

Using iNaturalist

What is iNaturalist?



Observations

Who you are

You'll need to make an **iNaturalist account** and please only post your own personal observations



Where you saw it

Record both the coordinates of the encounter as well as their accuracy. You can obscure the location from the public



What you saw

Choose a group of organisms like **butterflies** or better yet a specific organism like the **Monarch butterfly**. If you provide evidence you can leave this blank and the **community can help**



When you saw it

Record the date of your encounter, not the date you post it to iNaturalist



Evidence of what you saw

By including evidence like a **photo or sound**, the community can help add, improve, or confirm the identification of the organism you encountered. Help the community by taking clear well framed photos, by including multiple photos from different angles



Making observations

- Taking good photos takes practice!
- Take close-ups of details
 - Flowers
 - Leaves
 - Anything interesting
- Add comments
 - Anything you think may be useful for ID
- Don't be afraid if you don't know!




Making observations, continued



- Upload photos
 - Via mobile app
 - Via website
- Always make some kind of ID
 - Rather than “unknown”, use “Plants”
- iNat community is able to ID almost anything!



Species info



[Observations](#) [Species](#) [Projects](#) [Places](#) [Guides](#) [People](#)


[Life](#) > [Animals](#) > ... > [Boisduval's Blue](#) > [Mission Blue](#) 



Mission Blue *(Icaricia icarioides ssp. missionensis)*

[Filter By Place](#)



 [View More](#) 

 **Critically Imperiled Globally** (Source: [NatureServe](#))


TOP OBSERVER

 **robberfly**
[Leaderboard](#)  72


TOP IDENTIFIER


 **dominic**
[Leaderboard](#)  24

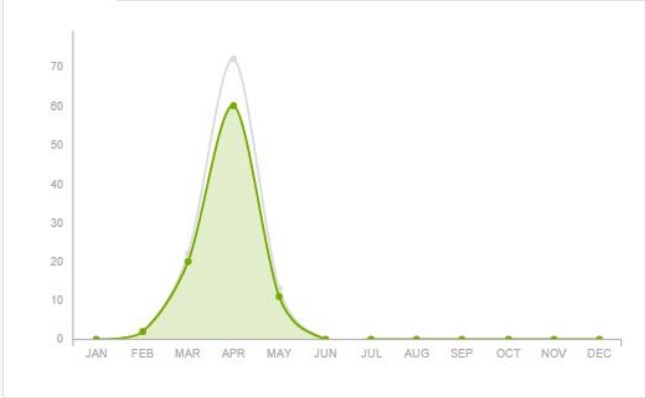
LAST OBSERVATION

 **May 02, 2017**
[View Observation](#)


TOTAL OBSERVATIONS

 **109**
[View All](#) [View Yours](#)

[Seasonality](#) [History](#) [Life Stage](#) 



Month	Observations
JAN	0
FEB	2
MAR	20
APR	60
MAY	10
JUN	2
JUL	0
AUG	0
SEP	0
OCT	0
NOV	0
DEC	0

[Map](#) [About](#) [Taxonomy](#) [Status](#) [Similar Species](#) [Curation](#) 

Species identification

- iNaturalist bases this on *Consensus*
- Uploader picks taxon *as best they can*
 - Species – Red maple/*Acer rubrum*
 - Genus – Maples, *Acer*
 - Family – Soapberry family, *Sapindaceae*
 - Kingdom – Plants
- Community builds ID by agreeing or offering suggestions

Comments & Identifications



Your ID: **flowering plants** (Phylum Magnoliophyta)

Posted by you 16 days ago



Your ID: **pearlworts** (Genus Sagina)

Posted by you 15 days ago



er1kksen's ID: **Birdseye Pearlwort** (*Sagina procumbens*)

Flowers 4-parted, reduced or absent petals.

Posted by er1kksen 14 days ago



Your ID: **Birdseye Pearlwort** (*Sagina procumbens*)

Posted by you 14 days ago



thanks, @er1kksen! I'm not very familiar with the genus, but will keep my eye out for them now.

