iNatdex

iNatdex is a tool for creating a Pokédex-like representation of target species to observe on iNaturalist.

iNatdex is not associated with or endorsed by iNaturalist.org.

Requirements

Install [Python](#) and [pip](#) if you do not already have them installed.
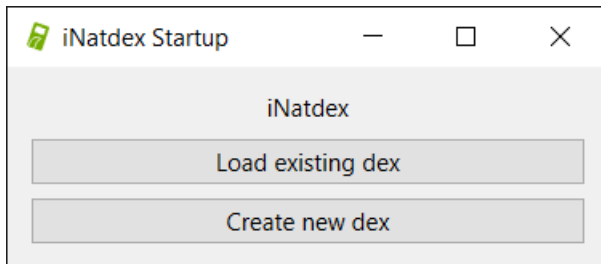
In command prompt or powershell or whatever, do:

```
pip install ijson
pip install pyinaturalist
pip install pyqt6
```
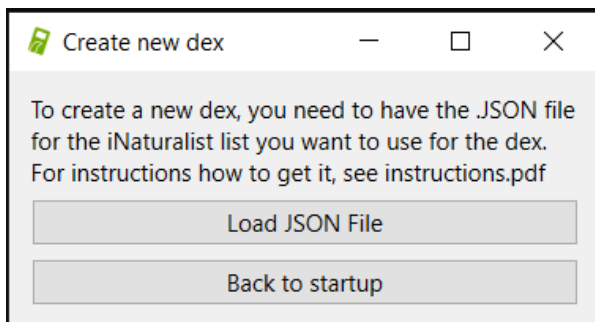
Ijson is needed for reading large json files, pyinaturalist is used to access the iNaturalist API, and pyqt6 is used for the gui.

Getting Started

Run **main.py**. You will see this window pop up:

If this is your first time using inatdex, you should click create new dex, which will take you to this window:

Now you will need to get the JSON file for a list on iNaturalist. This is a bit unintuitive, so the following section will show how to do it.
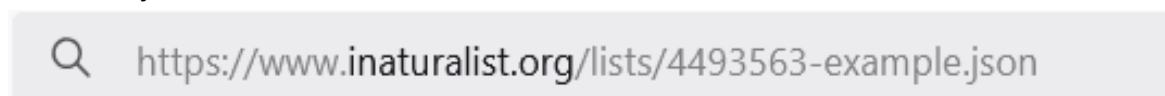
Getting a .JSON file for a list on iNaturalist

