



NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 4 July 10, 2017

The Joys of Summer

Summertime is well underway, and we hope you are enjoying every last minute of it. If you are fortunate enough to live in northeast Ohio, then you know what tremendous weather we have been having. Knowing what awaits us in another six months, it's tempting to try to spend every available moment in the outdoors, soaking up the sun and warmer weather. But, please don't forget about our project, and the many photos that still need your identifications!

Progress has slowed a bit in recent weeks, but we are still moving ahead with a current photo set of over 13,000 images. Many of the technical issues with the Zooniverse site that we have seen previously have been ironed out, and the website experience seems to be better than ever. And we wouldn't be where we are today without your efforts and dedication, so thanks a million!

Did You Know...

.....that there are 55 Focus on Wildlife volunteers who have each provided 500 or more photo subject identifications during 2017?

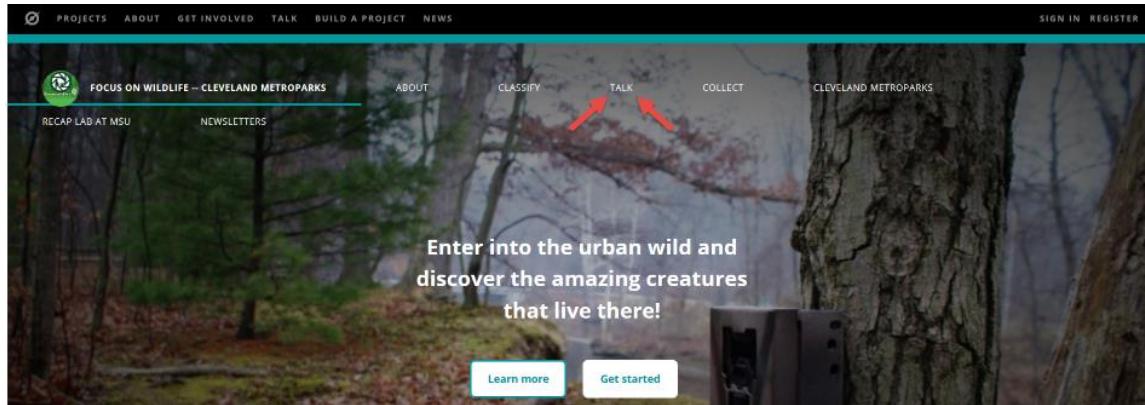
.....that the average Focus on Wildlife volunteer completes about 33 photo identifications per session? However, the 55 highest-volume users mentioned above complete, on average, about 58 ID's per session!

.....that of the 72 active projects on Zooniverse, Focus on Wildlife is the largest project in terms of total number of cameras placed and total number of photo subjects to be loaded for identification?

Talk The "Talk"

Undoubtedly, most Zooniverse volunteers have at least seen, or even possibly used, the "Talk" menu option within our Focus on Wildlife project. Talk is a very useful feature for learning more about the project, and for communicating your findings and asking questions of our project moderators, collaborators and researchers.

We want our volunteers to use Talk! To try it out, from the main menu within the Focus on Wildlife project, click on the "TALK" option, as indicated in the screen shot below:



On the screen that follows, you will see a number of different options. By clicking on the "Notes" option (as indicated below), you can read and contribute to various comment threads regarding photo subjects that you and others are reviewing.

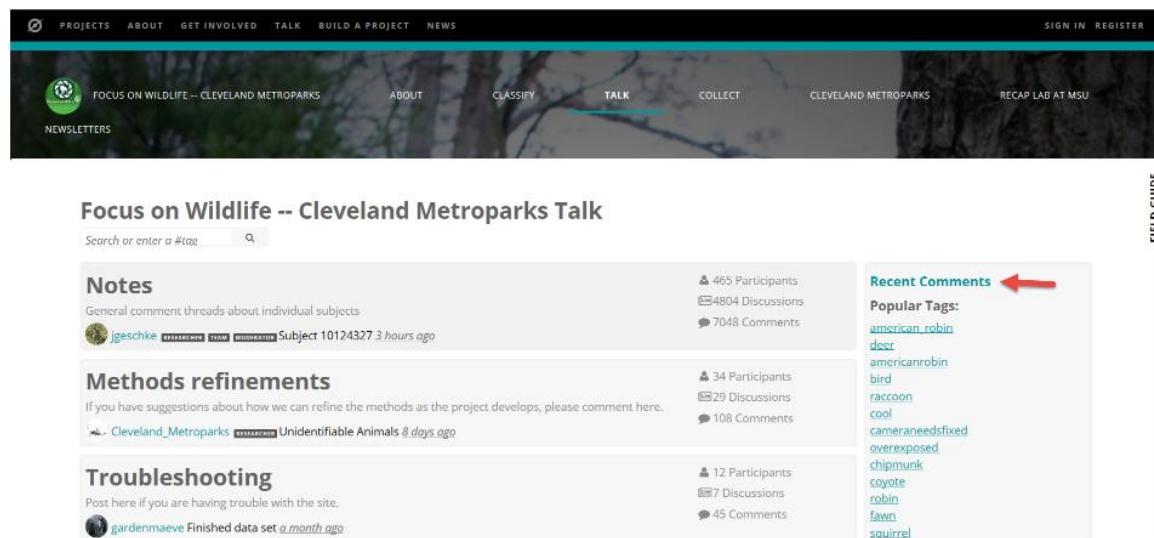
A screenshot of the Focus on Wildlife - Cleveland Metroparks Talk page. The top navigation bar is identical to the main page. The TALK link is now underlined. The main content area is titled 'Focus on Wildlife -- Cleveland Metroparks Talk'. It features a 'Notes' section with a red arrow pointing to it, a 'Methods refinements' section, and a 'Troubleshooting' section. To the right is a 'Recent Comments' sidebar with a list of popular tags: american_robin, deer, americanrobin, bird, raccoon, cool, cameraneedsfixed, overexposed, chipmunk, coyote, robin, fawn, squirrel.