Posted by you 14 days ago



They're one of my favorites, really, so tiny and easily overlooked... the other species commonly occurring in this area is *S. japonica*, an introduced species, which tends to have 5-parted flowers with white petals as large or larger than the tepals. There is a native species with 5-parted flowers, *S. decumbens*, but it's quite rare. There are some populations of uncertain status on Long Island. Easily distinguished from *japonica* as the flower stems on *japonica* are slightly hairy and tend to be bent, whereas on *decumbens* they're smooth. It would be really neat to find *decumbens* in one of the city's sandy shore habitats, probably some part of Gateway NP in brooklyn or staten island- it was historically known in some, and it's not impossible that it could pop up again here.

Posted by er1kksen 14 days ago



danielatha's ID: **Birdseye Pearlwort** (*Sagina procumbens*)

Posted by danielatha 3 days ago

Add a comment

Add an identification

Identification continued



Seven-spotted
Ladybird



Three-banded
Ladybird



Honey
Bee



Ladybird Beetles
(Family Coccinellidae)

adrianee4's ID

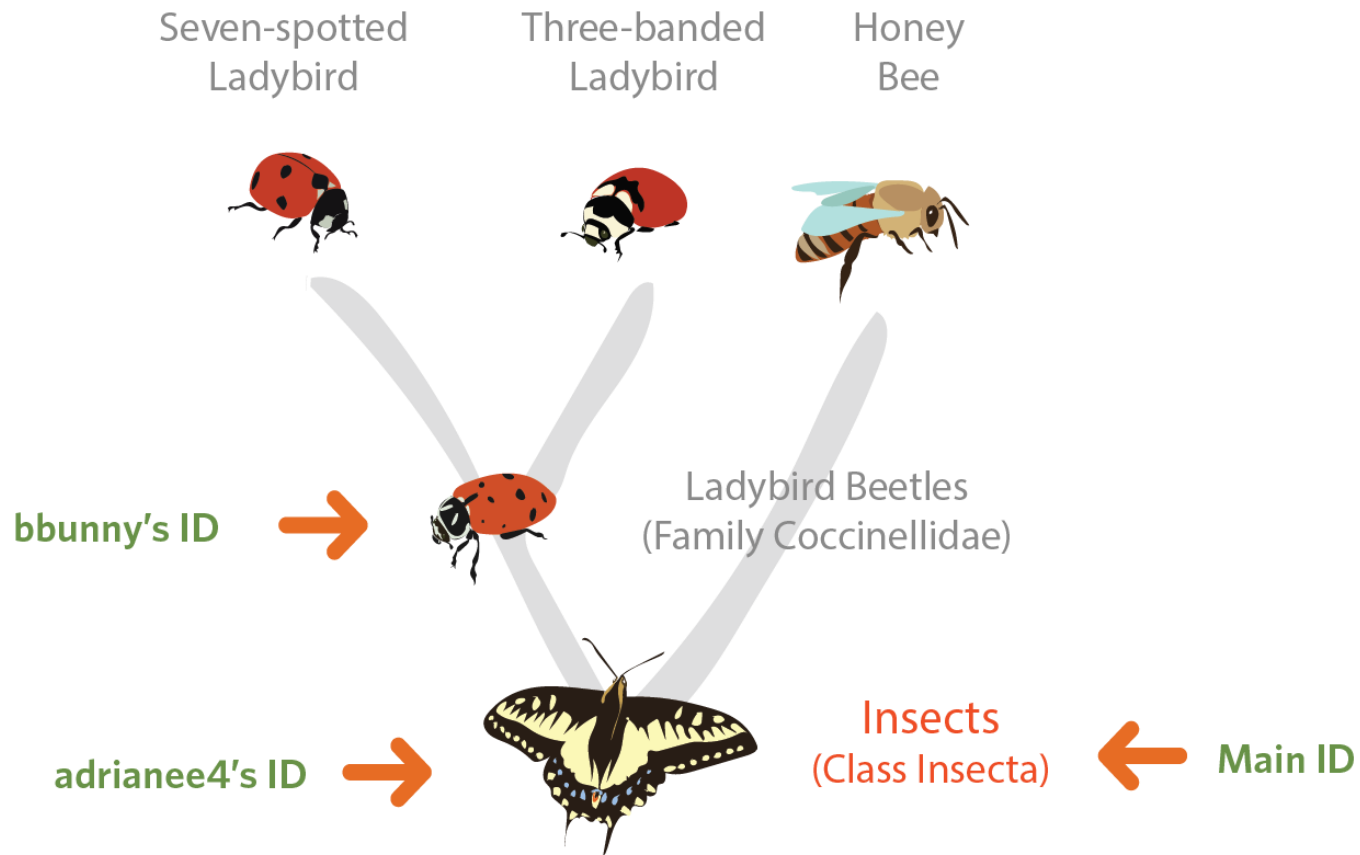


Insects
(Class Insecta)



Main ID



Identification continued



Identification continued

iNaturalist.org

Insects (Class Insecta) Observed by **adriane4** May 26, 2015





adriane4's ID:
Insects (Class Insecta)



Community ID:
Insects (Class Insecta) ← **9**

bbunny's ID:
Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae)

Identotron

Comments & Identifications

 **adriane4's ID:** **Insects** (Class Insecta)


 **bbunny's ID:** **Ladybird Beetles** (Family Coccinellidae)

Data Quality Assessment

Quality Grade: **Needs ID** [Details](#)