First, create or find a list you want to use. It can be created by anyone, and can contain taxa at various taxonomic ranks. Because of certain limitations, inatdex will only use the first 200 taxa from the list.
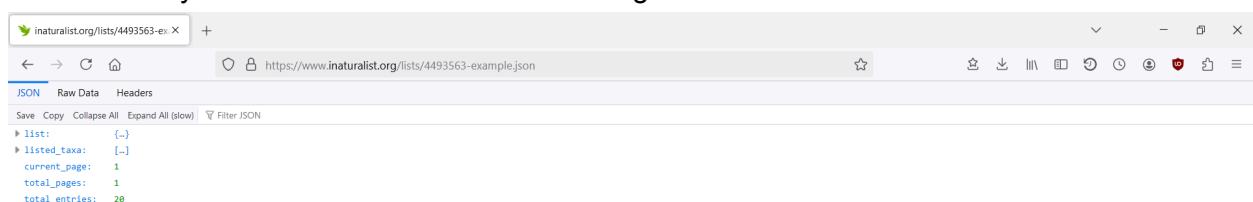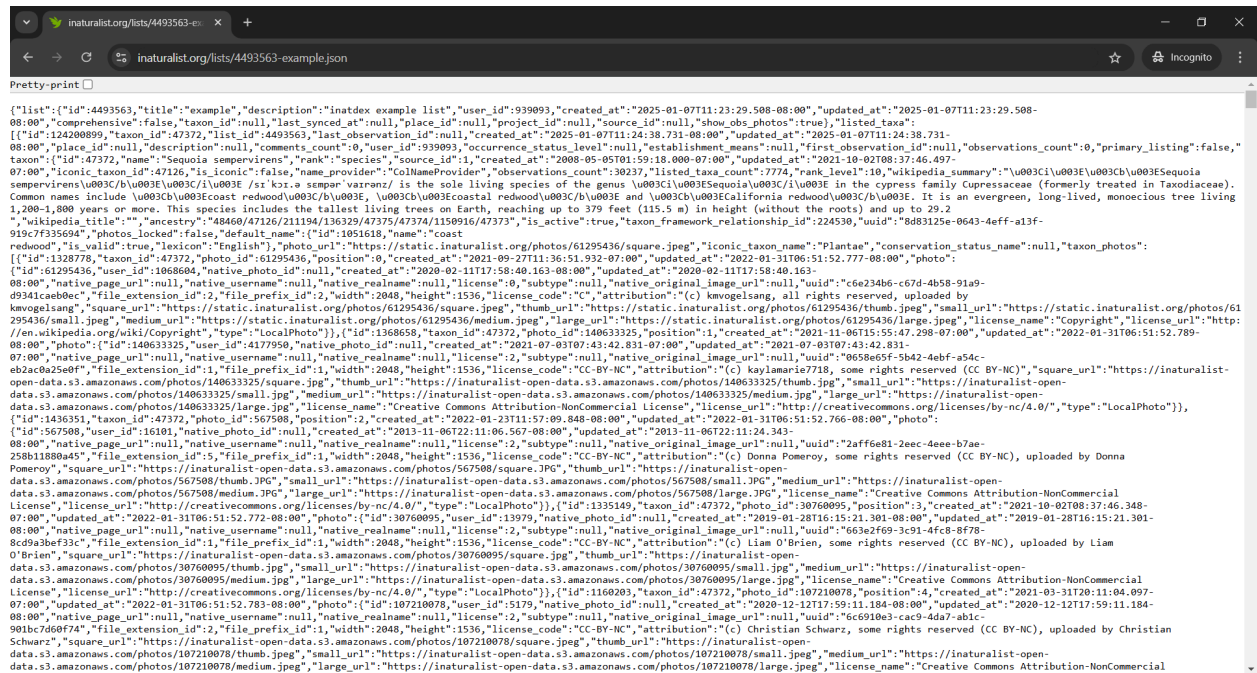
Go to the list page.
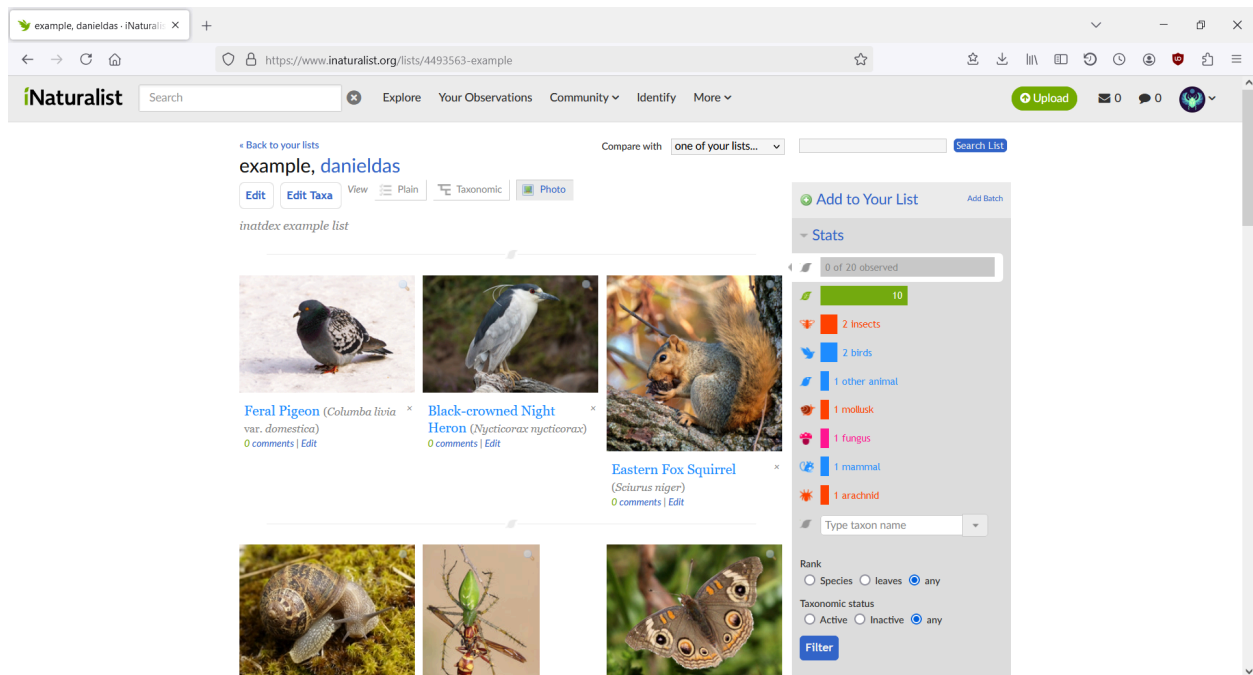
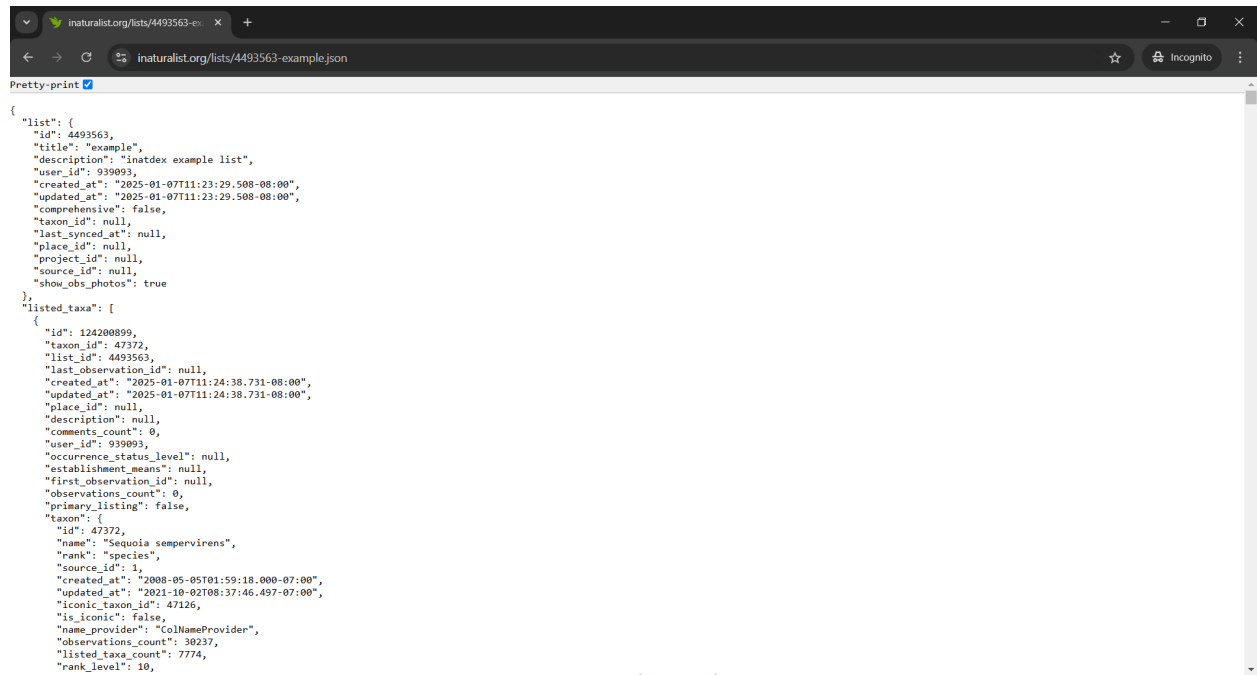Now, add .json to the end of the url, like so:

Hit enter and your browser should look something like this:
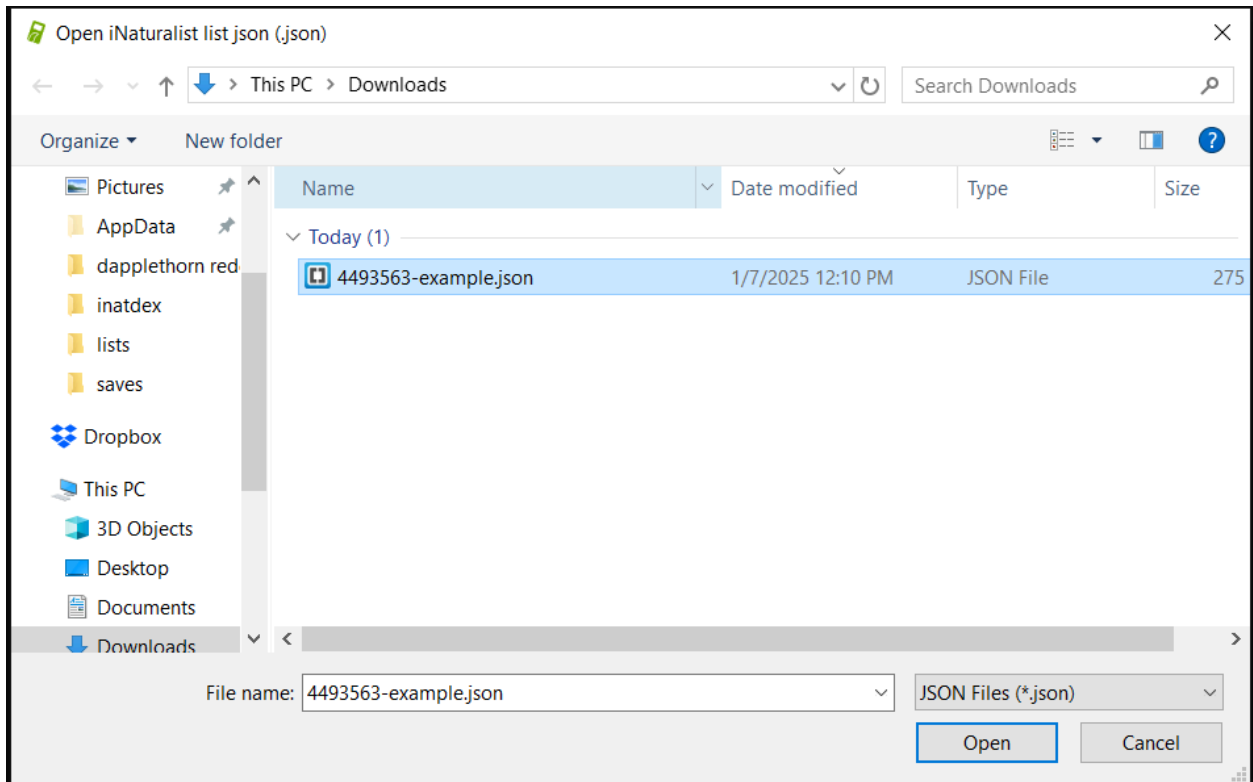

