

# Using iNaturalist to Submit Observations to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring Project

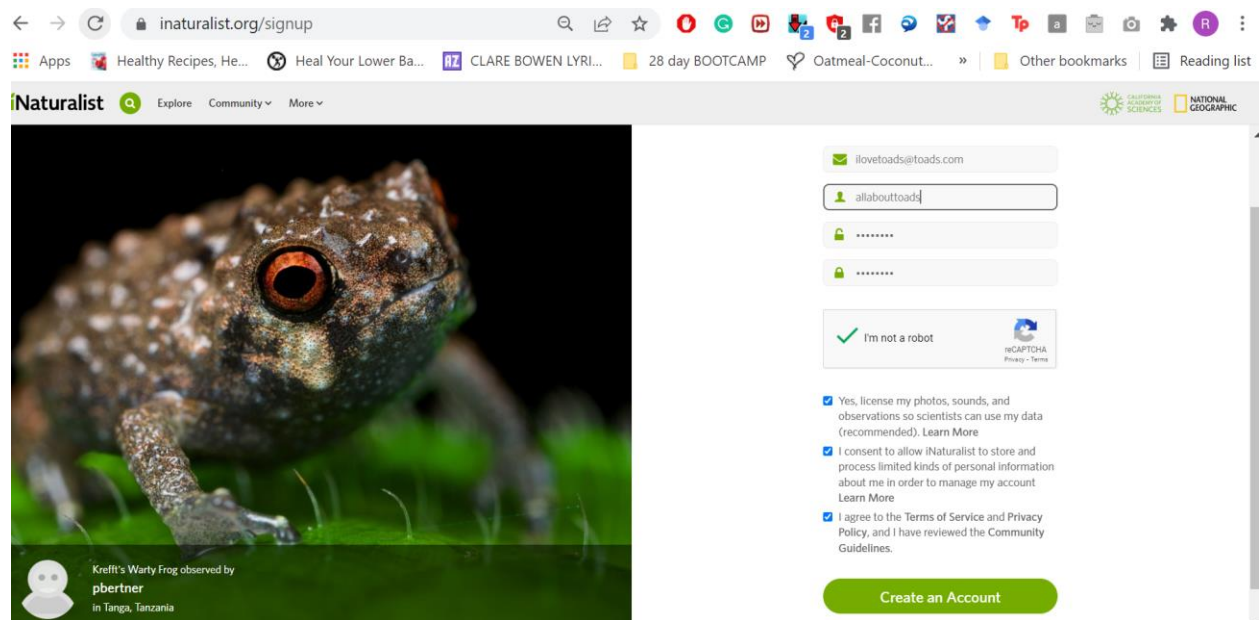
Much of the text for this document was copied verbatim from the Rare Plant Monitoring Program iNaturalist guide by Kevin F Doyle.

## 1. Set up an account on iNaturalist if you haven't already

It's free and all you need is an email address! You need to make a username and password for yourself too. Sign up here: <https://www.inaturalist.org/signup>