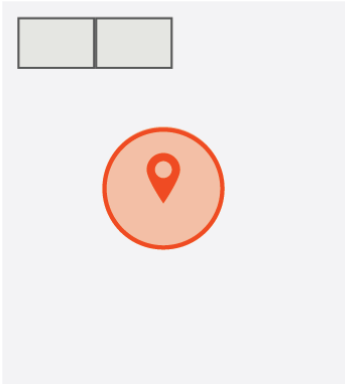

← **8**


Identification continued





Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae) ← 12

May 26, 2015





 **adriane4's ID:**
Three-banded Ladybird
(*Coccinella trifasciata*)



 **Community ID:**
Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae) ← 11



 **bbunny's ID:**
Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae)

Identotron

Comments & Identifications

  **adriane4's ID:** ~~Insects~~ (Class Insecta)

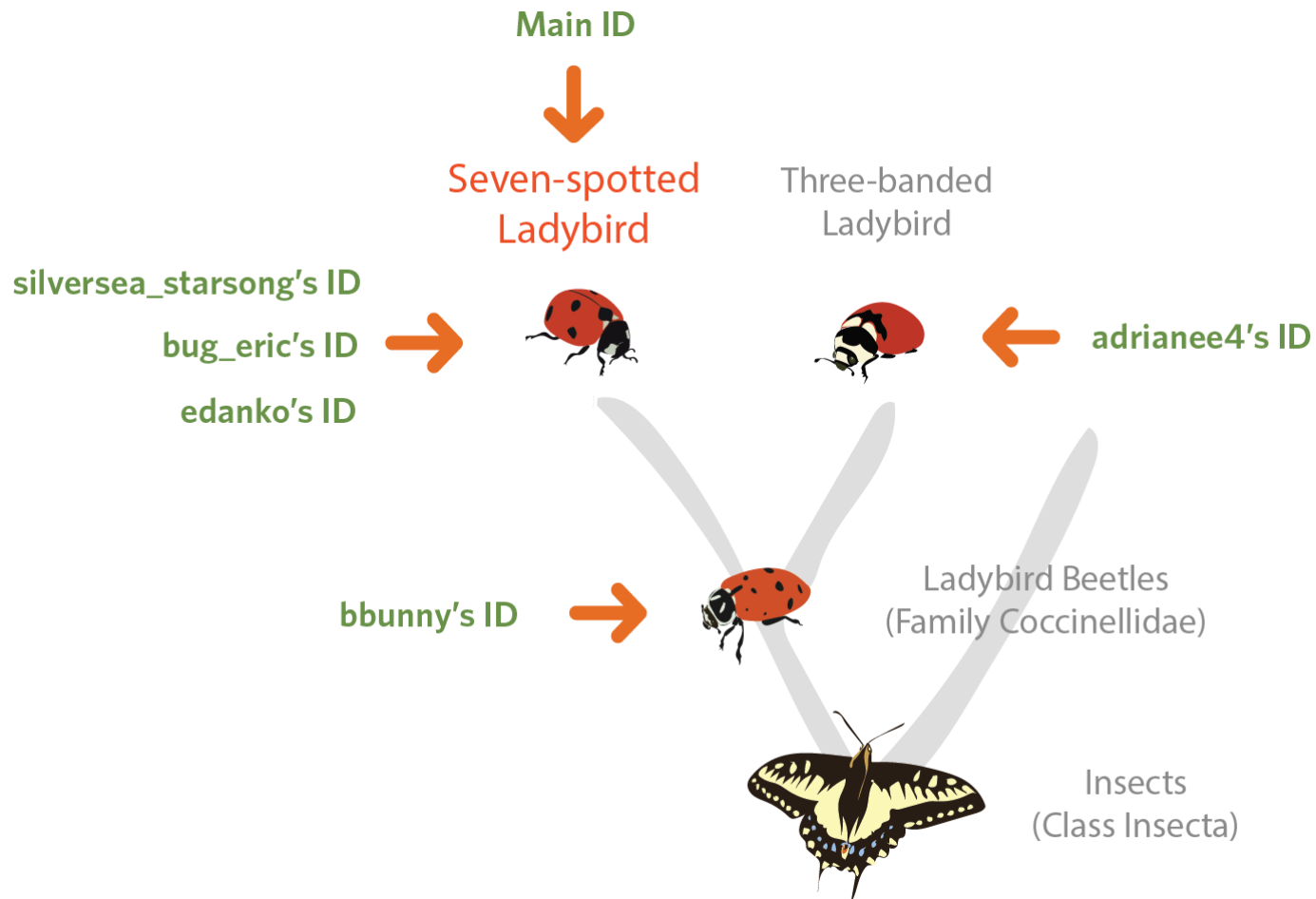
  **bbunny's ID:** Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae)

  **adriane's ID:** Three-banded Ladybird (*Coccinella trifasciata*) ← 10

Data Quality Assessment

Quality Grade: Needs ID Details

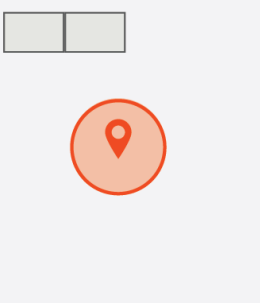
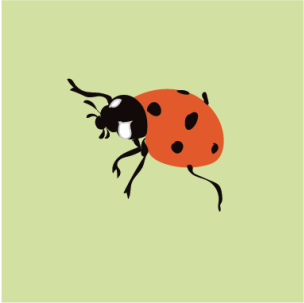
Identification continued



Identification continued

iNaturalist.org

Seven-spotted Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*) ← 15 May 26, 2015



adriane4's ID:
Three-banded Ladybird
(*Coccinella trifasciata*)







Community ID:
Seven-spotted Ladybird
(*Coccinella septempunctata*) ← 14

3 people agree

bbunny's ID:
Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae)

Identotron

Comments & Identifications

-  **adriane4's ID:** ~~Insects~~ (Class Insecta)
-  **bbunny's ID:** Ladybird Beetles (Family Coccinellidae)
-  **adriane's ID:** Three-banded Ladybird (*Coccinella trifasciata*)
-  **silversea_starson's ID:** Seven-spotted Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)
-  **bug_eric's ID:** Seven-spotted Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)
-  **edanko's ID:** Seven-spotted Ladybird (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

Data Quality Assessment



Quality Grade: **Research** ← 16 Details



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Etiquette and Disagreement

- Chronology matters
- Implied disagreements
- If unsure, make a comment
- Add suggestions
- Add pointers if you know them!

