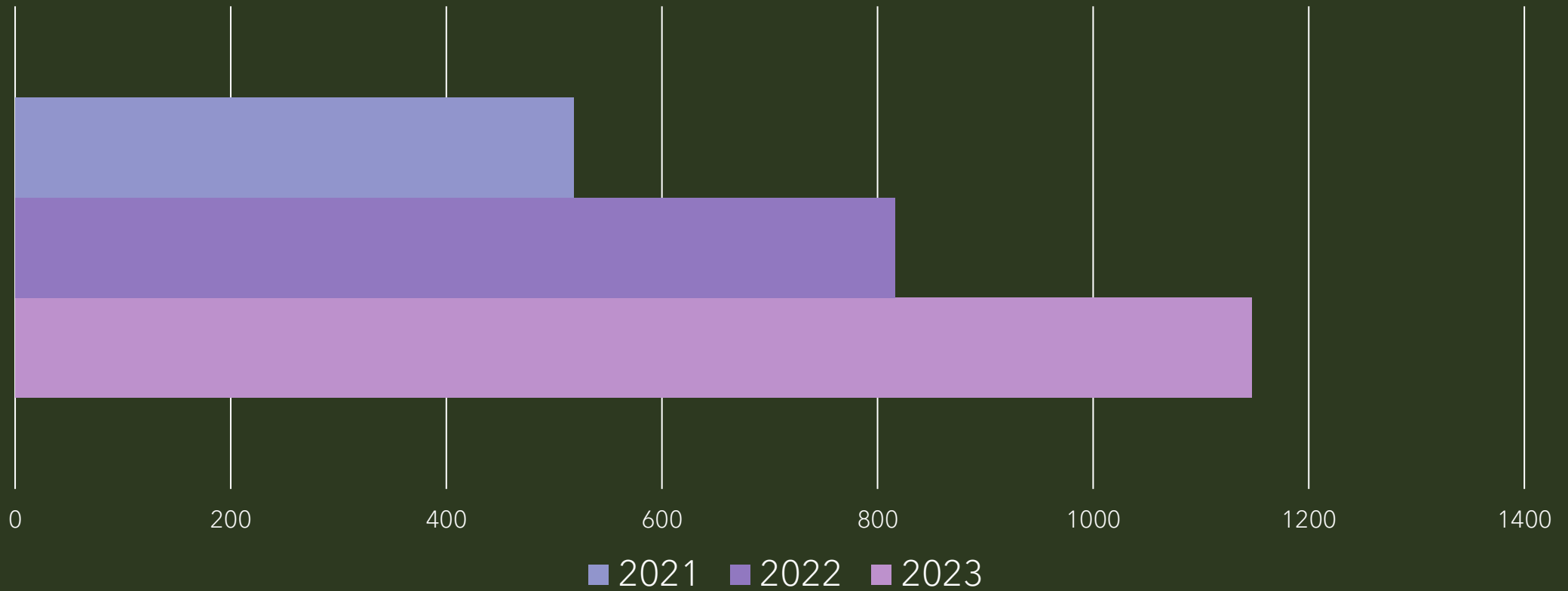
Source: <https://goo.gl/UBwzVD>

# NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS

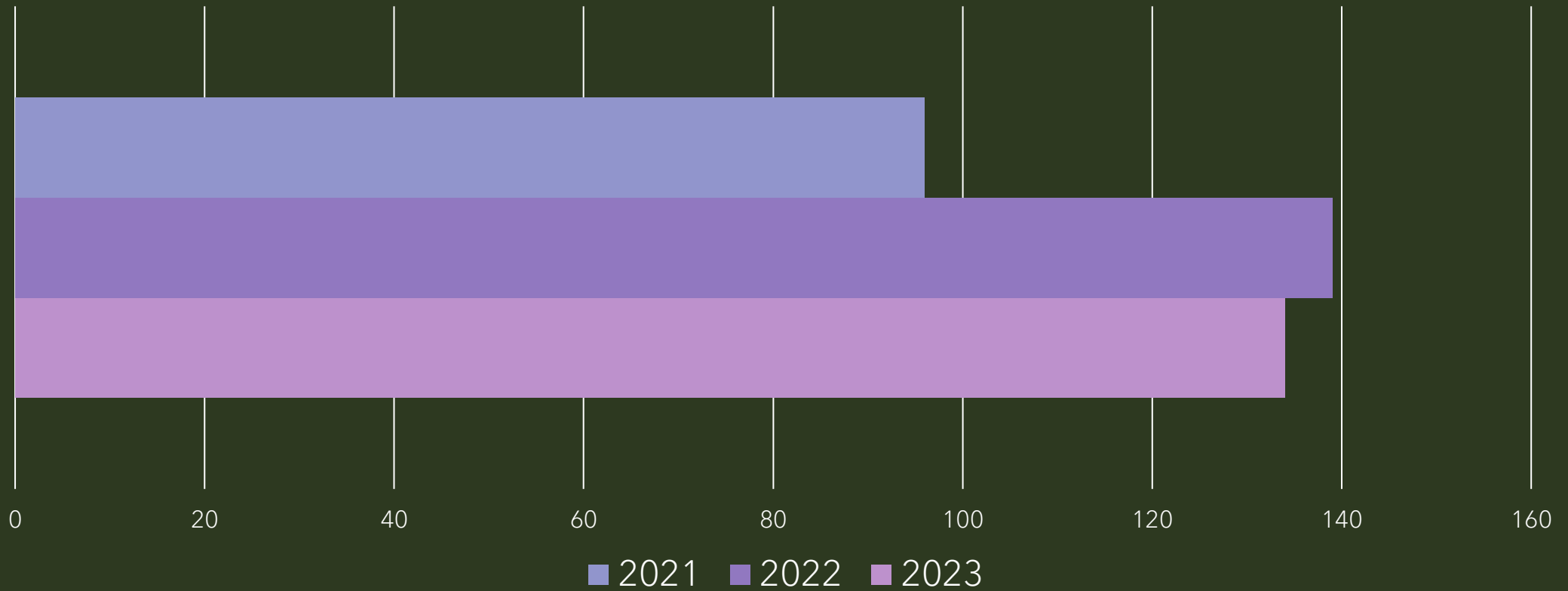




# NUMBER OF SPECIES



# NUMBER OF OBSERVERS





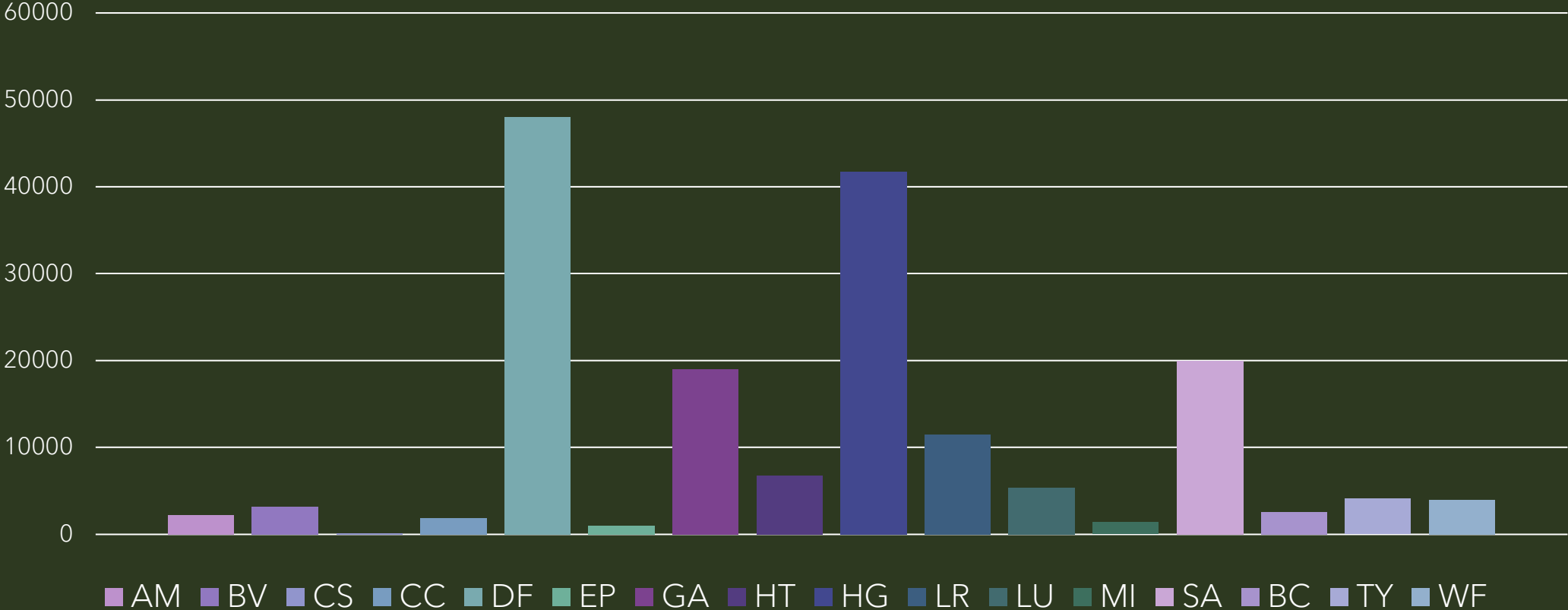
## 2023 TEXAS CITIES (16)

- Amarillo
- Brazos Valley
- ColdSpring
- Corpus Christi area
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- El Paso
- Greater Austin
- Heart of Texas (Waco)
- Houston-Galveston
- Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Lubbock area
