

## Tips for documenting species for CNC X USC

1. Download the iNaturalist app and create a profile
2. Join the CNC X USC 2024 project (in projects, search 'City Nature Challenge X USC 2024')
3. Observe from April 26-29, 2024! Observations made in LA County by project members during this time are automatically added to our project
4. Be sure to mark any cultivated (planted) plants or captive animals



### Remember...be safe!

1. Be aware of your surroundings
2. Lift rocks towards you when looking for wildlife underneath
3. Be gentle and safe with the wildlife you observe



Find Wildlife

It can be any plant or critter anywhere in Los Angeles County

### Tips for finding and documenting wildlife in an urban area

1. *The goal is to document wildlife, rather than captive or cultivated species*
2. Find habitat – animals need food, water, and shelter
3. Look up – in the sky, in trees, on roofs, under the eaves of buildings
4. Look down – under rocks, leaves, tables, plants, etc.
5. Weeds are wild plants!
6. If an observation is a cultivated (planted) plant or captive animal, be sure to mark it!



Take a Picture of What you Find

Be sure to take lots of pictures that will help in identifying the critter or plant

### Tips for taking the best and most useful pictures for identification

1. Take multiple pictures if you can – iNaturalist observations can include many images
2. Make sure the picture is in focus
3. Take pictures from different angles
4. **PLANTS:** Take pictures of the different parts – whole plant, leaves, flowers, berries, etc.
5. **ANIMALS:** Take a picture right away when you spot something – it may run/fly away!! Slowly walk towards the animal taking pictures as you go



Share Your Observations

There are 3 ways to share your observations

- You can make an observation directly in the iNaturalist app
- You can take photos on your phone and add them as an observation later
- You can take photos with a traditional camera and upload them to the iNaturalist webpage

CITY NATURE CHALLENGE IS ORGANIZED BY



# Examples of Best Practices for taking photos

(images from Natural History Museum)

Make sure the picture is in focus



Isolate the organism you want to document



Take photos from different angles



Take photos of different parts of the plant

