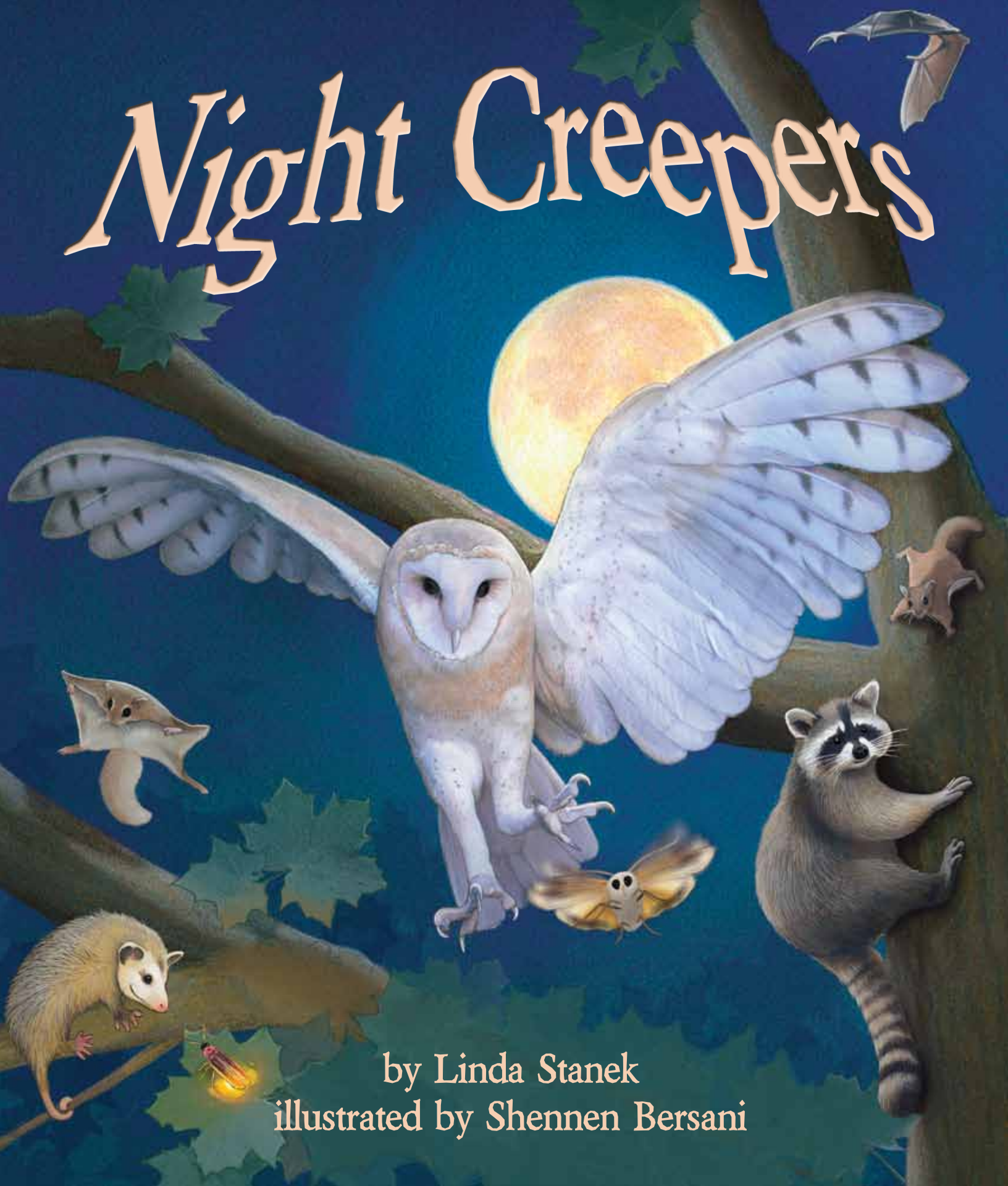


Night Creepers



by Linda Stanek
illustrated by Shennen Bersani

Night Creepers

What creeps while you sleep? Short, lyrical text makes this a perfect naptime or bedtime story. Young readers are introduced to nocturnal animals and their behaviors. Older readers learn more about each animal through sidebar information.



Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

Thanks to Kenneth Rainer, Education Coordinator at the GTM Research Reserve, and Cathleen McConnell, Community and Guest Engagement, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

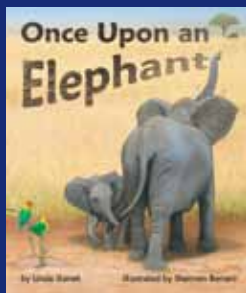
The *For Creative Minds* includes

- When They're Most Active
- Sorting
- Animal Adaptations
- Match the Eyes

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From the award-winning team that brought you *Once Upon an Elephant*, CBC Children's Choice Book Award 2017.



As an early and middle childhood educator, **Linda Stanek** wants to inspire young learners, including children with written language disabilities, to write about things that excite them. Her own passion for teaching children about the importance of each link in the natural world provided the inspiration for *Night Creepers*. Linda has also written *Once Upon an Elephant*, *The Pig and Miss Prudence* and *Beco's Big Year: A Baby Elephant Turns One*. Linda has two grown sons and lives in Ohio with her husband and feline family members. Visit her website at www.lindastanek.com.

Shennen Bersani is an award-winning illustrator with 2 million copies of her books cherished and read by children, parents, and teachers throughout the world. Her art delivers heartfelt emotion, the wonders of nature and science, and creates a unique joy for learning. Some of Shennen's other illustrated works include *Honey Girl*; *A Case of Sense*; *Once Upon an Elephant*; *Animal Partners*; *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Gooey and Under the Sea*; *Shark Baby*; *Home in the Cave*; *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion*; *The Glaciers are Melting!*; *The Shape Family Babies*; and *Salamander Season* for Arbordale. She is also the author and illustrator of *Achoo! Why Pollen Counts*. Shennen lives with her family near Boston. Visit her website at www.shennenbersani.com.



