

Wildlife in a Digital Era

2015 iNaturalist Observations

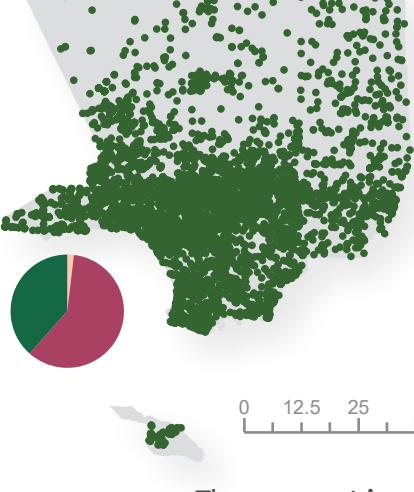
iNaturalist is an app where users can log sightings of wildlife, along with a geographical location, time stamp, and species.



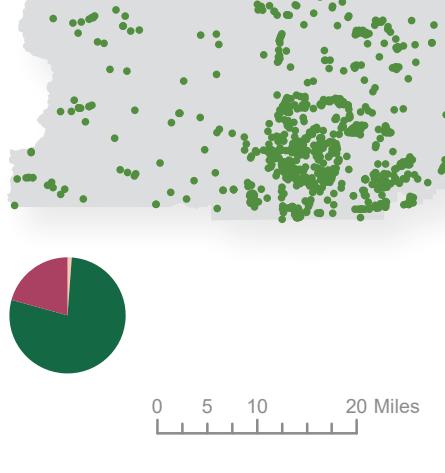
iNaturalist

We are living in an time where people arguably experience wildlife based on where they live spatially. This is due to not only ecological factors, such as rainfall, latitude, elevation, but also urban-rural differences in wildlife landscape use. Urban wildlife is how many people experience wildlife daily. These experiences are important because direct experiences help shape attitudes; thus, knowing where and how people are experiencing wildlife in a digital age becomes an important riddle to visualize.

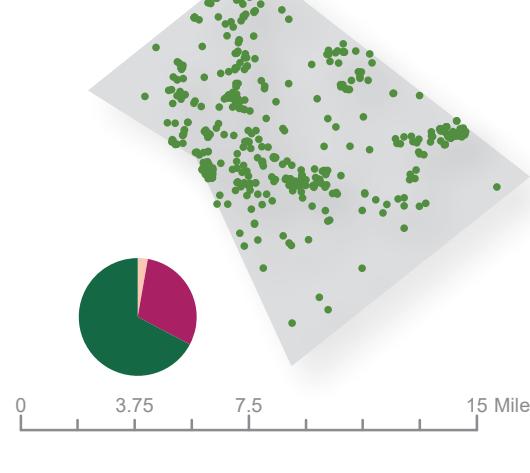
Los Angeles County, CA



Boulder County, CO



District of Columbia



These counties were chosen in an attempt to get cities with variation in latitude, ecotype, population and city layout. Los Angeles has a population around 10 million with urban sprawl, Boulder County is a newly growing city with a population around 300,000, and the District of Columbia is a tourist hub, surrounded by a large metropolitan city. The amount of observations roughly tracks areas of higher human populations; however, the type of animals people are experiencing in cities varies. Reptile observations seem to be higher in areas that stay warm year round, and mammal reports are more frequent in higher latitudes. A more in depth analysis should be done to test urban-rural differences in wildlife, and including other taxons, such as birds.



Map: Raina Eddy
USA: 1:25,000,000 Boulder, CO: 1:900,000
D.C.: 1:300,000 LA, CA: 1:2,000,000
USA Contiguous Albers Equal Area Conic USGS Projection
<https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/export>
Landsat Global 2015