- Mustang Island
- San Antonio Metro Area
- Texas Big Country (Abilene)
- Tyler/East Texas
- Wichita Falls

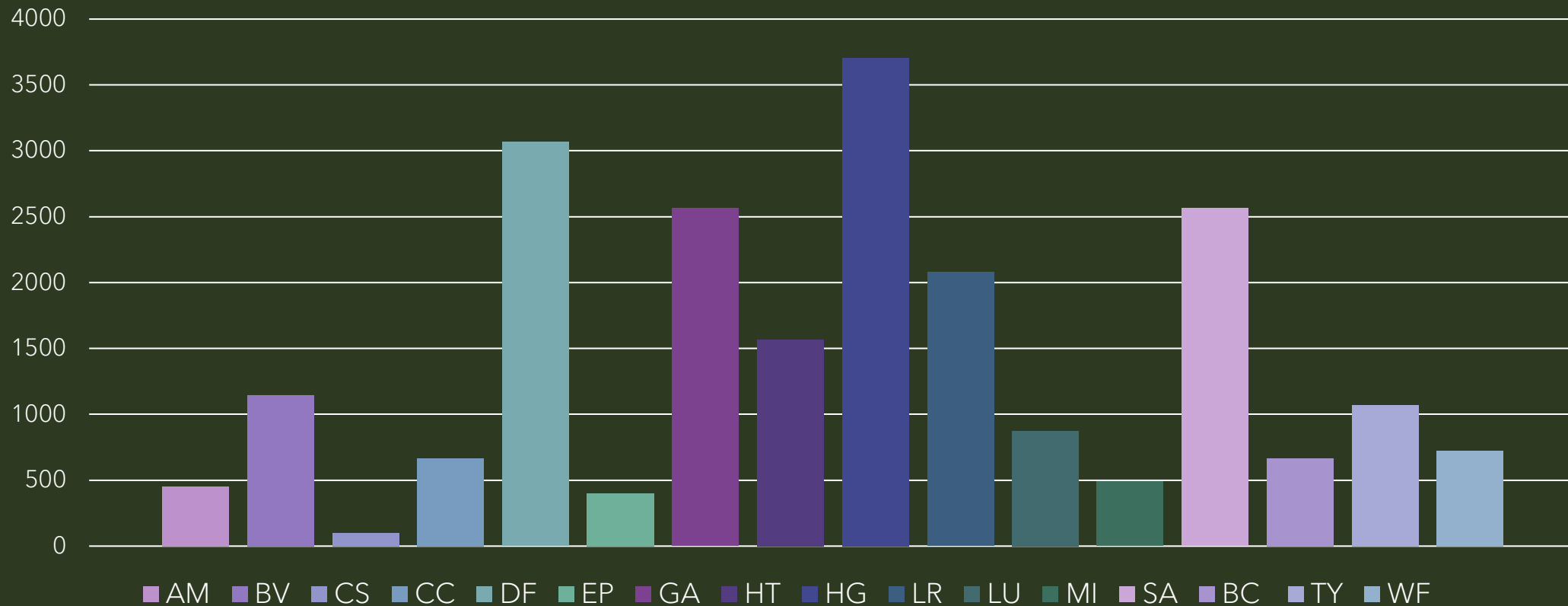
## 2024 TEXAS CITIES (15)

- Amarillo
- Brazos Valley
- Dallas/Fort Worth
- El Paso
- Greater Austin
- Heart of Texas (Waco)
- Houston-Galveston
- **Huntsville**
- Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Lubbock area
- Mustang Island
- **Nolanville**
- San Antonio Metro Area
- Texas Big Country (Abilene)
- Wichita Falls