Linda Stanek

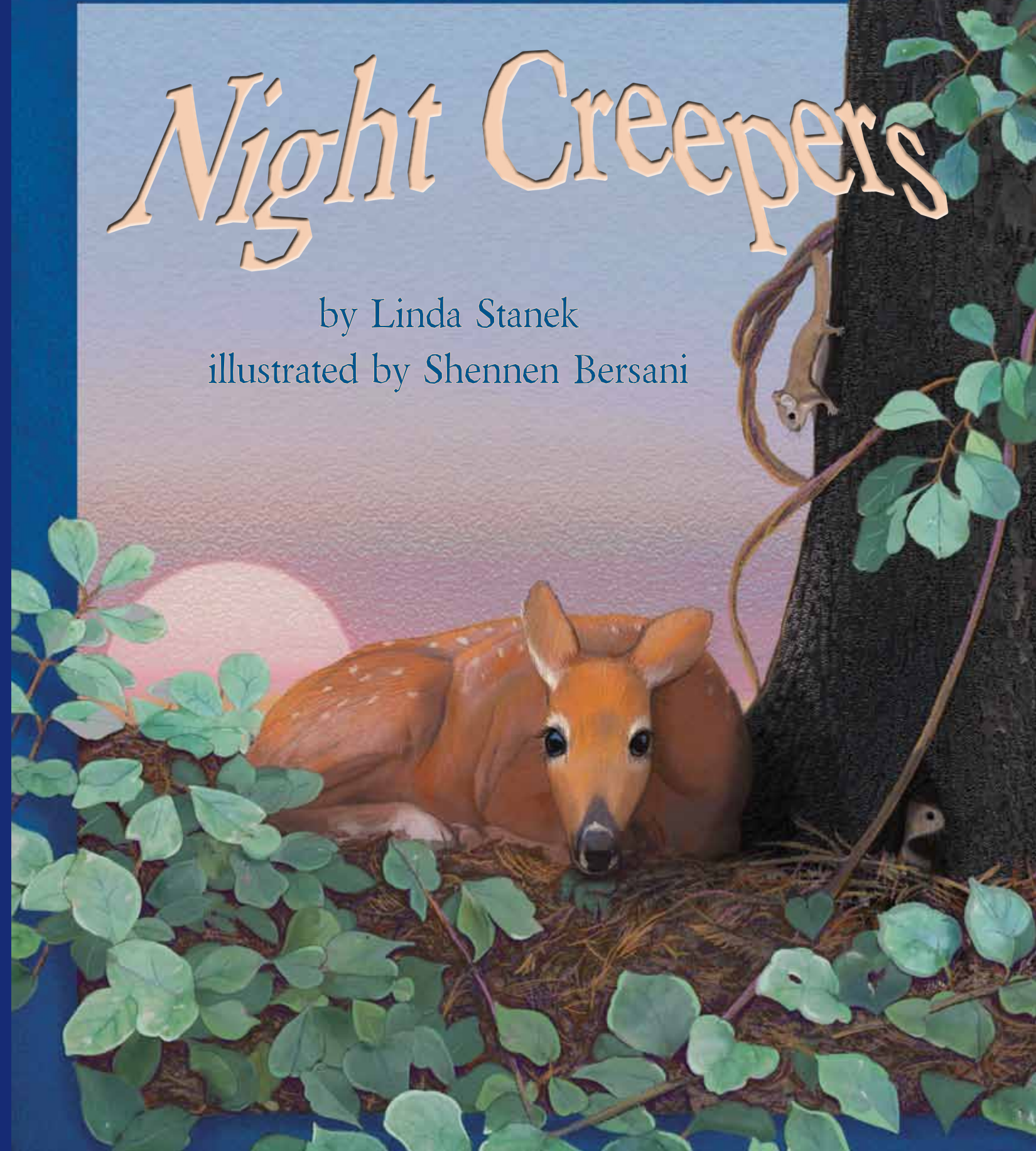


Shennen Bersani

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Waking up.

Red foxes are adaptable hunters and have a reputation for being smart and tricky.

Mother foxes, called vixens, give birth to litters of two to twelve pups in the summer. Both parents take care of their babies until their little ones are ready to venture out on their own in the fall.

Red foxes live throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and even parts of Africa.





Noisy pup.

Once gray wolves lived throughout most of North America, but they were hunted to near extinction. Now, with the help of scientists, they are making a comeback.

They live in family groups, called packs, of about eight individuals.

Wolves howl, growl, whine, and bark. Their howls can be heard miles away.



Flutter high.

Bats are the only mammals that can fly. Their arms are adapted into wings. There are over one thousand different species of bats.

Bats use echolocation to get around in the dark and find food. They make high-pitched sounds that bounce off objects around them. The sound reflects back to them (echoes) to tell them about their surroundings.

Most bats eat insects, but some eat other small animals as well. Bats can also eat fruit, nectar, or even blood.



Gliding by.

Flying squirrels don't actually fly—they leap and glide. They have loose flaps of skin that begin at each wrist and end at their ankle. This skin works like a parachute, allowing them to glide from tree to tree.

Because they are clumsy on the ground, they prefer to be in trees. They nest in groups of about eight.

Flying squirrels eat mostly seeds, fruits, nuts, and fungi.

Flying squirrels live from Alaska to South America.

For Creative Minds

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When They're Most Active

Midnight

Dawn

Noon

Dusk

Midnight

Diurnal

Crepuscular

Nocturnal

Different animals are active at different times of day. Some animals can live in the same habitat and never see each other! One is sleeping while the other is awake and active.

Diurnal animals are most active during the day. They sleep at night.

Crepuscular animals are most active at dawn or dusk. They sleep in the middle of the day or night, or both.

Nocturnal animals are most active during the night. *When do you think they sleep?*

Sorting

Sort the following animals into three groups: nocturnal, diurnal, and crepuscular. Read the animal fun facts for clues. Answers are below.



The barn owl only hunts at night.



People are mostly active during daytime hours.



Bats use sound (echolocation) to find their way in the dark.



Skunks scavenge for food primarily in the twilight hours at sunrise and sunset.



Flying squirrels in North America are active while people are sleeping.



