

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER *Lontra canadensis.*

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Originally published August 2013; revised February 2014

INTRODUCTION

Since retiring to Florida I have had more free time to enjoy the wildlife around me. As I met people and we became acquainted they eventually discovered I was a zoologist. Many of these people were interested in animals and wanted to share their interests and observations. Invariably someone would tell me they saw an otter in the pond, creek or river behind their house. Some told me they saw an otter or two or three walking down a quiet road built next to a drainage ditch, small canal or harbor that is connected to a nearby river. People have seen otters running across two lane roadways or, unfortunately, attempting to cross an interstate highway. Others told me they always see otters in the ponds in their gated community which is a relatively large housing development surrounded by a fence and having restricted access. Golfers told me they saw otters on the golf course. One couple told me about the otter that returned on several occasions to eat the koi in the pond outside their restaurant. As a consequence of these conversations I decided to keep a log of otter sightings. With this relatively prevalent species all around me I considered a number of otter research projects I might undertake where I live near the coast of southwest Florida.

The next step was to gather information on the North American river otter. I did not have access to a library at a major university, and am neither a student nor a faculty member. The literature search was conducted from books and hard copies of scientific articles I had at my immediate disposal and from scientific journal articles published directly online or stored in the extensive online journal storage databases. Literature Cited sections of these articles were reviewed. It was evident an up-to-date bibliography did not exist for (*Lontra*[*Lutra*] *canadensis*). I knew the literature search I was conducting would have to be very extensive to satisfy my curiosity. As the bibliography evolved I realized it would be worth sharing when completed.

A conscious decision was made regarding inclusion of articles in the bibliography. The title of many articles did not contain a direct reference to otters and was not included in the bibliography. The title of other articles neither included the scientific name of the North American river otter nor “North American” or “Nearctic” and only made reference to “river otters” or “otters.” When the content of these articles was reviewed and it was evident the article referred to the North American river otter the article was included in the bibliography.

This bibliography was compiled for those undergraduates searching for a graduate research project on the North American river otter and those independent scientists, with an interest in the North American river otter, who do not have access to a library at a major university.

A Bibliography on the North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

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