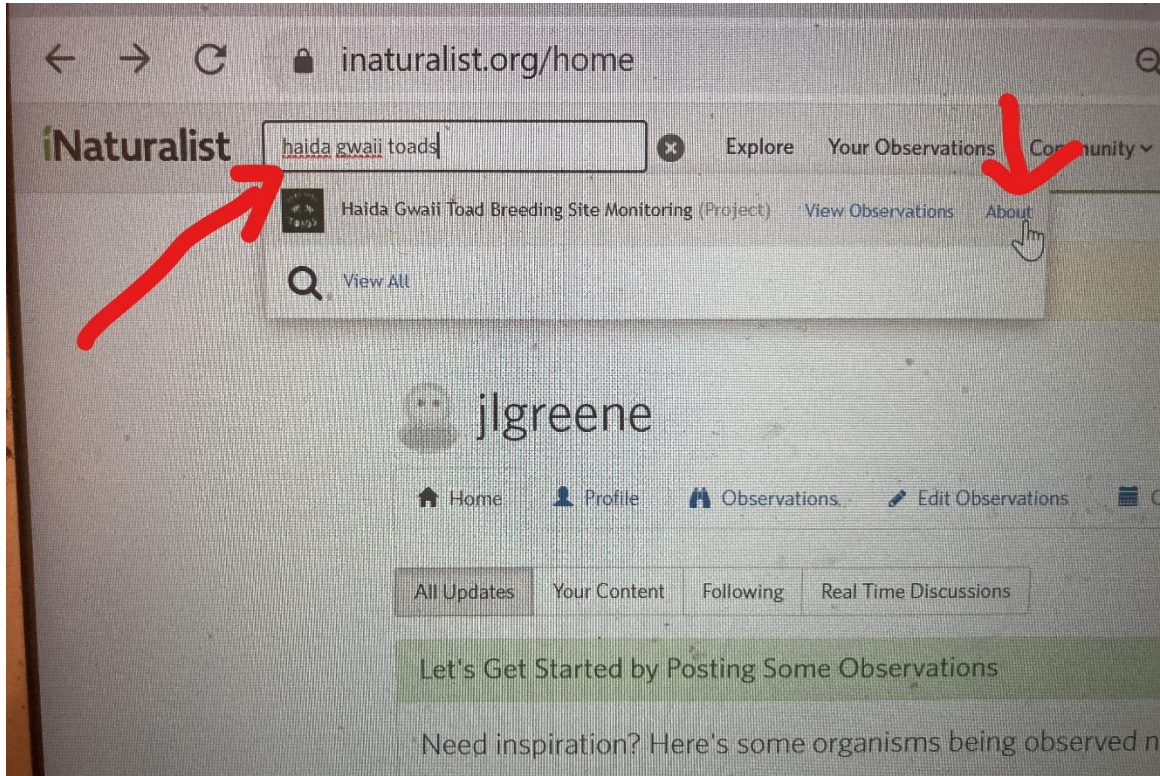
You can use this account to record observations of animals and plants beyond this project (if you want).

As you're signing up, check the box "Yes, license my photos, sounds, and observations so scientists can use my data (recommended)". This is so people can use the observations of toads that you submit. They have to give you credit though! You can change or edit this setting later on.

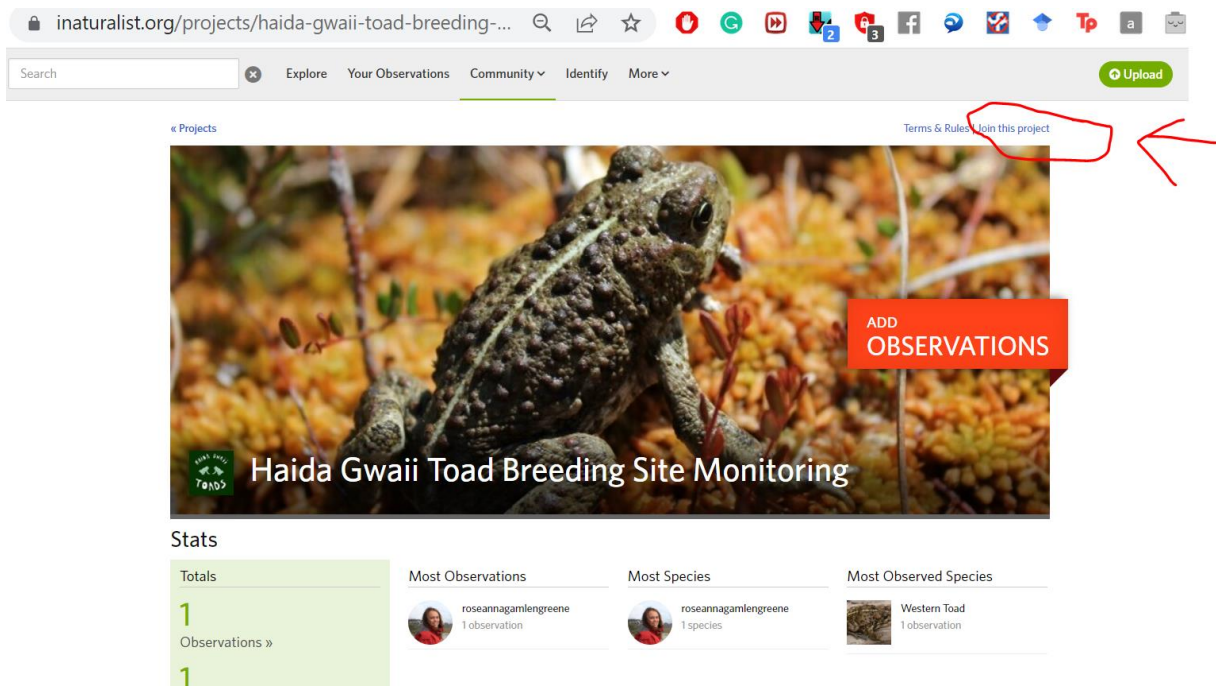


## 2. Join the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project

Once you have an account, search for the project in the search box and click "About".