# OBSERVATIONS BY TEXAS CNC 2023

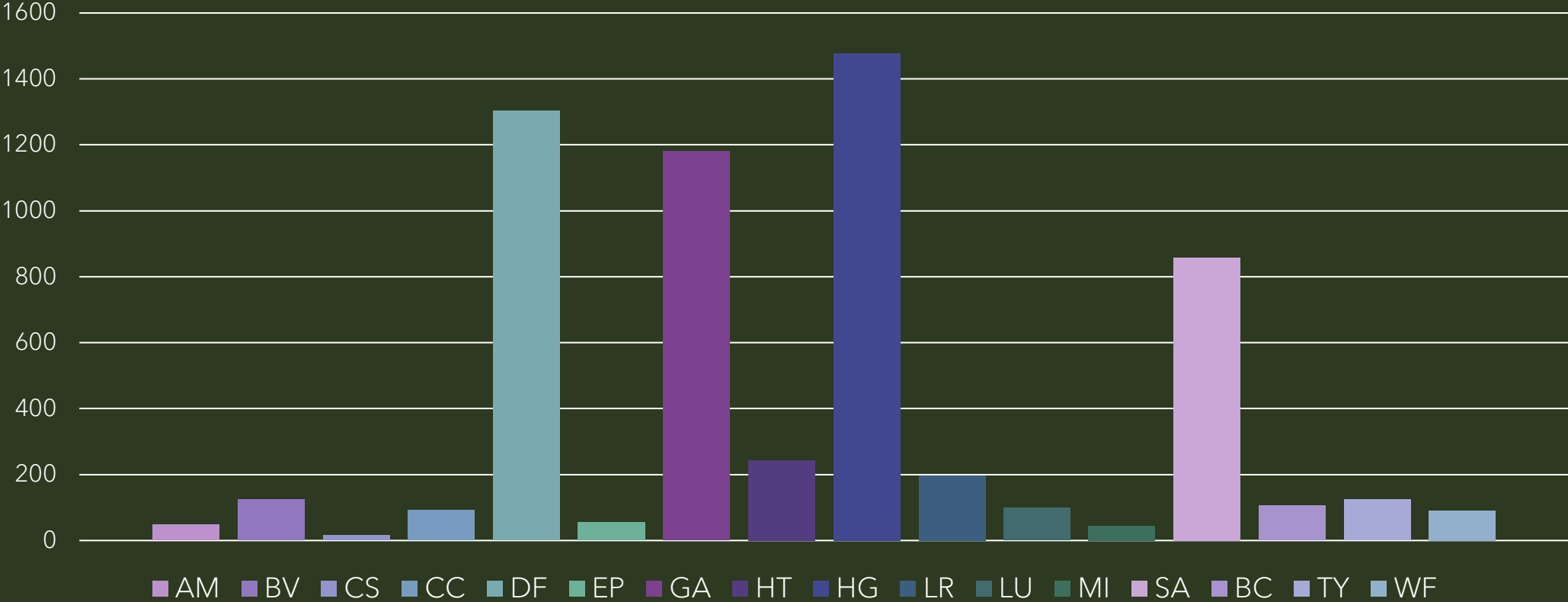


# SPECIES BY TEXAS CNC 2023





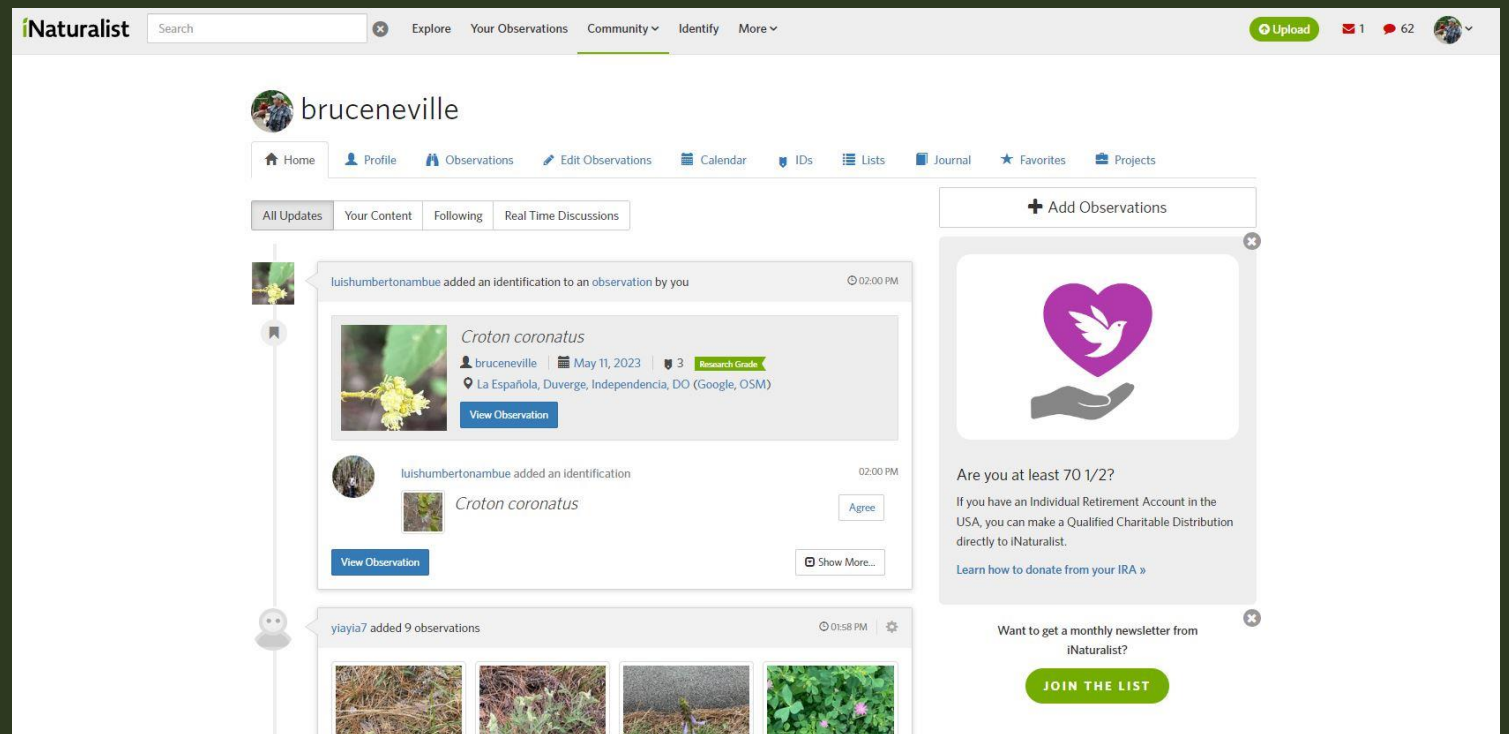
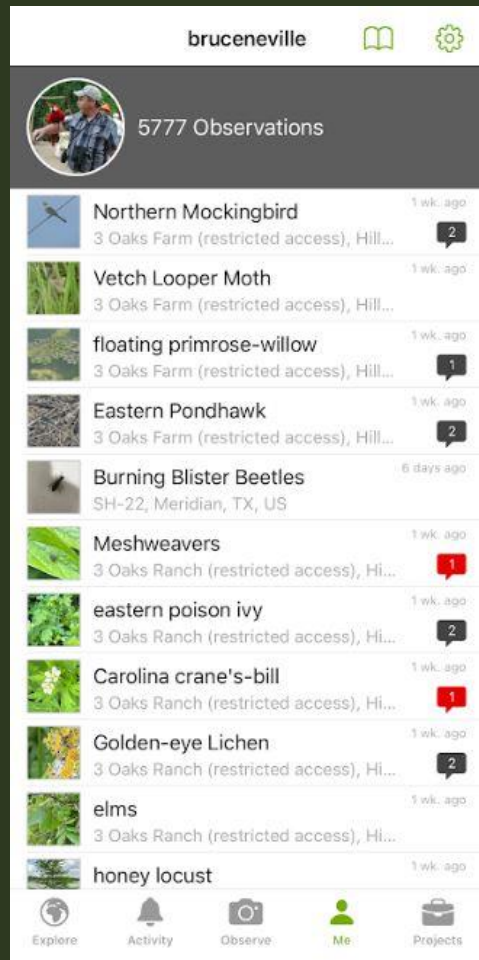
# OBSERVERS BY TEXAS CNC 2023



HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?