Or it might look like this:

Or this:

Anyways, once you are on the json file you can save it with Ctrl+S/Cmd+S. Once you have it downloaded you can go back to the inatdex.

Importing the list into iNatdex

Click the load JSON list button. This will open a file selector where you can select the json file you just downloaded.

Once you confirm your choice, you will be taken to this window:

This is where you define the criteria for a taxon on your dex to be considered registered. Here's a brief rundown of all the fields:

- Dex name: The name of the dex. Purely for display.
- Username: The user that this dex is for. Put your username here unless you're checking someone else's progress.
- Quality grade: The quality grade that an observation needs to be to be considered registered. There are three options:
  - "All observations" is casual, needs ID, and research grade
  - "Verifiable observations" is needs ID and research grade
  - "Research Grade only" is only research grade
- The date range settings and start/end date are tied together, they define what time period will be included in the dex.
  - Checking "use start date" will allow you to choose a start date, leaving it unchecked will count any observations from before the end date.
  - Checking "use end date" will allow you to choose an end date, leaving it unchecked will count any observations from after the start date.
  - If both "use start date" and "use end date" are left unchecked, the inatdex will count observations from any time period.
- The savefile name is very important, make sure to change it to something unique or else the previous file with the same name will be overwritten. All saves are in the saves folder.

Here's an example of a filled out create dex form, which only counts needs ID and research grade observations from the year of 2025.

When you are done, click finish setup. Depending on how many taxa on your list are higher than species level, it may freeze for up to several minutes. Lists with only species level taxa should be fast. Eventually, it will take you to the main iNatdex window, which looks like this:
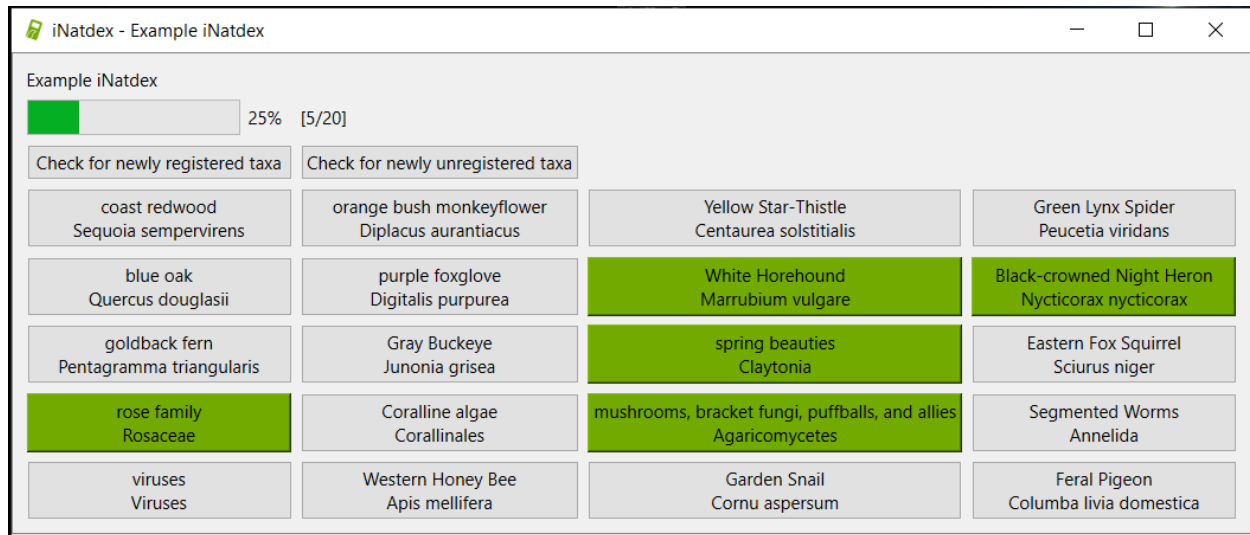
Green represents registered taxa, grey represents unregistered taxa. The progress bar at the top shows how close you are to completing the whole dex.

After being created, the inatdex does not automatically update. You have to do it yourself with the two buttons at the top.

"Check for newly registered taxa" checks if there are unregistered taxa that have become registered since the last update.

"Check for newly unregistered taxa" checks if there are registered taxa that have become unregistered since the last update, for example if a misidentification has been corrected on iNaturalist.

