

# TradMaD 2023 Bioblitz

We hope many of you will join us in tracking the biodiversity of Pinewood Camp this summer during TradMaD using [iNaturalist](https://www.inaturalist.org/). A joint initiative between the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, iNaturalist is a platform for science and conservation efforts, providing valuable open data to research projects as well as to the public. It's also lots of fun!

In 2022, 14 TradMad campers recorded an impressive total of 674 observations, and 262 of those (representing 117 different species) made it to the level of "research grade". We'd love to see if we can top that in 2023!

Among the species identified were, from left to right, , the beautiful Polymorphic Pondweed Moth, Chocolate Tube Slime, and Hairy Pinesap (a rare find):



This year, we will meet in the free period before lunch on Sunday in the Wi-Fi area near the camp entrance to give you an overview of iNaturalist and help you download the app to your phone if you are a new user. Then, in the free time before dinner, we will take a walk around camp to show you how to make observations. Our goal is to identify as many plants and animals as we can find at camp during TradMaD.

If you do not already use iNaturalist, we encourage you to try it out ahead of time to help you identify the plants and animals you see on your own nature walks. It's a great way to learn more about your own environment while also contributing your findings to a world-wide database! Just visit <https://www.inaturalist.org/home> and sign up. You can also check out the "Additional resources to help you take better nature photos" below.

If you are interested in participating but are new to iNaturalist, feel free to email me and I'll do my best to answer any questions you may have.

Looking forward to seeing you at Camp!

Suzanne Mrozak ([suzanne@smrozak.com](mailto:suzanne@smrozak.com))

## **Additional resources to help you take better nature photos**

**Recording of the Photography 101: Here's how to take great photos with your phone that can be used for science event**

Photography 101 Powerpoint presentation

Nature Photography book recommendations

Visit **Damon Tighe's** iNaturalist profile to see expert observation examples

Damon's Favorite Cheap Tools & Hacks (Librarians: Consider ways to customize the Exploring Biodiversity citizen science kit with these materials)

### **Examples of projects that would love your nature photos**

- iNaturalist: Join a project from anywhere in the world, such as Fungal Diversity Survey & Never Home Alone
- eBird
- Questagame
- ISeeChange
- Aurorasaurus (Learn more on June 27th! Register here)

Looking for more? Use the SciStarter Project Finder and refer to the “task” in each project page to determine if you will be practicing your new photography knowledge.

(source: SciStarter)