# FIRST, YOU NEED TO JOIN iNATURALIST



# CHANGING SETTINGS

Change username >

Change email >

Autocomplete names

Automatic upload 

Suggest species 

Show common names

Show scientific names first

Prefer No Tracking

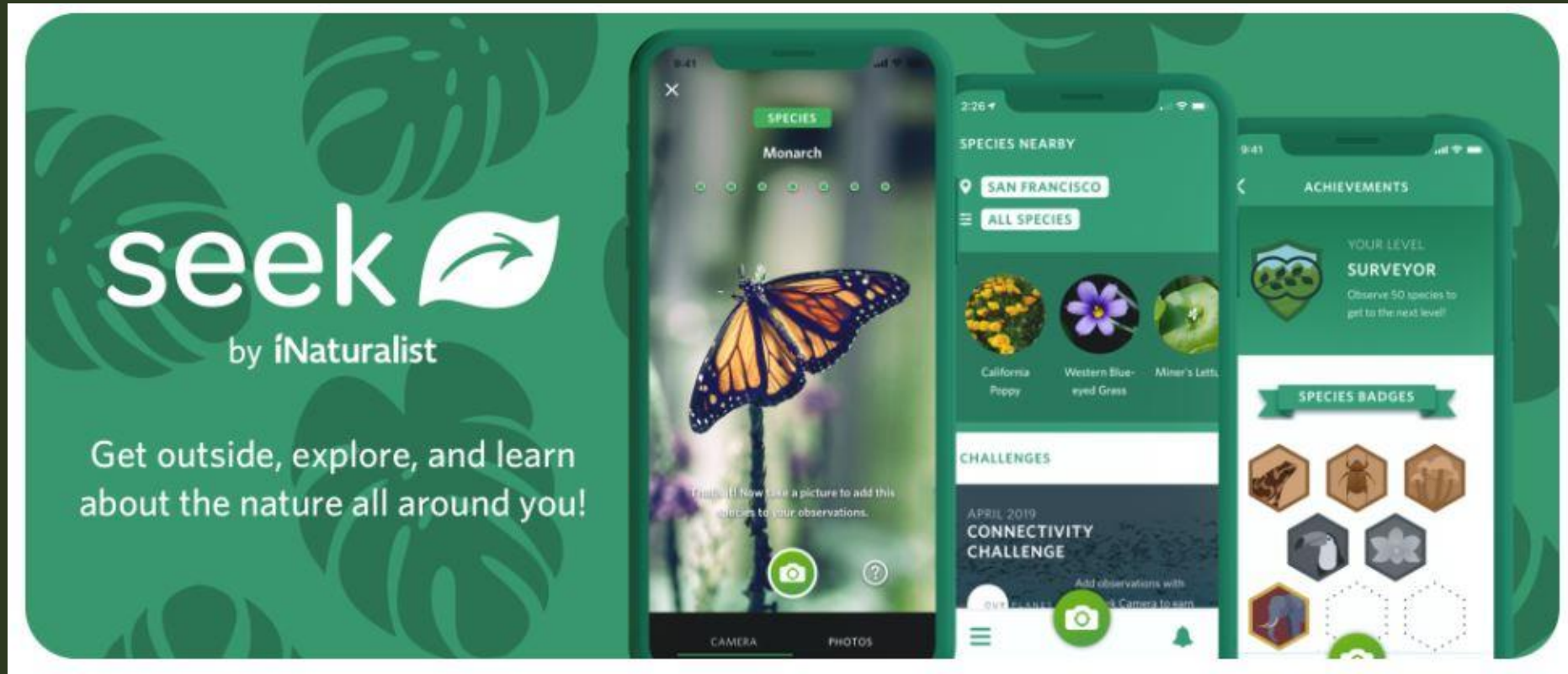


CAN I USE eBIRD?

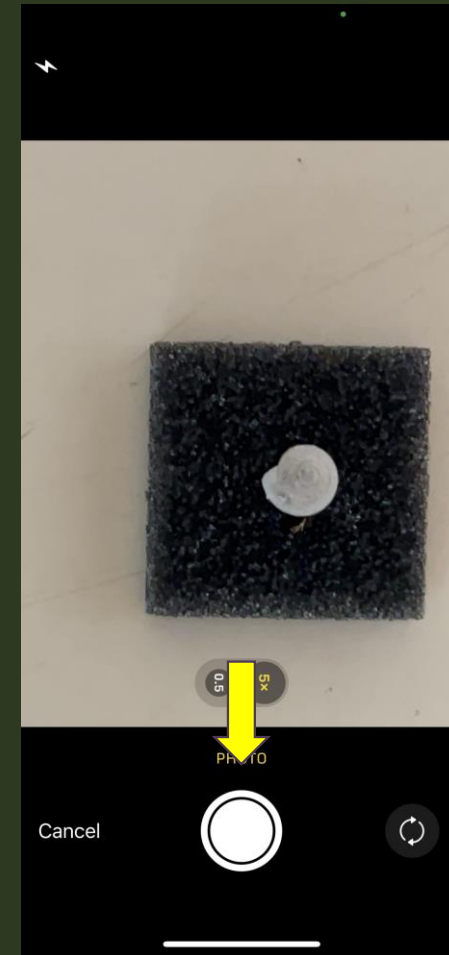
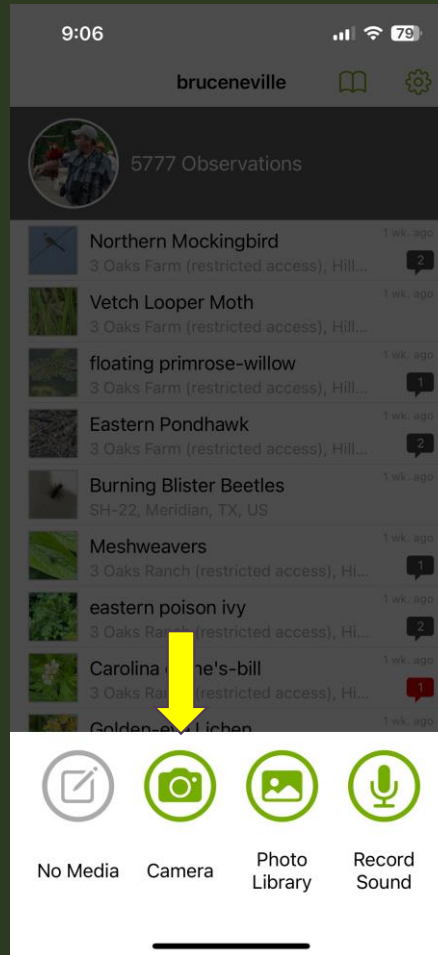
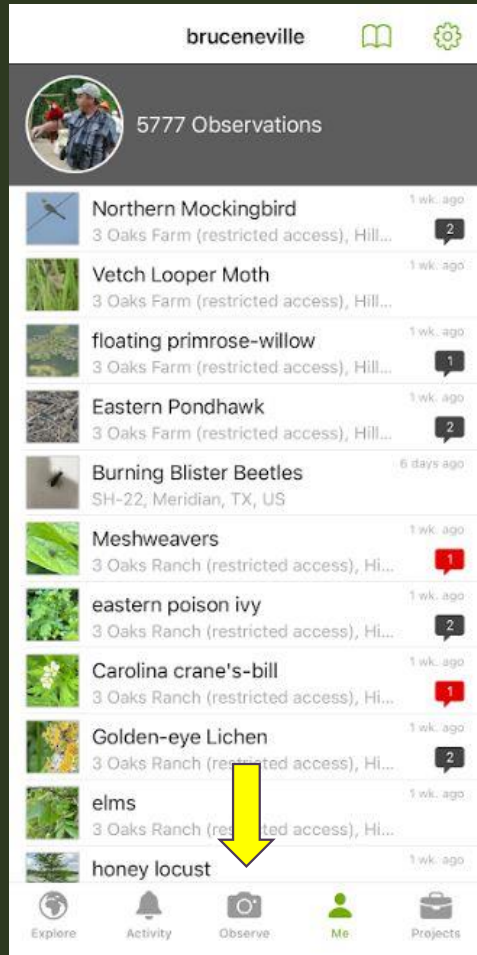


eBird

# CAN I USE SEEK?



# MAKING OBSERVATIONS



# USING YOUR SMARTPHONE

*Drosophila* sp., Bruce Neville, Madison County,  
20 March 2024, cc-by-nc,  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/203292977> [cropped]





# GET MULTIPLE SHOTS

You can't take too many pictures



Bristle Thistle, *Cirsium horridulum*, Bruce Neville,  
Corrigan, TX, 05 April 2024, cc-by-nc,  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/205656762>



IF YOU SEE IT, SHOOT IT!