Then click "Join this project" on the top right above the banner.



Then scroll down and under “Other” decide if you want to receive updates (i.e., get email update every day about what observations other people have made).

Click “yes, no matter who adds the observation to the project”.

Click “Yes, I want to join”.

inaturalist.org/projects/haida-gwaii-toad-breeding-... 🔍 ↗ ☆ 🏠 🌐 📺 📄 📧 📧 📧

Explore Your Observations Community ▾ Identify More ▾

« Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring

## Join Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring?

### About this Project

*This is a volunteer-led initiative to monitor toad breeding sites on Haida Gwaii. Toads (Western toad; *Anaxyrus boreas*) are the only indigenous amphibian on Haida Gwaii. The toad is important to the Haida Nation, is a species of “Special Concern” federally, and many local people on Haida Gwaii intrinsically value the toad. Anyone can join! Please only make observations at toad breeding sites for this project. Observations of toads elsewhere on Haida Gwaii can be entered on iNaturalist (just ...more ↓*

### Project Curators

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### Rules for Adding Observations

- one of the following must be true:
  - must have observation field 'Toad tadpoles present. Little black, pointy head. See ID sheet.' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Toad eggs present (long strings of eggs). Yes/No/Unsure' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Number breeding pairs of toads. Two toads on top of each other = 1 pair.' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Date of Observation' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Number single adult toads (not in breeding pair)' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Number breeding pairs of toads. Two toads on top of each other = 1 pair.' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Number single adult toads (not in breeding pair)' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Toad eggs present (long strings of eggs). Yes/No/Unsure' filled out
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  - must have observation field 'Number breeding pairs of toads. Two toads on top of each other = 1 pair.' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Number single adult toads (not in breeding pair)' filled out
  - must have observation field 'Toad tadpoles present. Little black, pointy head. See ID sheet.' filled out
- observer must allow project curators to view coordinates.
- must be georeferenced
- must have quality grades: 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.

For future reference, this is the link to it: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/haida-gwaii-toad-community-monitoring>

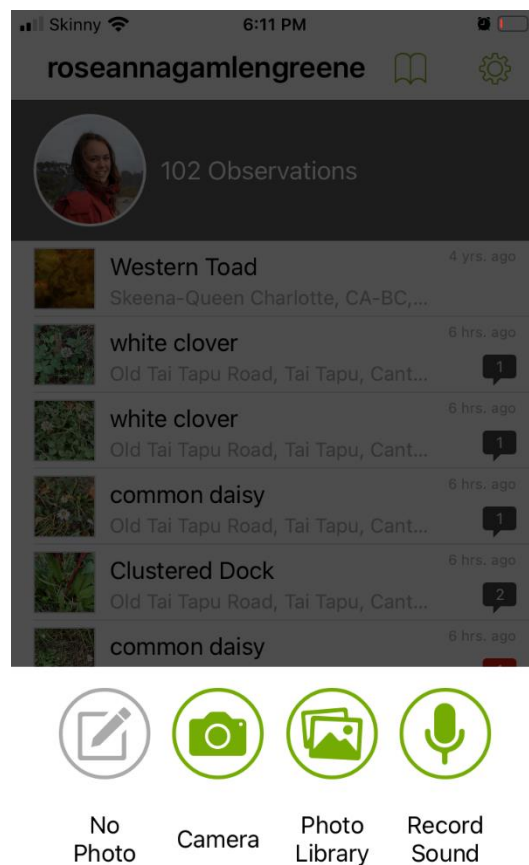
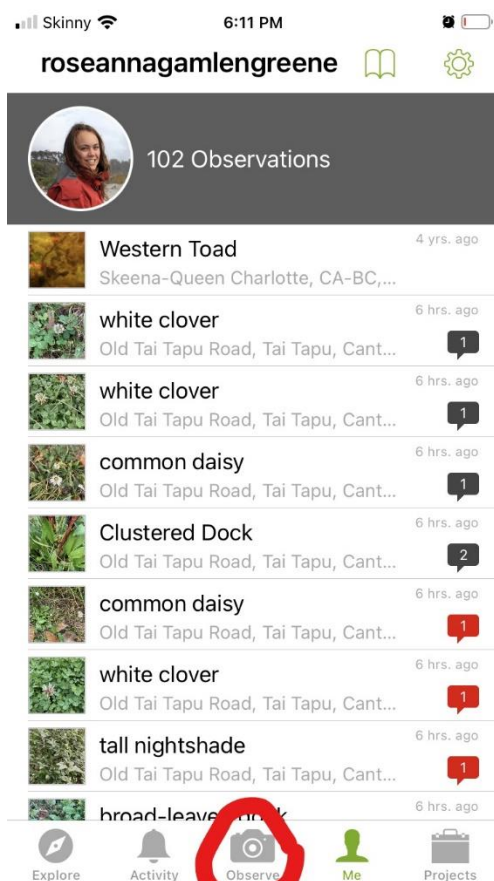


