# Bradbury Science Museum Summer 2014

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# Mobile App Design/Development

Mireya and I developed an iPad app for exhibit interactive to highlight the biological research of flora and fauna on LANL property for EPA compliance.

The purpose of the app is to show off how research is done there, what types of bats and owls live there, and adding fun and interaction to the exhibit.



LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY

505-667-4444 www.lanl.gov/museum

# The Exhibit: Environmental Research & Monitoring

# **Development Tools**

We used Javascript / HTML5 / CSS3 to develop and design the app, using the Cordova PhoneGap wrapper, which exports to iOS or Android (iOS only in this case).

The application is now available for download from the iTunes store.



# The Backend

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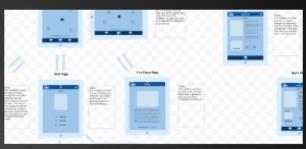
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 function onOwlsViewClick( event ) {
    var view = {
            title: "Choose an Owl",
             view: viewAssembler.owlView()
   window.viewNavigator.pushView( view );
 function onBatsViewClick( event ) {
    var view = { title: "List",
             view: viewAssembler.searchView(),
    window.viewNavigator.pushView( view );
    event.stopPropagation():
    return false:
 function onBioViewClick( event ) {
    var view = { title: "Nearby",
             view: viewAssembler.findNearbyView()
    window.viewNavigator.pushView( view );
    navigator.geolocation.getCurrentPosition(onGeoSuccess.onGeoError
    event.stopPropagation();
    return false:
var onGeoSuccess = function(position) {
```

# Design

We consulted with exhibit design team and biologists to determine user interface, what the app should do, and what content should go in it.

Using exhibit design swatches and typefaces, we matched the exhibit design and designed icons in Adobe Illustrator.













# Content

#### Flammulated Owl



#### Psiloscops flammeolus

A small owl of mountain pine forests, the Flammulated Owl is common in scattered localities throughout the West. It has short, feathered ear tufts, dark eyes, and is gray or brownish gray.

Adult Size: Small Owls

Diet: Subsists nearly entirely on insects, especially crickets, moths, and beetles

Habitat: Breeds in open pine forest in mountains, especially Ponderosa pine forest

#### Did you Know?

Although the Flammulated Owl is one of the smallest owls, its hoot is one of the lowest- frequency owl songs in North America

# Sourcing content:

found resources and acquired permission, edited audio and images; created templates for content developers to use.

# **Content Sources**



Cornell Ornithology Lab, BatCON, LANL Wildlife biologists, Bradbury Science Museum exhibit developers





# Installation





### **Owls and Bats of Los Alamos**



#### Learn about creatures of the night

Every wondered who's making those hooting sounds at night or what those night-flying bats actually look like?

Owls and bats are nocturnal animals, meaning they're mostly active at night. Biologists at Los Alamos National Laboratory wake up in the wee hours of the morning to study owls and bats living on Lab property, track their movements, and monitor their health.

With this app, you can learn more about these owls and bats without losing sleep. There's even information on those biologists working through the night. And be sure to check owl you've learned in our "Owl Call Quiz" and the "What's That Bat?" test.

Read the Credits

Tap on the pictures below to get started!





Owls





Biologists



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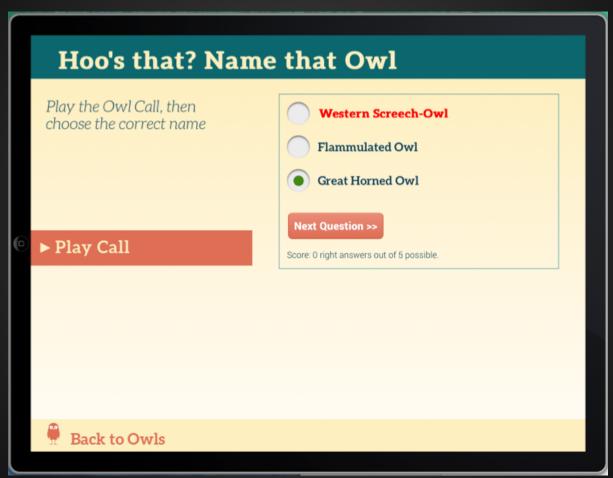
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▶ Play Call