At this point, there are about 500 pages of comments from users regarding specific photo subjects! We encourage you to read the comments of others, and to provide your own insights, as that will help all of our users to learn more about our local wildlife, and to

develop and improve identification skills. Using the Talk link, you can also share cool photos and other interesting ID's using hashtag functionality.

Note also that there are links provided for "Methods refinements" and "Troubleshooting" (just below the "Notes" link in the above screen shot). Methods refinements are useful if you wish to provide suggestions for ways that the Focus on Wildlife team can modify or improve the Zooniverse experience in general. Troubleshooting is helpful if problems or errors are found on Zooniverse and need to be called to the attention of the project team. These might be problems with camera photos or with functionality on the website itself (broken links, etc.).

It is also possible to view the most recent comments entered by users by clicking on the "Recent Comments" link, as shown in the screen image below. This link will take you to a screen which shows full screen images of subjects, along with the recent information from the user who provided the comment. These comments often include "#cool" hashtags, specific bird ID's or a question from a user soliciting feedback from other Zooniverse participants regarding a photo ID.



Focus on Wildlife -- Cleveland Metroparks Talk

Search or enter a #tag

Notes
General comment threads about individual subjects

 geschke SEARCHER TEAM MODERATOR Subject 10124327 3 hours ago

Methods refinements
If you have suggestions about how we can refine the methods as the project develops, please comment here.

 Cleveland_Metroparks SEARCHER TEAM UNIDENTIFIABLE ANIMALS Unidentifiable Animals 8 days ago

Troubleshooting
Post here if you are having trouble with the site.

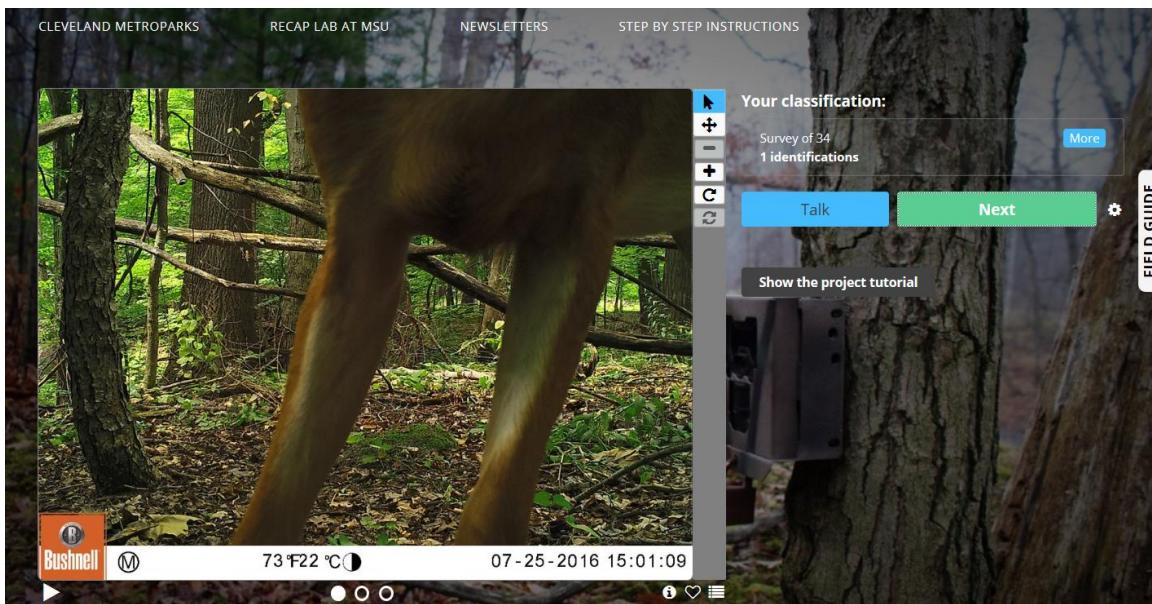
 gardenmaeve Finished data set a month ago

Recent Comments 

Popular Tags:

- american robin
- deer
- americanrobin
- bird
- raccoon
- cool
- cameraneedsfixed
- overexposed
- chipmunk
- coyote
- robin
- fawn
- squirrel

Finally, and perhaps most simply, you can always provide your "Talk" comments directly during your time spent identifying images. Once you have completed a photo identification and clicked on the "Done" button, Zooniverse will advance to the next screen which gives you the option of either moving to the next image or selecting "Talk" to enter a comment about the image (see below).



