

# Digital Preservation, Mobile Access and Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Heather Yager

Archivist, Interim Head Librarian

California Academy of Sciences

# Connecting Content, an IMLS National Leadership Grant

- “A collaboration to link field notes to specimens and published literature.”
- Harvard University Herbaria
- Missouri Botanical Garden
- Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology
- New York Botanical Garden
- Smithsonian Museum of Natural History
- California Academy of Sciences

# Creating digital objects, collecting metadata

The first 2 years...

- Field notebooks scanned (BHL/IA)
- Archives and library metadata collected (BHL)
- Biological specimens imaged (EOL/GBIF)
- Biodiversity metadata created (GBIF)

# How to Connect?

- I started as Academy tech lead in year three, then took over as PI in year four.
- Working with metadata from 6 institutions, created by 3 separate disciplines, housed in 4+ separate aggregate datasets online (not counting institutional databases).
- Images sometimes linked to metadata, sometimes not (and sometimes available only within institutional network).
- Began with a survey of available metadata, and a survey of researchers/potential users.

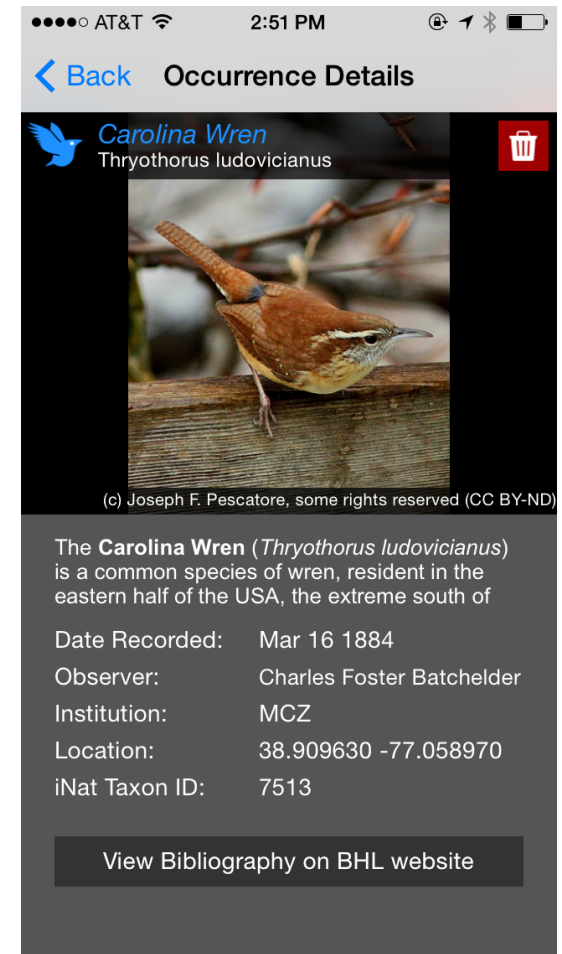
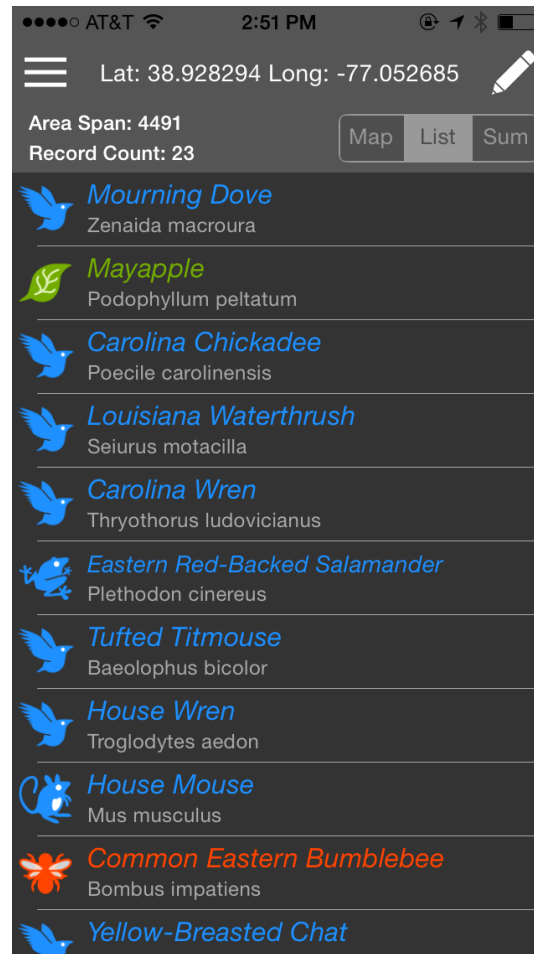
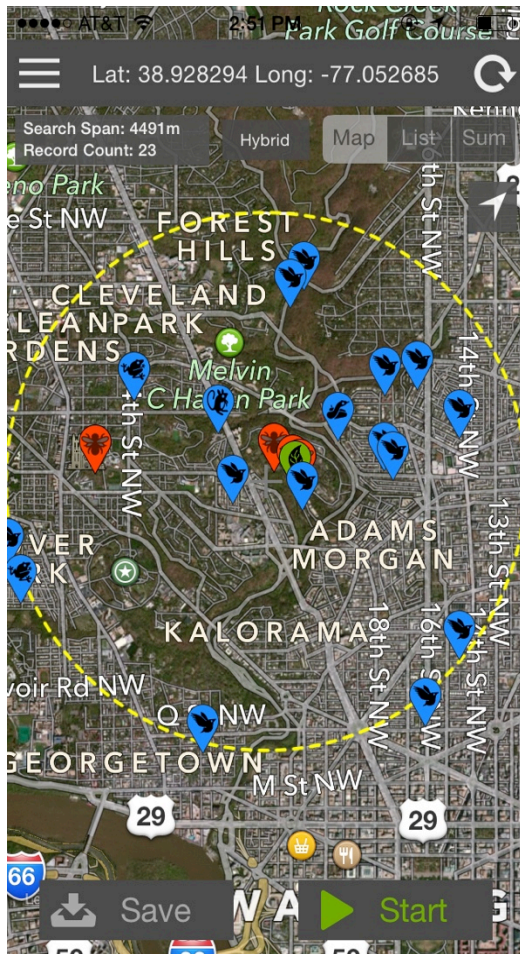
# Automation?

- API: “Application Programming Interface”
- JSON: “JavaScript Object Notation”
- Tried to generated automated links between GBIF records and BHL content.
- Metadata hurdles aplenty!
  - Locality data handled differently in different disciplines.
  - Metadata interpreted differently between institutions.
  - APIs each came with their own quirks.

# Changing Gears

- So what worked?
  - Scientific names: common among all records, and a controlled vocabulary (mostly).
- What are our strengths?
  - Archives
  - Research
  - Citizen Science, iNaturalist
- (Archives + Research + Citizen Science) \* IMLS Funding = *mobile app*

# Biocaching



# A platform for future projects

- Expand BHL integration
- Strengthen the “field notes concept”
- Gamify the app further
- Report on findings and update the specimen record



Thank you!

Heather Yager

Archivist, Interim Head Librarian

[hyager@calacademy.org](mailto:hyager@calacademy.org)