**Back to Owls** 









#### Eptesicus fuscus

Big Brown Bats clearly rank among America's most beneficial animals. A colony of 150 Big Brown Bats can consume enough adult cucumber beetles in one summer to prevent egg-laying that would produce 33 million root-worm larvae, a major pest of corn. Their common maternity roosts today can be found in buildings, barns, bridges, and even bat houses.

**Habitat:** Found in virtually every American habitat from timberline meadows to lowland deserts, though most abundant in deciduous forest areas.

Adult Size: 87-138 mm (3.4-5.4 inches)

**Diet:** Small beetles are their most frequent prey, yet they will consume prodigious quantities of a wide variety of night-flying insects.



#### Did you Know?

Numerous feeding studies indicate Big Brown Bats consume significant crop and forest pests including ground beetles, scarab beetles, cucumber beetles, snout beetles, and stink bugs, in addition to numerous species of moths and leafhoppers.



#### **Bat Fun Facts**

#### **A Nice Summer Home**

Of the 27 bat species living in New Mexico, 15 live on Lab property, or at least use the area for their summer home. Some of these bat species migrate to Mexico or farther south for the winter.

#### Holy Backpack, Batman!

To monitor bat populations, Lab biologists use specialized tracking and detection equipment. To find bats, biologists use bat detectors to pick up a bat's ultrasonic calls, which are often two to three times higher than the level of human hearing. To track bats, biologists put a tiny "backpack" on a bat. The figure-eight-shaped backpack fits over their wings, weighs less than a gram, and carries a radio transmitter. After a few weeks, the thin elastic straps disintegrate and the backpack falls off—just enough time to track where they live and nest. Holy bat tracking!

#### **Natural Pest Control**

Bats eat bugs—lots of them—making them very beneficial to have around. Some bats will consume up to their body weight in pesky insects every night. Many bats also are as busy as bees pollinating plants and trees.

#### **Bat Houses**

Just like some birds live in birdhouses, bats will roost in bat houses. For their sleeping quarters, bats prefer warm, out-of-the-way locations; a south-facing second-story location is ideal. They're also particular about their house dimensions. Build a bat house for our bug-eating friends!

#### Did You Hear That?

As night-flying creatures, bats have exceptional hearing. To find prey and navigate, bats use echolocation, emitting high-frequency sounds that bounce off objects and send echoes back to their ears. From the echoes, they can locate prey, judge their size, and determine how fast they're moving, all in a split second. Most bats make calls too high for us to hear, but a few are in our hearing range so keep an ear out.



**Back to Bats** 

## Wildlife Biologists



Biologists study living things (plant or animals), their habitat, and their interactions with the environment. Wildlife biologists here monitor animals like owls and bats to evaluate the health of the environment and the Lab's effects on it. To become a biologist, you need a degree (or two or three) in the biological sciences—and enjoy being outside!

Features: Often wears jeans, T-shirt; eyes/ears finely attuned to observation

Adult Size: Variable, size not dependent on gender

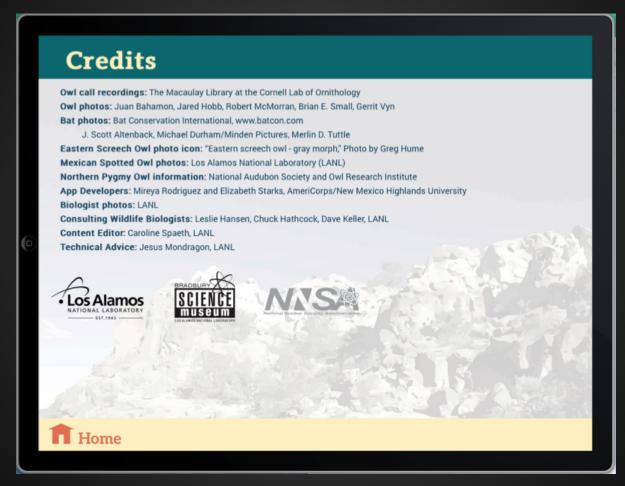
Diet: Primarily easy-to-carry snacks packed in a backpack

Habitat: Prefers to work outdoors, but often required to do office paperwork

## Did you Know?

▶ Biology at the Lab
 The Lab's wildlife biologists specialize in a variety of animal studies, not just owls and bats, but birds, mammals, plants, sensitive species, and even crawfish in the river. If it lives on Lab property, they study it. What animals or plants would you like to study?

**T** Back to Home



# Questions?