Image credits: Spanish Moss and Tawny Emperor, Bruce Neville, Madison County, TX, cc-by-nc. American Coot, Bryan, TX, isaacthelord, iNat, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/21287590>

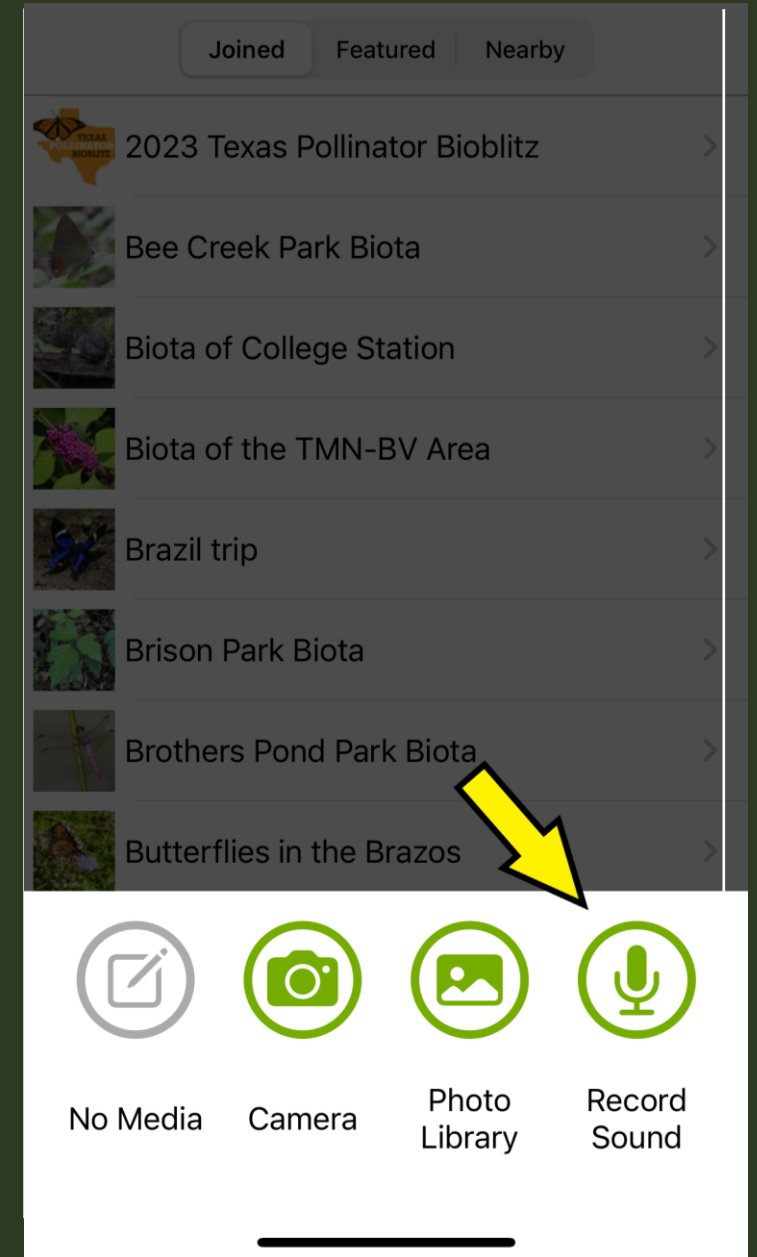
# USE YOUR HAND FOR SCALE



Little Quaking Grass, *Briza minor*, Bruce Neville, Madison  
County, 07 April 2024, cc-by-nc,  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/205988179>

# USE THE MICROPHONE ON YOUR PHONE

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# CAN I USE MY REAL CAMERA?



Image credit: photographer,  
begemot\_dn, flickr, cc-by-nc,  
[https://live.staticflickr.com/3908/14601611419\\_d813792c92\\_m.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/3908/14601611419_d813792c92_m.jpg)

# CAN I USE MY VIDEO?




Image credit: Camera Man,  
Bruce.Emmerling, Flickr, cc-0  
[https://live.staticflickr.com/1958/43703459450\\_d574efa674\\_n.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/1958/43703459450_d574efa674_n.jpg)




# UPLOADING OBSERVATIONS




# DO I NEED TO JOIN THE 2024 BRAZOS VALLEY CNC PROJECT?



 **City Nature Challenge 2024: Brazos Valley, TX**  
APR 26, 2024 - APR 29, 2024

## About

Members  4

Welcome to the City Nature Challenge for Brazos Valley, Texas, 2024, sponsored by Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter, Rio Brazos Audubon Society, Native Plant Society of Texas Post Oak Chapter, and City of College Station Lick Creek Park. The project collects all observations in Brazos, Burtleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, and

[Read More >](#) [Your Membership](#)

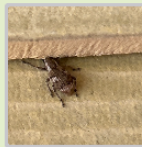
[Edit Project](#) [Project Journal](#)

Image credit: scopic, cc-by-nc (cropped), <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/157911015>

# UPLOADING OBSERVATIONS FROM THE APP



4 Observations To Upload



Gray Mistletoe Weevil

Waiting to upload...



Cedar Elm

Waiting to upload...



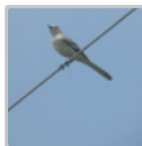
ashes

Waiting to upload...



Largeflower pink-sorrel

Waiting to upload...



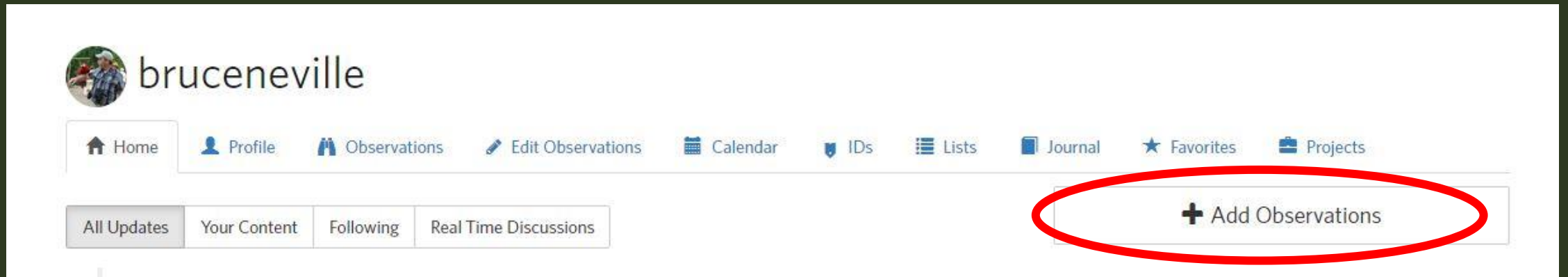
Northern Mockingbird

3 Oaks Farm (restricted access), Hill...

1 wk. ago



# ADDING FROM AN OUTSIDE SOURCE

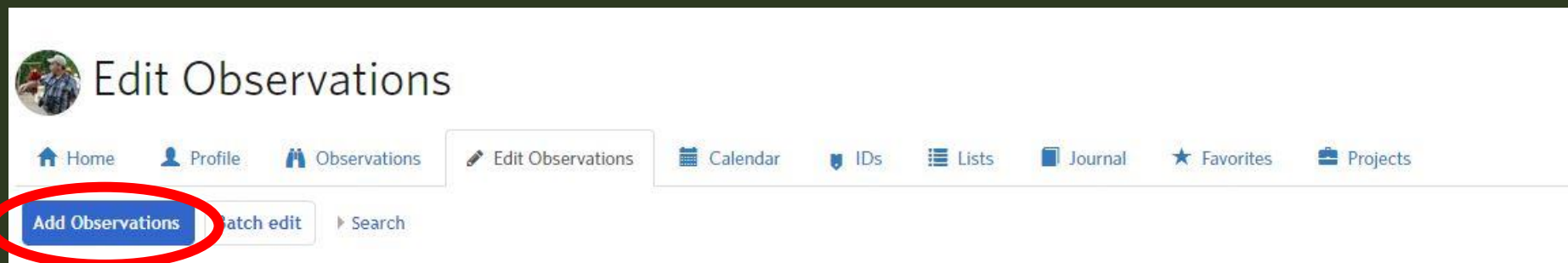


bruceneville

Home Profile Observations Edit Observations Calendar IDs Lists Journal Favorites Projects