### 3. Add your observation to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project.

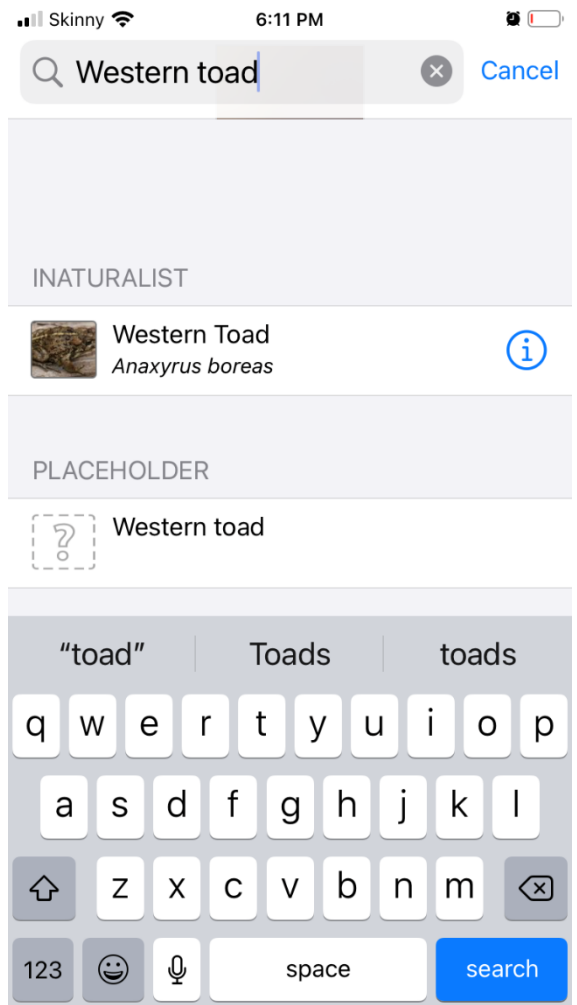
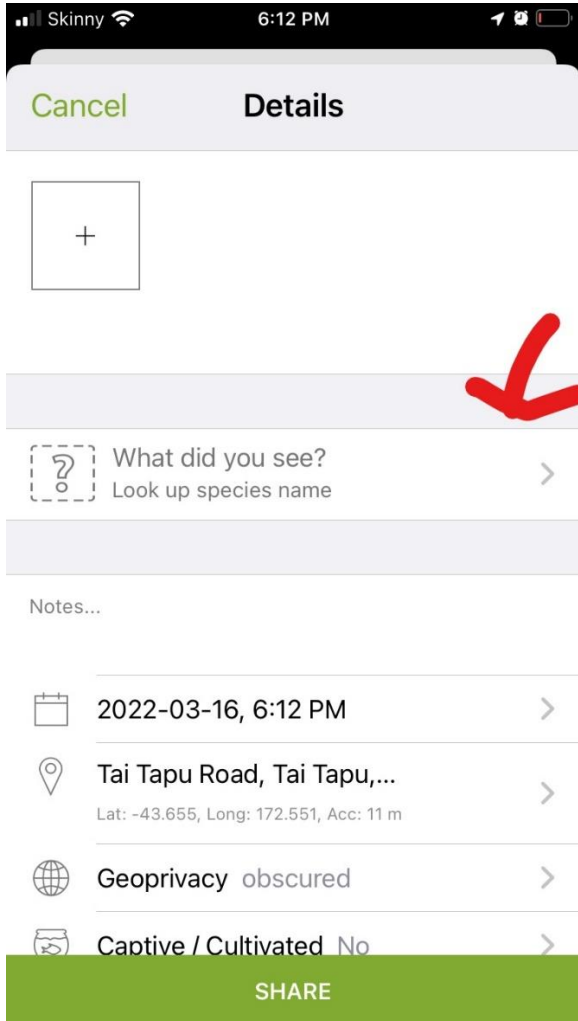
**Using the mobile app:** When you make an observation, there will be an opportunity to add it to a project. Click the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project, and you will be prompted to fill out additional fields. These fields are the same as on the paper version. Note: Some of these fields are mandatory. Your observation will not be added to the project if you do not fill out all the necessary fields or have a date or GPS coordinates.