Comments & Identifications

 tiwane's ID: **Seven-spotted Ladybird** (*Coccinella septempunctata*)

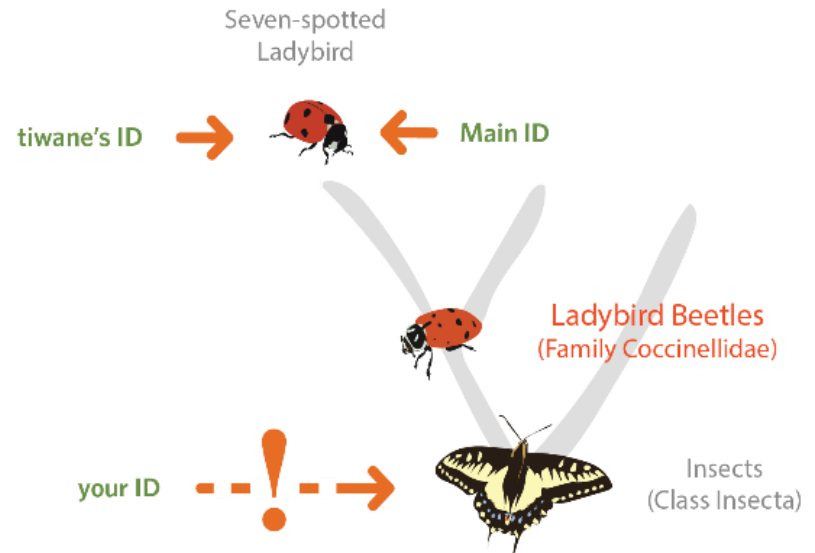
 Your ID: **Insects** (Class Insecta)

Attention

Your coarser ID of **Insects** implies that you disagree with the existing finer ID of **Seven Spotted Ladybird**. Is this what you want to do?

Proceed

Cancel



Taking Good Pictures

- Observations need to be *Identifiable*
- Taking good pictures is a skill
- Takes time and practice



Taking Good Pictures

Look for traits that help identify the plant

- For You
- For Others

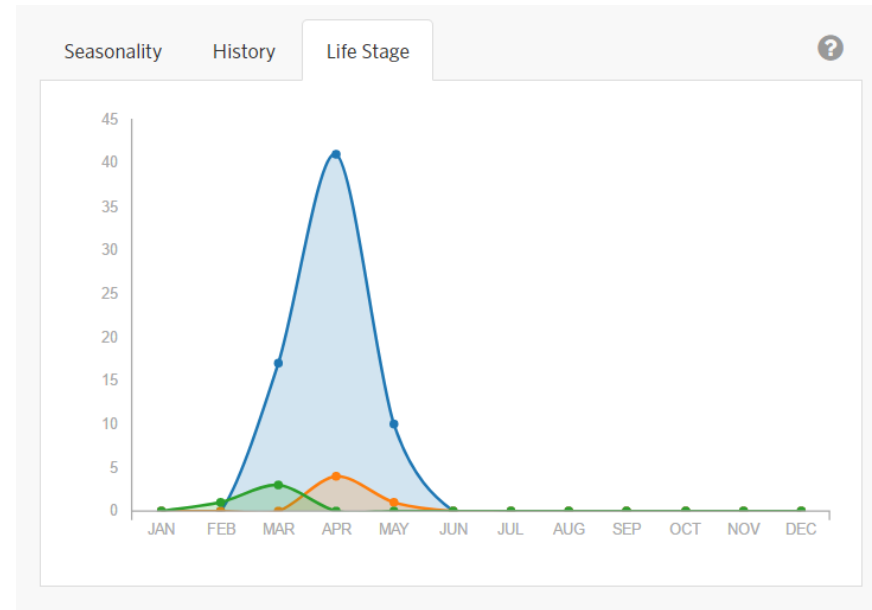
Find ways to include scale

- Formal/informal
- Ruler vs hand, Metrocard, etc



Observation Fields / Annotations

- iNaturalist is currently updating this
- Ability to add specific notes to an observation
- Such as **Phenology data**
- Can add important metadata specific to a project
- We will use these to add data to observations
- Have to be added via web, not mobile



Life stages for Mission Blue butterfly

Don't Panic – Enjoy iNaturalist!

- iNaturalist is for everyone
 - Not just experienced observers!
- Make the best ID you can
- We will help you
- The iNat community will help you!
- Have fun observing!

