

# The OUTSIDE Page



## Exploring Your Own Environment

With advances in technology, it is easier than ever to identify the plants and animals you see while exploring outdoors. In the past, this often involved carrying around field guides or perhaps taking photos to view indoors. Now, thanks to smartphones and other portable technology, many apps exist that will help you identify everything from birds to leaves to plants and stars. The links below will take you to descriptions of many of these apps. Some are free, but others cost money, so always check with your parents before downloading or installing them. You can also use technology to help you keep a nature journal. There are journaling apps and websites that you can use, and you can also use your smartphone to take photos to add to your journal. DEC has an app that can help you find places in nature to explore and identify animal species. You can download it from [www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/96470.html)



**Mother Nature Network**—19 apps that will turn you into a wilderness expert <http://bit.ly/ZI8QGF>

**National Wildlife Federation**—25+ Nature and Wildlife Mobile Apps <http://bit.ly/1cTomhu>

**Gizmodo**—The Best Nature Apps for Springtime Adventures Outdoors <http://bit.ly/1fZ9gJ9>

## Word Search!

- ACOUSTIC
- ANTENNA
- AUTFISH
- BATS
- BIRDS
- BUTTERFLIES
- CAMERA
- COMPUTERS
- DNA
- DRONES
- ECHOLOCATION
- FISHER
- FROG
- GLIDERS
- GPS
- HABITAT
- MICROPHONES
- MIGRATION
- MONITORING
- PITTAG
- POPULATIONS
- RADAR
- SARGASSO
- SATELLITE
- SCIENTISTS
- SMARTPHONE
- SONOGRAM
- SURVEYS
- TABLET
- TAGGING
- TECHNOLOGY
- TRACKING
- TRANSMITTERS

N O S S A G R A S P G S H S T S G X N S  
 C O R E H S I F G D C O A R E B L K O O  
 P X I O N Q I G W I P O R I C G V Z I N  
 Z O P T E W O L E I E U L F H Z R J T O  
 E Y P E A S T N M T T F R E N B E Q A G  
 T N M U F C T M I C R O P H O N E S R R  
 H G O Y L I O L I E Q K K T L Z M Q G A  
 S S S H S A L L T P T A A S O D W H I M  
 U R I T P E T T O R D T C M G A M X M M  
 R E S F T T U I A H I Q H O Y Z D J E D  
 V T C A O B R C O B C O M P U T E R S S  
 E T S N D T K A A N G E B F E S I H P F  
 Y I F D I I U H M A S A I T G B T G H G  
 S M F A N D X A T S E N G T A G G I N G  
 A S J G U Y B T F V L N J L P B C O C B  
 G N I R O T I N O M A E C D I A L R Z I  
 O A T G O P H R X D H T I P M D A E W R  
 D R O N E S T A B P W N A E N D E I T D  
 W T S C Q Y L F U K P A R K A P Z R C S  
 S Q J S P Z O Q H O D A J R F O U R S X

## Reporting what you see

Now that you are better at identifying different plants and animals, what should you do with the observations you have made? Many scientists use information from everyday people as part of their research. By sharing what you see, you can be a citizen scientist! This helps expand the knowledge about where animals and plants occur and contributes to scientific research. In some cases, citizen scientists have even helped identify new species or rediscovered species that people thought were extinct. You can share your observations on these websites: *eBird* (<http://ebird.org>), *iNaturalist* ([www.inaturalist.org](http://www.inaturalist.org)) and others. For more information about citizen science, see the spring 2014 issue of *Conservationist for Kids*.



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