Clicking either of these buttons may freeze the window for some time, potentially minutes for dexes full of non-species level taxa. **If your dex has a lot of non-species level taxa, please use these buttons sparingly as they will make a lot of API calls to iNaturalist.** If your dex is mostly species-level taxa, then you don't need to worry about using the buttons too often, and freezing will probably not be an issue for you.

Once you are done looking at the inatdex, you can close it like any other application.

Loading an Existing Dex

Once you have created a dex, you can open it again by running inatdex.py and clicking the "Load existing dex" button. This will take you to the saves folder in the inatdex folder, where you can find your save as a .csv file.
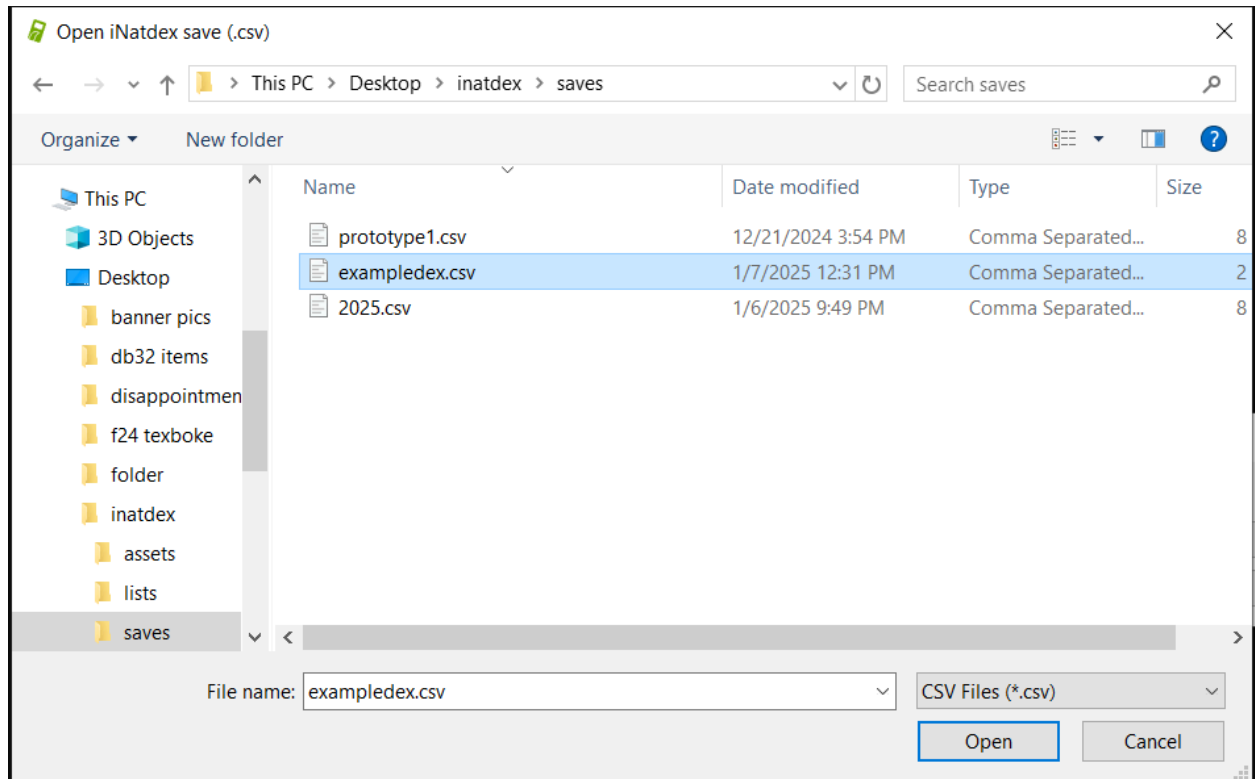
Once you have clicked open, the inatdex will appear quickly. Loading a save does not refresh the registration of any taxa and does not make any API calls.