All Updates Your Content Following Real Time Discussions

**+ Add Observations**







































Edit Observations

Home Profile Observations Edit Observations Calendar IDs Lists Journal Favorites Projects

**Add Observations** Watch edit Search

# ADDING OBSERVATIONS

 <p> Cochineal Scale Bugs </p> <p> 2024/01/15 1:33 PM</p> <p> Edinburg, TX, USA</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p> Cochineal Scale Bugs </p> <p> 2024/01/15 1:29 PM</p> <p> Edinburg, TX, USA</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p> Psorophora cyanescer </p> <p> 2024/03/30 10:47 AM</p> <p> Salineno, TX, USA</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p> Burrowing Dung Beetle </p> <p> 2024/04/07 2:19 PM</p> <p> Location</p> <p>Notes</p>
 <p> Burrowing Dung Beetle </p> <p> 2024/04/07 2:19 PM</p> <p> Location</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p> Burrowing Dung Beetle </p> <p> 2024/04/07 2:19 PM</p> <p> Location</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p><input type="text" value="Species name"/></p> <p> 2024/04/05 1:45 PM</p> <p> Polk County, TX, USA</p> <p>Notes</p>	 <p><input type="text" value="Species name"/></p> <p> 2024/04/05 1:45 PM</p> <p> Polk County, TX, USA</p> <p>Notes</p>



# DOUBLE-DIPPING

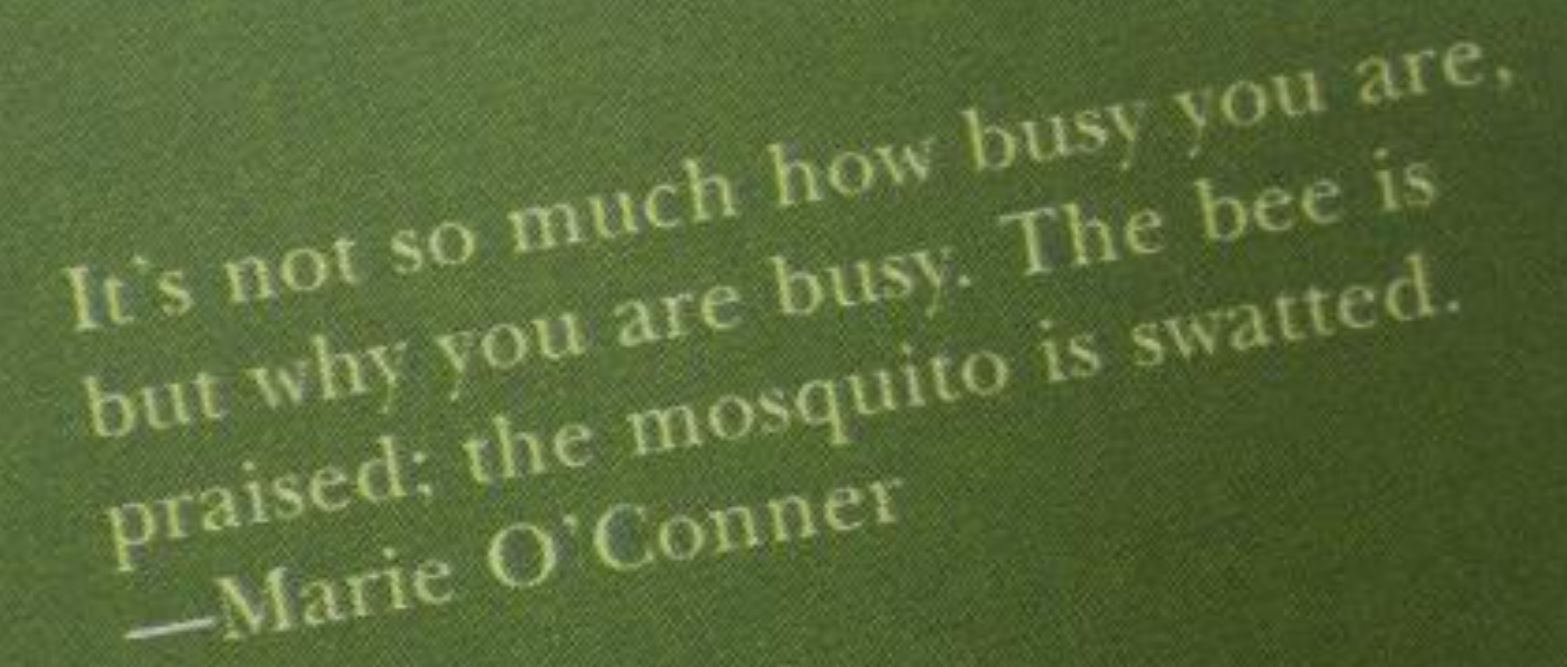
Arctic Blue, *Agriades glandon*,  
and Garita Skipperling, *Oarisma*  
*garita*

Image credit: Bruce Neville, Mount Taylor, NM, 11 July 2023,  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/172531305>;  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/172445957>





I WAS BUSY IN THE FIELD. CAN I UPLOAD  
PHOTOS AFTER MONDAY, THE 29TH?





It's not so much how busy you are,  
but why you are busy. The bee is  
praised; the mosquito is swatted.  
—Marie O'Conner


Image credit: busy quote, EvelynGiggles, Flickr, cc-by,  
<https://flickr.com/photos/evelynishere/4216288411/>


# ANNOTATIONS

## Activity





 **bruceneville** suggested an ID 🏆 Improving 🛡️ 16d ⌵

 **Texas Thistle**  
*Cirsium texanum* ⚖️ Compare

 **connlindajo** suggested an ID 🛡️ 16d ⌵

 **Texas Thistle**  
*Cirsium texanum*

Comment Suggest an Identification


**B** *I*     Preview

Leave a comment

Done  Mark As Reviewed

## Community Taxon

[What's this?](#)







**Texas Thistle** (*Cirsium texanum*) 

Cumulative IDs: 2 of 2

0 2/3rds 2

✅ Agree ⚖️ Compare ℹ️ About

✔️ Annotations (2)

Attribute	Value	Agree	Disagree
Plant Phenology	 Flower Budding <span>⊗</span>		
Plant Phenology	 Flowering <span>⊗</span>		
Plant Phenology	Select <span>⌵</span>		
Sex	Select <span>⌵</span>		

✔️ Projects (2)

IDENTIFYING



WHAT IF I DON'T  
KNOW WHAT THE  
SPECIES IS?