#### iPhone

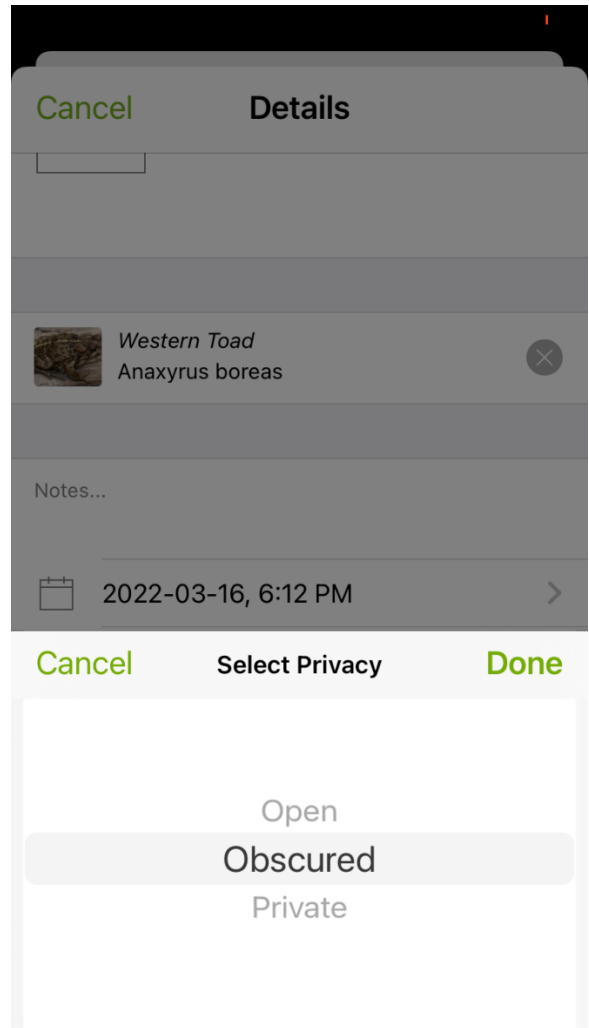
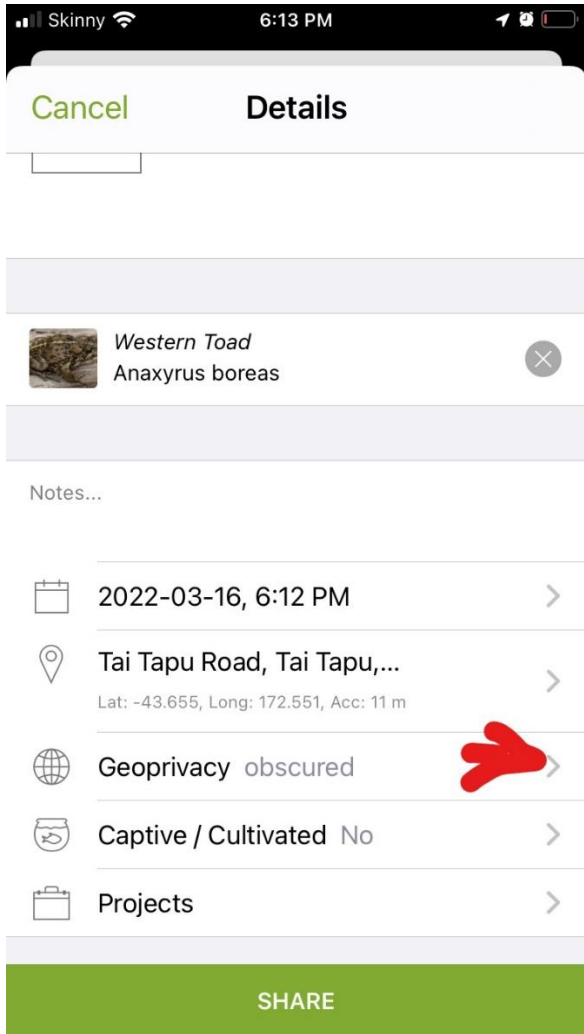
The main page for submitting any observation to iNaturalist using the iPhone. You can touch “Projects” to add an observation to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project.



