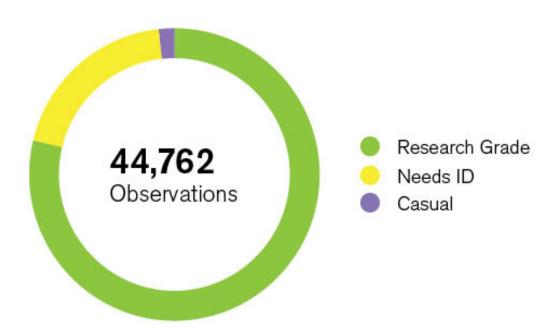
# NYBG

## **MAKE THE GRADE EcoQuest Challenge**

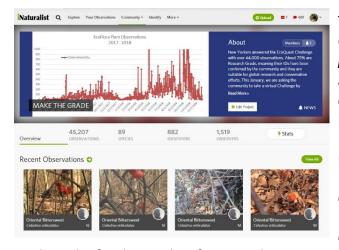


New Yorkers have responded to the EcoQuest Challenge since its inception in August 2017 with more than 44,000 observations. Approximately 75% are Research Grade, meaning their IDs have been confirmed by two or more people and they are suitable for global research and conservation projects. This month we are asking everyone to take a virtual Challenge by reviewing the 25% of observations that need ID, confirming or adding IDs, and helping them **MAKE THE GRADE**.

## **Basic Steps to MAKE THE GRADE**

#### **STEP ONE**

Visit the project page: <a href="https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/make-the-grade">https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/make-the-grade</a>.

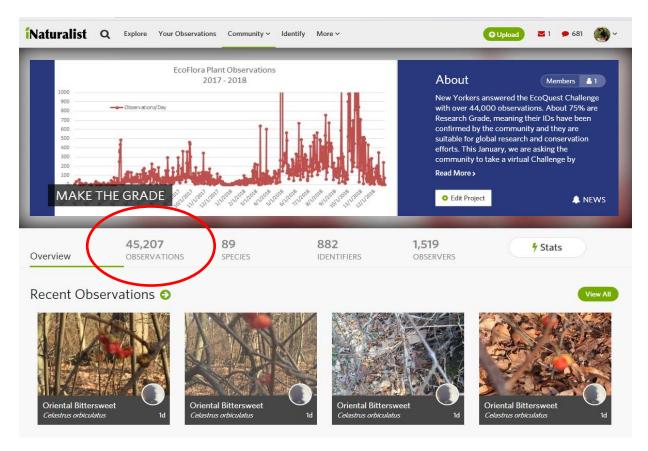


made in the five boroughs of New York City.

The project MAKE THE GRADE is gathering all observations of Milkweeds (Genus Asclepias) Monarch (Danaus plexippus), American Pokeweed (Phytolacca americana), Ashes (Genus Fraxinus), Japanese Angelica Tree (Aralia elata), Common Reed (Genus Phragmites), Porcelain Berry (Ampelopsis glandulosa), Italian Arum (Arum italicum), Lichens (Class Lecanoromycetes), American Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), Common Ivy (Hedera helix), Mayapple (Podophyllum peltatum), Sassafras (Sassafras albidum), Northern Spicebush (Lindera benzoin), Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima), White Snakeroot (Ageratina altissima), and Oriental Bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus)

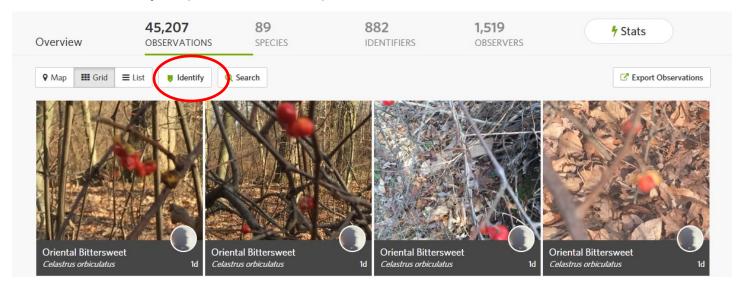
## **STEP TWO**

Click the Observation tab (circled in red below).