Image credit: © Cameron Johnson, Lick  
Creek Park, 30 April 2022,  
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/113929378> [Claiming Fair Use]





# IDENTIFYING OBSERVATIONS FOR OTHERS

The screenshot shows the iNaturalist 'Identify' page. At the top, the 'Identify' menu item is circled in red. Below it, the search bar contains 'Brazos County, TX, US', which is circled in green. A green arrow points from the 'Identify' menu to the search bar. The search bar also has 'Search Species' circled in blue. Below the search bar, there are filters for 'Filters 1' and 'Reviewed'. The main content area displays a grid of 12 observations for identification, each with a photo, a species name, and an 'Agree' button.

Image	Species Name	Genus	Agree
	Bromes	Genus <i>Bromus</i>	Agree
	Wild Oat	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Agree
	Mediterranean Linseed	<i>Bellardia trixago</i>	Agree
	Tribe Ptyctini		Agree
	Genus <i>Pseudosperma</i>		Agree
	<i>Cophes fallax</i>		Agree
	Pale Brittlestem	<i>Candolleomyces candolleanus</i>	Agree
	Docks	Genus <i>Rumex</i>	Agree
	Wax-leaf Ligustrum	<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>	Agree
	Unknown		Agree
	Common Hedge Parsley	<i>Torilis arvensis</i>	Agree
	Whorled Milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Agree

# USING THE FILTERS

**Quality Grade** (Select At Least One)

Casual  Needs ID  Research Grade

**Show**







Captive  Has Sounds  
 Threatened  Has Photos  
 Introduced  Your  
 Popular  Observations







**Description / Tags**

blue, butterfly, etc.

[More Filters](#) ▾

**Categories**

**Rank**

High ▾ Low ▾

**Sort By**

Date Added ▾ Descending ▾

**Date Observed**

Any  
 Exact Date  
 Range  
 Months

**Photo Licensing**

All ▾

**Reviewed**

Any  Yes  No

[Update Search](#) [Reset Search Filters](#)

[Atom](#) [Download](#)



# IDENTIFYING

## Identify



Birds



Brazos County, TX, US



Go

Filters 2

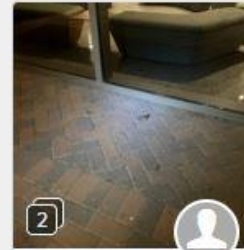


Reviewed



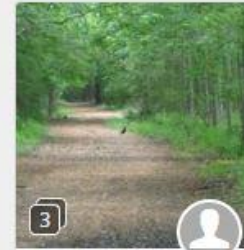
Zonotrichia Sparrows  
Genus *Zonotrichia*

1



New World Sparrows  
Family Passerellidae

1



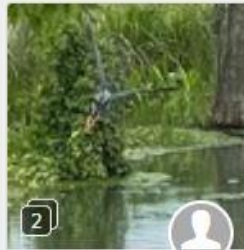
Crows and Ravens  
Genus *Corvus*

1



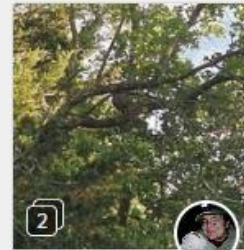
Hawks, Eagles, and  
Kites  
Family Accipitridae

3



Hérons, Egrets, and  
Bitterns  
Family Ardeidae

2



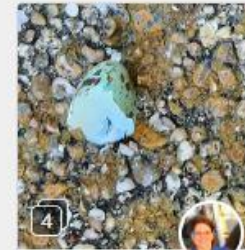
Hawks, Eagles, Kites,  
and Allies  
Order Accipitriformes

1



Birds  
Class Aves

1



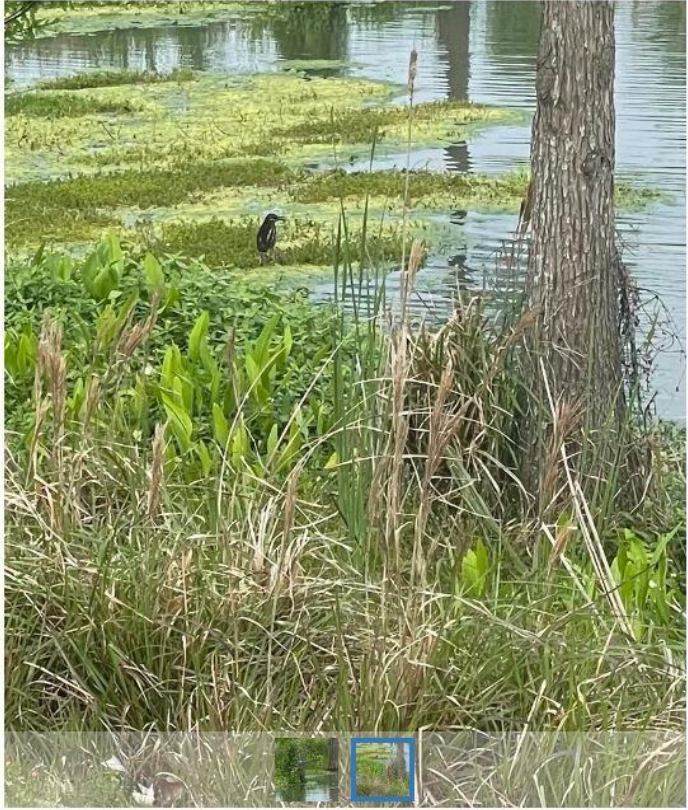
Northern Mockingbird  
*Mimus polyglottos*

Agree

1


# IDENTIFYING

**Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns**  
Family Ardeidae Needs ID



Add to Favorites  Captive / Cultivated  Reviewed

**Info** | Suggestions | Annotations | Data Quality



687  
Apr 14, 2024 · 10:33 AM CDT  
S Traditions Dr, Bryan, TX, US  
Acc (m): 4  
United States  
iNaturalist iPhone App  
View · Follow

**Leading** 3d

**American Bittern**  
*Botaurus lentiginosus*  Agree

**Leading** 3d

**Green Heron**  
*Butorides virescens*  Agree

disagrees this is **American Bittern** (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

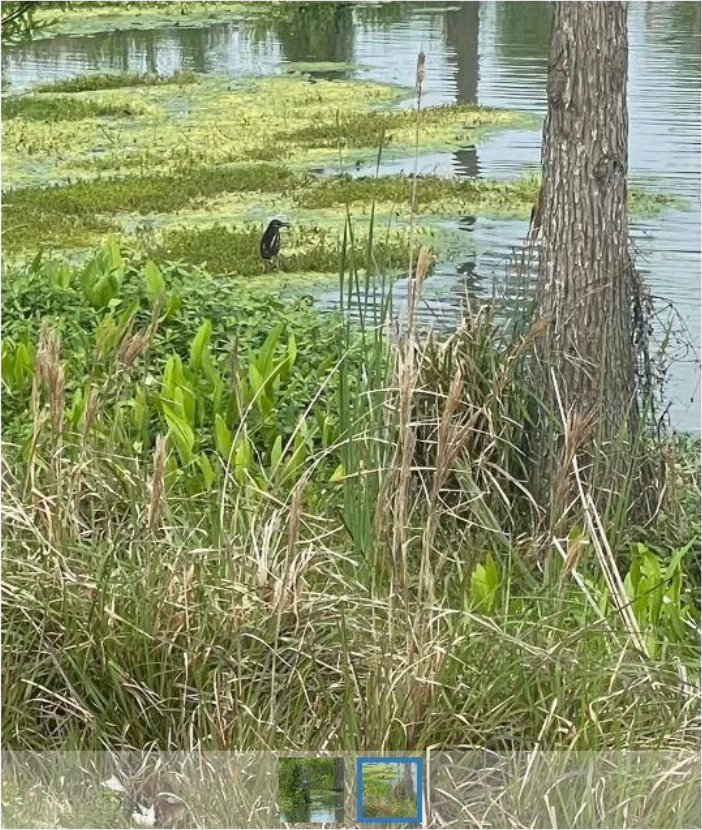


# IDENTIFYING

## Hérons, Egrets, and Bitterns

Family Ardeidae


Needs ID



☰ ☱ ☲ ☳ ☴ ☵ ☶ ☷

☆ Add to Favorites    Captive / Cultivated    Reviewed

Info   Suggestions   Annotations   Data Quality



687  
Apr 14, 2024 - 10:33 AM CDT  
S Traditions Dr, Bryan, TX, US  
Acc (m): 4  
United States  
iNaturalist iPhone App  
View • Follow