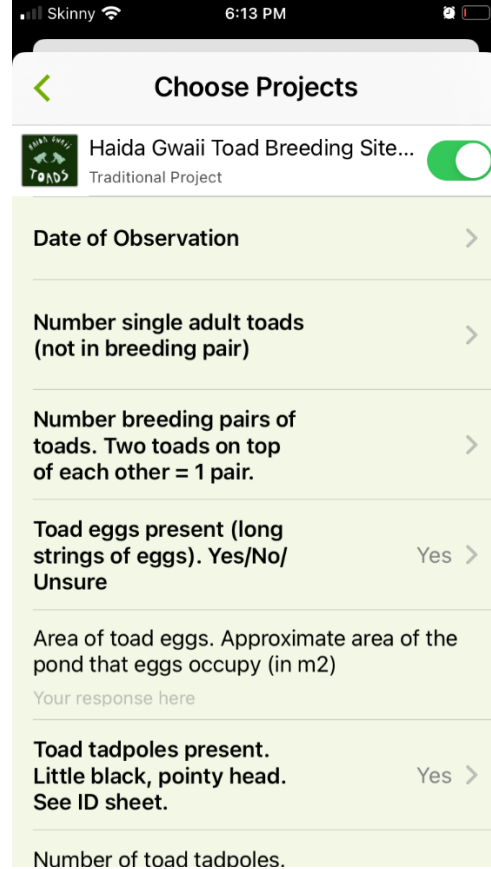
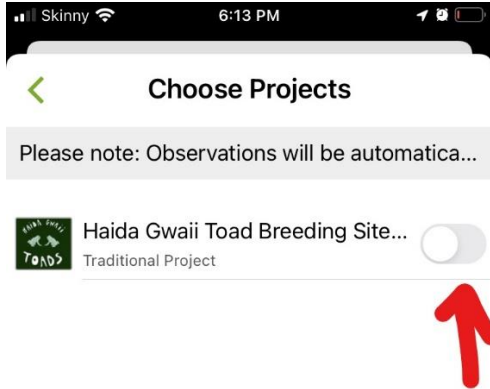
The data collection form for iNaturalist on the iPhone. Click “what did you see?” and type in western toad.



Make sure you have date and time and location, which you tick as “obscured”. This is so the public can’t see it – but you and the other people in the project can see it.