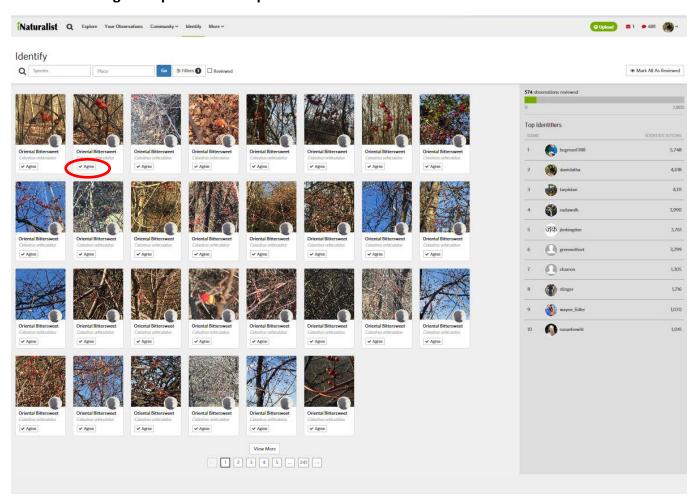
## **STEP THREE**

Click on the Identify tab (circled in red below).



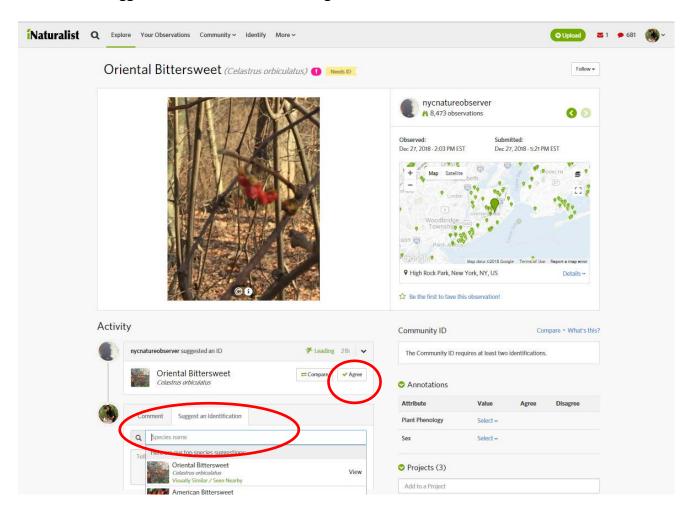
## **STEP FOUR**

Click the Agree tab if you agree with the identification. If you are unsure about an identification, skip it or click on the image and proceed to step five.



## **STEP FIVE**

Click on the Suggest an Identification tab or Agree.



## **Background**

iNaturalist is an online-community for everyone interested in nature. Anyone can explore nature in their community, post observations, identify and comment on observations made by others and engage with naturalists anywhere in the world. Just about any living thing can be posted, within certain limits (see section 2 of the Terms of Service).

All observations start off as "casual" grade and become "needs ID" when

- the observation has a date
- the observation is georeferenced (i.e. has lat/lon coordinates)
- the observation has photos or sounds
- the observation isn't of a human

Observations become "research grade" when

• the iNat community agrees on species-level ID or lower, i.e. when more than 2/3 of identifiers agree on a taxon

Observations will revert to "casual" if the above conditions aren't met or the community agrees

- the location doesn't look accurate (e.g. monkeys in the middle of the ocean, hippos in office buildings, etc.)
- the organism isn't wild/naturalized (e.g. captive or cultivated by humans or intelligent space aliens)
- the observation doesn't present evidence of an organism, e.g. images of landscapes, water features, rocks, etc.
- the observation doesn't present recent (~100 years) evidence of the organism (e.g. fossils, but tracks, scat, and dead leaves are ok)
- the observation no longer needs an ID and the community ID is above family
- the observer has opted out of the community ID and the community ID taxon is not an ancestor or descendant of the taxon associated with the observer's ID

Research Grade observations are suitable for research and conservation projects. They are uploaded to global biodiversity databases such as GBIF, EOL and others.