By selecting "Talk", you will move to a new screen which includes an area for comments, listed below the "Leave a note about this subject" prompt (see below).

A screenshot of the 'Talk' screen. At the top, there is a large image of a tree trunk, camera data ('Bushnell', play button, 'M', '73°F 22°C', '07-25-2016 15:01:09'), and navigation buttons (1, 2, 3). Below this, there are three sections with empty text fields: 'There are no comments yet', 'There are no collections yet', and 'There are no discussions yet'. At the bottom, there are two buttons: 'ADD A NOTE ABOUT THIS SUBJECT' (underlined) and 'START A NEW DISCUSSION'. A large input field is centered, with a toolbar above it and the placeholder text 'Add a note about this subject, or mark with a #hashtag'.

If you haven't yet tried this useful Zooniverse feature, please check it out! "Talk" is cheap...or actually, free...and easy to use, too!

ID Tips

In each newsletter, we would like to offer a few tips to assist you with identifying those "hard to determine" animals in the photos you are viewing. Here are a couple of suggestions you may not have thought of:

- The wildlife cameras are typically positioned on trees or stationary objects about two feet off the ground. If a photo you are viewing shows a large "blob" in front of the camera that appears to be the body of a mammal, then more than likely it is a taller mammal such as a deer or human. Smaller mammals are typically unable to reach high enough to the camera to block out the frame. And although an object appears large, and takes up a good portion of the frame, it is extremely unlikely to be a black bear or mountain lion, considering the absence or relative rarity of those species in this region.
- Similarly, if your photo shows an animal or a good portion of an animal along the bottom edge of the photo only, then often this will be a smaller mammal such as a raccoon or opossum which happened to be walking past the camera within a close distance. If you are uncertain about such an identification, then "raccoon" is probably a fairly safe guess, even when the telltale striped tail is not visible.



Raccoons are frequently seen in nighttime photos, along the bottom border of the frame. The rounded body and humped back are suggestive of this species, and are often more pronounced as the raccoon sniffs about the forest floor in search of food.

As always, use your best judgment when providing identifications, but always consider other factors such as the position of the animal within the photo, size of the animal relative to other objects within the photo, etc.

Other Wildlife Camera Projects

In addition to the Cleveland Metroparks "Focus on Wildlife" project, there are many other wildlife camera projects going on across the U.S. and abroad. In this newsletter, we would like to feature interesting findings from other projects, in addition to our own.

Jaguar caught on Arizona trail camera, bringing known U.S. population to two



Source: http://www.upi.com/Odd_News/2016/12/08/Jaguar-caught-on-Arizona-trail-camera-bringing-known-US-population-to-two/4331481215973/

Last December, a trail camera managed by the U.S. Army at Fort Huachuca captured the above photo of a jaguar in the Huachuca Mountains of southeastern Arizona. Experts from the Arizona Fish and Wildlife department have ascertained that this is only the

second known jaguar currently living in the U.S. At one time, jaguars were more prevalent in the southwestern U.S., but they were virtually eliminated in the early part of the 20th century by programs to control predators.

Although northeast Ohio will likely never see such an unusual big cat in our parks, you still never know what unexpected creature might pop up on our wildlife cameras! Keep on checking our Zooniverse photos!

Cool Photos

Finally, as introduced in our initial newsletter, we would like to feature cool photos from our own Cleveland Metroparks wildlife camera study in each newsletter. If you would like to "nominate" a photo that you have come across, please call out the photo on Zooniverse using the "#cool" hashtag, or save it to a collection.

This issue: **WILD TURKEYS!** Turkeys are frequent visitors to our camera locations, and are the only bird species that we ask you to call out separately in your photo identifications. We hope you enjoy the images below.



From a recent photo set, a curious turkey poses for a selfie



77 °F 25 °C

07-28-2016 19:28:12

From a recent photo set, a family of turkeys enters the field of view, with
youngsters leading the way



A normally pigmented turkey and a leucistic turkey (also called "smoke-phase")



A male turkey flaunts his posterior for the camera



The same male faces the camera with his opposite side a minute later



Iridescent plumage of this female reflects the sunlight

Newsletter compiled by John Felix (volunteer)