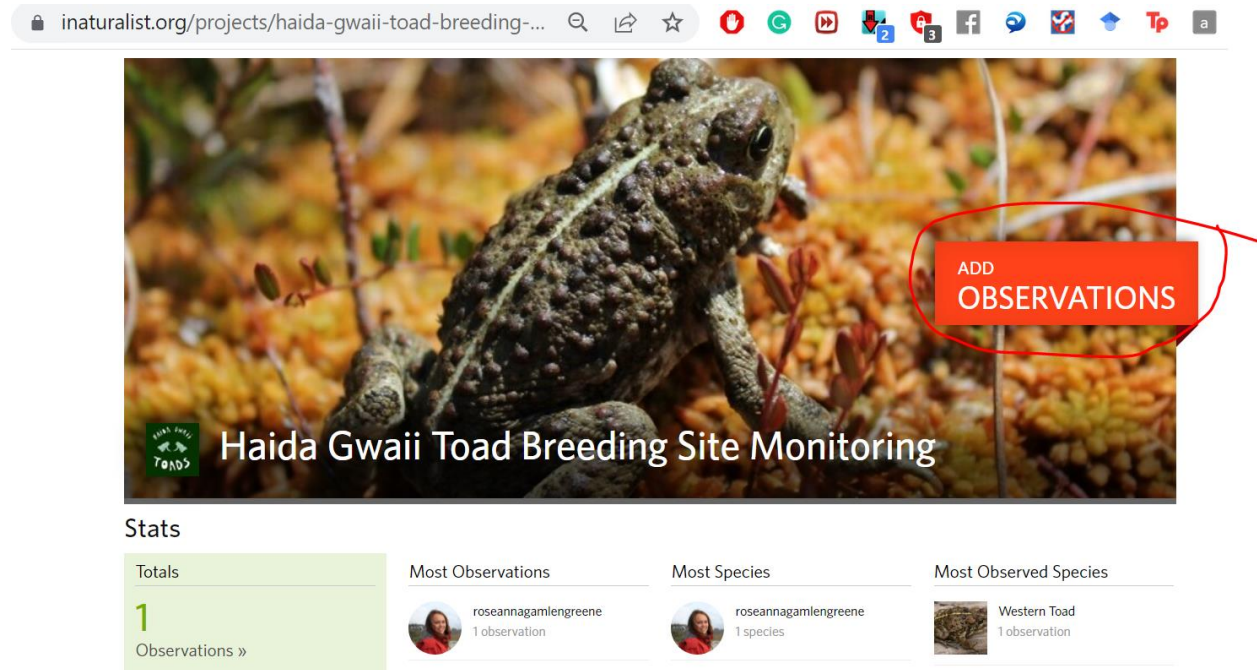
Then click “Project” on the bottom, and select Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site. Fill out the form. All the fields with bold font must be filled in or you can’t submit the observation. When you are finished filling out the data collection form, click the green arrow on the top left to go back to your data entry and then touch “Share” to submit the observation. You can tell if it worked because it will show up in your list of observations.



**Android**

### Using the website on a PC:

If you want to submit your observations using your PC when you get back from the field that's fine too. Sign in to iNaturalist and navigate to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project page. On the banner across the top of the page there is an option to "Add Observations." Click and you will be brought to the project's data submission form, which includes the data fields, a map and an option to upload a photo. Again, many of these fields are mandatory. If you don't fill out certain data fields or put a point on a map, your observation will not be submitted.



The screenshot shows the iNaturalist project page for "Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring". The browser address bar shows the URL: [inaturalist.org/projects/haida-gwaii-toad-breeding-...](https://inaturalist.org/projects/haida-gwaii-toad-breeding-...). The main banner features a close-up photograph of a toad with a red "ADD OBSERVATIONS" button overlaid on the right side, which is circled in red. Below the banner, the "Stats" section is displayed with the following data:

Stats	Most Observations	Most Species	Most Observed Species
Totals <b>1</b> Observations »	roseannagamlengreene 1 observation	roseannagamlengreene 1 species	Western Toad 1 observation

Above: The Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring main page on iNaturalist for PC. Click the "Add Observations" in the banner to submit data. You can also see who is involved in the program, how many observations have been submitted, and where observations were made.



Below: The data submission form on the iNaturalist website. "\*" means required field.

inaturalist.org/observations/new?project\_id=129387

What did you see?  
[Search icon] [Text input]

Was it captive / cultivated? \*

When did you see it?  
[Text input] [Calendar icon]  
(GMT-10:00) America/Adak v  
e.g. 2019-10-29 13:12:21

Notes  
[Text area]

Tags Comma-separated, please  
[Text input]

Where were you?  
Name of the place you made the observation [Text input] [Location icon]  
Lat: [Text input] Lon: [Text input] [Edit]  
Acc (m): [Text input] Src: [Text input]

Map Satellite [Map icon] [Satellite icon] [Layers icon] [Full screen icon] [Close icon]  
[Map image showing a highlighted area in a satellite view]  
Google Imagery ©2022 TerraMetrics 100 km Terms of Use

Change geoprivacy [obscured v] [Location icon]

Add media  
Add Photos Add sounds  
Source: your hard drive v  
Select One or More Photos  
Choose Files No file chosen  
 Sync obs. w/ photo metadata? clear

Fill out project observation fields

Date of Observation [Text input] [Calendar icon]  
*Date of Observation*

Is this observation at a toad breeding site? Within 50m \* [NA v]  
*Within 50m of a breeding site*

Number single adult toads (not in breeding pair) \* [Text input]  
*Number of single adult toads (toads not in a breeding pair).*

Number breeding pairs of toads. Two toads on top of each other = 1 pair. \* [Text input]  
*Number of breeding pairs of toads. Two toads locked together breeding = 1 pair.*