Fireflies are normally seen at nightfall.



Like housecats, bobcats are mostly active in the early morning and evening hours.



Nocturnal: barn owls, bats, flying squirrels
Diurnal: people
Crepuscular: skunks, fireflies, bobcats

Animal Adaptations



Like many nocturnal animals, flying squirrels have large eyes. The pupil is the dark circle in the center of the eye. In bright light, the pupil shrinks to not let in too much light. When it is dark, the pupil widens. This lets more light enter the eye. Flying squirrels' large eyes help them see in the dark.

Fireflies have a special light organ. They use a chemical reaction inside their bodies to make them light up (bioluminescence). Fireflies use their lights to find and communicate with other fireflies. Fireflies also make chemicals in their bodies that make them taste bad to predators. The light reminds other animals that fireflies are not a good meal.



Barn owls are birds of prey. They hunt other animals for food. Owls' feathers have a soft front edge. These special feathers make almost no noise as the owl flies. An owl's prey usually can't hear the owl swooping overhead.

Bats use their ears to map their surroundings. They squeak and listen for echoes. Some bats have large ears that can move independently of each other. The sound of an echo tells the bat the size and shape of objects nearby. This is a type of echolocation.



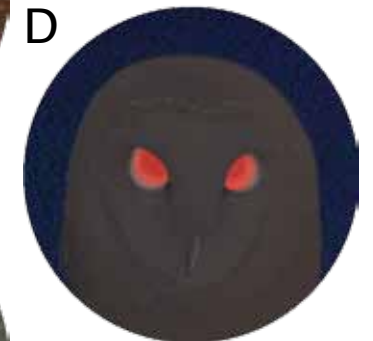
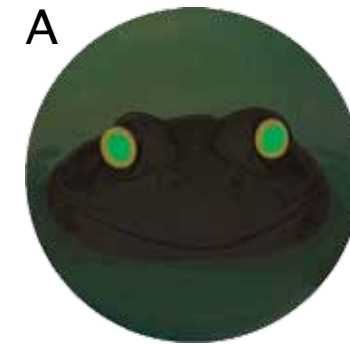
Frogs don't have thumbs to pick up their food; they use their tongues instead. The long tongue flicks out, so fast it can be hard to see. When it touches an insect, the bug sticks to the tongue and the frog has a tasty snack.

On this page are two mammals, one bird, one amphibian, and one insect. Can you tell which is which?

Match the Eyes

In many nocturnal animals, light is not absorbed by the eye. It is reflected by it. This is called **eyeshine**. Light enters the eye and bounces off a special, mirror-like membrane (tapetum). This helps the animal see in the dark. They can see by the light coming into their eyes *and* by the light reflecting out.

Small amounts of light (like starlight and moonlight) or bright lights (like a fire or the headlights of a car) are reflected, making it look like the eyes glow in the dark. Different animals' eyes glow different colors. Match the eyeshine below to the animal it comes from.



If you ever see eyes glowing at you from the woods, don't be scared! There are no monsters there, only night creepers.

Answers: 1B - bobcat. 2E - raccoon. 3A - bullfrog. 4D - barn owl. 5C - skunk.

To my husband Ken~my heart, my joy, and my partner in all.—LS

To research these illustrations, I got outdoors. I found many of this book's creepers while on a trip to Alaska far from my home at the Anchorage Zoo. I found most of the animals back in Massachusetts at the Stone Zoo in Stoneham, the Mass Audubon's Blue Hills Trailside Museum in Milton, and the wooded areas surrounding my home in Wayland, MA. Many of these animals can be found in your own backyard at night. I dedicate this book in memory of my Mother, Elsie McNeil, who created a passion in me for animals of all kinds.—SB

Thanks to Kenneth Rainer, Education Coordinator at the GTM Research Reserve, and Cathleen McConnell, Community and Guest Engagement, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, for verifying the accuracy of the information in this book.

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Animals in this book include red fox, wolf, bat, flying squirrel, skunk, opossum, bullfrog, firefly, raccoon, owl, bobcat, and white-tailed deer.



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