

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Friends, Colleagues and Otter Enthusiasts!

I am very thankful to Viktor Camp who provided us with this extensive updated version of his bibliography on *Lontra canadensis* that contains meanwhile almost 900 references. Lesley and I decided to open this special issue for the bibliography rather than copying this version over the older and already updated version that was published as issue 30A thereby giving also better visibility to Victor's work.

I hope that this compilation is of use for many of you! Together with issue 32A that contains a similar compilation for the giant otter (*Pteronura brasiliensis*) we have now two extensive lists of references online.

With regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. Camp'.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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#### 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.

In this 2<sup>nd</sup> revision I felt it valuable to include river otter publications listed on the internet as in preparation, press, or review; electronically published (ahead of journal publication); published on a website and of some value (personal opinion); and publications to “watch for.”

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

Compiled by  
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### ARTICLES OF INTEREST REFERENCED ONLINE (as of 15 March 2015)

#### Publications In Preparation, Press, or Review

- Fike, J.A., T.L. Serfass, and O.E. Rhodes, Jr.** Assessment of genetic structure of river otter populations in Eastern North America. *In prep.*
- Fike, J.A., E.K. Latch, O.E. Rhodes, Jr., and T.L. Serfass.** Influence of time and temperature on amplification and genotyping error of DNA derived from river otter fecal material. *In prep.*
- Fike, J.A., T.L. Serfass, A.S. Beheler, and O.E. Rhodes, Jr.** Evaluation of preservation methods for DNA analysis of river otter scat: Probability of amplification and genotyping accuracy. Proceedings of the XI International Otter Colloquium. *In Review.*
- Latch, E.K. D.G. Scognamillo, J.A. Fike, and O.E. Rhodes, Jr.** Fine scale population structure of coastal and upland populations of river otters in Louisiana. *In prep.*
- Thompson, L. and L.L. Stelle.** Prey preference of the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) matches predictions of optimal foraging theory. *In Review*

#### Electronic Publications (ahead of journal publication)

- Mowry, R. A., T.M. Schneider, E.K. Latch, M.E. Gompper, J. Beringer, and L.S. Eggert. (2014).** Genetics and the successful reintroduction of the Missouri river otter. *Animal Conservation*, doi: 10.1111/acv.12159

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### WATCH FOR THESE PUBLICATIONS

**Melquist, W., S. Kempema, and E.D. Stukel. (2014?).** Determination of River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*) Distribution and Evaluation of Potential Sites for Population Expansion in South Dakota. *The Wildlife Society, South Dakota Chapter, Annual Meeting*, 24-26 February 2014.

**Barding, E.E. and M.J. Lacki. (2014).** Occurrence of nematodes (*Dracunculus* spp.) in reintroduced river otters in Kentucky. *Journal of the Kentucky Academy of Science*.

**Crait, J., McIntosh, A., Greiner, E., & Ben-David, M. (2014).** The influence of changing prey availability on the prevalence of *Diphyllobothrium* in river otters from Yellowstone National Park. *Journal of Parasitology*.

**Mowry, R., Schneider, T., Latch, E., Gompper, M., Beringer, J., and L.S. Eggert.** Genetic restoration lags demographic restoration in reintroduced river otters. *Animal Conservation*.