Toad eggs present (long strings of eggs). Yes/No/Unsure \* [NA v]  
*Long string of eggs. Strings can detach a bit over time.*

Area of toad eggs. Approximate area of the pond that eggs occupy (in m2) [Text input]  
*Approximate area of the pond that eggs occupy (in m2)*

Toad tadpoles present. Little black, pointy head. See ID sheet. \* [NA v]  
*Little black, pointy head. See ID sheet.*

Number of toad tadpoles. Approximate number of tadpoles. 10s vs 100s vs 1000s [NA v]  
*Approximate number of tadpoles. 10s vs 100s vs 1000s*

Number of dead toad skins. Evidence they have been eaten. [Text input]

**Obscuring the location of your observation (VERY IMPORTANT !!!):** When you are marking the location of your observation (whether on the mobile app or PC) you will be given the opportunity to obscure the location. This is also called setting the “geoprivacy.” Obscuring the location of your observation means that you and the program coordinator can see the exact location, but everyone else will only be able to see to within 10km of its true location. Any observations you add to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project it can be viewed by people that follow you even if they are not in the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring.

Therefore, you must obscure any observations you submit to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project so people outside the program cannot see their exact locations.

#### 4. See what other people have observed and comment on their observations

Along with submitting observations, you can also use iNaturalist to see what other people have observed, comment on their photos or contact them directly to schedule surveys. This is the social media component of iNaturalist and it is best utilized via the website. Although, you can see other

people's observations using the mobile app, you can't filter for those made by Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring people only.

"Following" people on iNaturalist is like being "friends" with someone on Facebook or following someone on Twitter; you will get updates on your observation feed whenever they submit data.

## 5. How to download the data

On the project iNaturalist page, scroll down to "Export Observations". Click CSV. A page will appear with lots of options to filter the data. Either customise the filter or leave the default settings (which is keep all the data), and scroll down to the bottom and click "Create Export". Download the file.

## Frequently Asked Questions

You can find more help with using iNaturalist on their help page but here are some answers to FAQ. Questions after reading the FAQ? Contact Roseanna Gamlen-Greene (roseanna.gamlen.greene@gmail.com)

### 1. I'm filling out the paper form, do I have to submit data via iNaturalist?

Yes. Or get a friend to submit on your behalf. This is so the data is publicly available.

### 2. Do I need to obscure the location of all my observations whether they are of rare species or not?

You only need to obscure the location of observations submitted to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project. If you have an iNaturalist account you can submit information on all kinds of species (birds, turtles, mushrooms, plants, etc.). So if you observe a common plant or turtle or bird and want to add it to iNaturalist, you do not need to obscure the location.

### 3. What if I don't have a cell signal when I'm in the field?

You can still collect the data on your smartphone even if you don't have a cell signal. The data will be stored on your phone until you get somewhere with better service and the observation will be automatically uploaded then. You can log into the iNaturalist app when you get better cell service to confirm that the observation was uploaded. If it still hasn't been uploaded, you can manually refresh the app by navigating to your observations page and dragging down.

### 4. I submitted data but I don't see it on the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring page?

There are a couple things that may cause your observations to not get added to the project. First, make sure that you filled out all the mandatory data fields (these should have asterisks next to them), uploaded a photo and put a point on a map, marking the location of the observation. If you haven't met these requirements, your observation will not get added to the project.

Alternatively, there is sometimes a lag between when the observation is uploaded and when it shows up on the project main page. If you just submitted the observation, wait a few minutes, refresh the page and see if it appears. If it still doesn't show up on the main project page, there may be something wrong with the data itself.

### 5. The data collection fields on the mobile app are out of order and I can't read the entire heading for certain fields. What's going on?

If you are using the iNaturalist app for an Android phone, you may run into some problems with the data collection fields. The fields may appear out of order and some of the headings may run off the screen. You should still be able to see enough information to understand what data to enter into each field, but it may be worthwhile, if you have an Android phone, to look at the data collection form before you go into the field or carry a hard copy of one with you, so you know what the field says. You can also log into the project on the iNaturalist website to see the entire field headings. Rest assured, your observation will still be successfully submitted to the Haida Gwaii Toad Breeding Site Monitoring project from an Android phone.

## 6. Can I edit my observation after it is submitted?

Yes. If you go to your observations page on the iNaturalist website or app, you can view an observation and edit any of the data fields, change the photograph or the location.