Leading 3d

American Bittern  
*Botaurus lentiginosus*   Agree

Leading 3d

Green Heron  
*Butorides virescens*

Agrees this is American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)

Leading 1s

Green Heron  
*Butorides virescens*

Add ID   Comment

# GTWT ADOPT-A- LOOP PROJECT

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## Area Sites

- Lick Creek Park
- Anderson Arboretum
- Museum of Natural History
- Lake Bryan
- Fort Boggy State Park



# BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO iNATURALIST

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1XcsucKNtL3f4rORQOMB4FwyEACYqAcQN/edit>

## **A Beginner's Guide to iNaturalist**

Bruce Neville

Texas Master Naturalist, Brazos Valley Chapter, Inc.

### Contents:

- I. What is iNaturalist
- II. Getting Set Up with iNaturalist
- III. Making Observations
- IV. Updating and Enriching Your Own Observations
- V. Projects
- VI. Identifying
- VII. More About Adopt-a-Loop

# IMAGE CREDITS

- **Other Ways To Document:** Nine-banded Armadillo (track), scopic, College Station, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/158482864>. Eastern Copperhead (roadkill), wpence, Bryan, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/114709538>. Elm Finger Gall Mite (gall), Bruce Neville, College Station, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/114513453>. Chuck-will's-widow (call), Mark MdDermott, Texas A&M University, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/158982855>. Giant Floater (empty shell), Dwight Bohlmeier, College Station, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/158421701>. Gray Fox (game cam), Laura Sare, College Station, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/159418883>. Smallmouth Buffalo, laineelston, Bryan, cc-by-nc, <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/159050932>.
- **What NOT To Document:** Giraffe, kerriemv, flickr, cc-by-nc-nd, [https://live.staticflickr.com/202/500659946\\_e5dacd14c2\\_n.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/202/500659946_e5dacd14c2_n.jpg). The Flowers of the Cactus, Istvan, flickr, cc-by-nc-nd, [https://live.staticflickr.com/273/18607096312\\_9d8c12afa4\\_w.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/273/18607096312_9d8c12afa4_w.jpg). [puppies] 20130407\_schenki\_004, ssopach, flickr, cc-by-sa, [https://live.staticflickr.com/8248/8631240054\\_d94da325b6\\_w.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/8248/8631240054_d94da325b6_w.jpg). oreo cookie cow, devra, flickr, cc-by, [https://live.staticflickr.com/6170/6182099328\\_aa730f2339\\_w.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/6170/6182099328_aa730f2339_w.jpg).



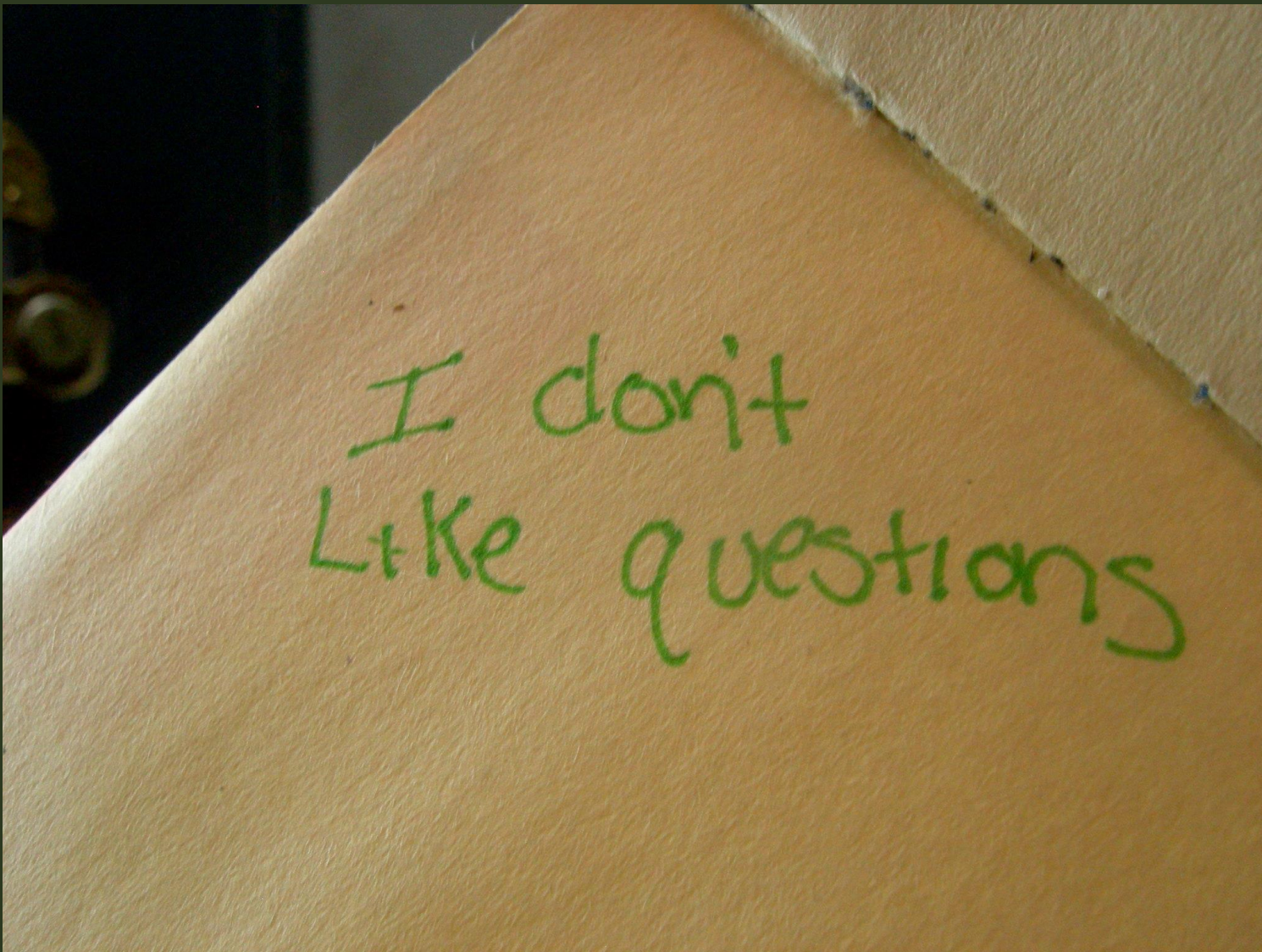


Image credit: Questions,  
Jenn Turner, Flickr, cc-by,  
[https://live.staticflickr.com/3100/5826473968\\_8ef0a406b9\\_m.jpg](https://live.staticflickr.com/3100/5826473968_8ef0a406b9_m.jpg)