

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### A BIBLIOGRAPHY ON THE NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER

#### *Lontra canadensis*

11<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024)

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*Originally published August 2013;*

*Revised February 2014 as IUCN OSG Bull. 30(A), 2013 (First Edition)*

*Revised April 2015 as IUCN OSG Bull 32(B), 2015 (Second Edition)*

*Revised April 2015 as IUCN OSG Bull 33(B), 2015 (Third Edition)*

*Revised November 2017 as IUCN OSG Bull 34(A), 2017 (Fourth Edition)*

*Revised August 2018 as IUCN OSG Bull 35(A), 2018 (Fifth Edition)*

*Revised August 2019 as IUCN OSG Bull 36(B), 2019 (Sixth Edition)*

*Revised October 2020 as IUCN OSG Bull 37(A) 2020 (Seventh Edition)*

*Revised November 2021 as IUCN OSG Bull 38(A) 2021 (Eighth Edition)*

*Revised November 2022 as IUCN OSG Bull 39(A) 2022 (Ninth Edition)*

**Citation: Camp, V.L. (2024).** A Bibliography on the North American River Otter *Lontra canadensis*. Eleventh Edition. *IUCN Otter Spec. Group Bull.* **41** (A): 2 – 72

### INTRODUCTION

It is now November 2023 and I've lived in Florida for 16 years. Over these years I continually meet people and we become acquainted, and they eventually discover I'm a zoologist who studies the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) here in south Florida. And, of course I hand them one of my business cards from Florida Gulf Coast University where I'm a Courtesy Faculty member in the Department of Ecology & Environment Studies in the College of The Water School. As they view the front of the business card they are introduced to my river otter website at [riverotterssouthfl.com](http://riverotterssouthfl.com). After a few moments, I request they turn over the card where I provide instructions on how to contact me and what they should tell me about the otter(s) they observe.

During these first meetings I discover many of these people are interested in animals and want to share their interests and observations. Invariably someone will tell me they saw an otter in the pond, creek, river, other type of waterway behind or near their house. Some have 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, with misfortune, attempting to cross an interstate highway. Others tell 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 tell me they see otters on the golf course. One couple told me about the otter that returned on several occasions to eat all 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. When I first published this bibliography, I did not have access to a library at a major university, and was neither a student nor a faculty member. A 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, early in the literature search, that 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 were 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.

The bibliography was originally compiled for those undergraduate and graduate students searching for publications relative to a potential research project on the North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) and for independent scientists with an interest in the North American river otter, who do not have access to library at a major university. Hopefully, this and previous publications of this bibliography, will be of value to those scientists planning to expand their scientific investigations on the North American river otter.

In the seventh edition, it was decided to omit publications listed on the internet as in preparation, press, or review; electronically published (ahead of journal publication); and those “watch for” publications. Publications from websites will continue to remain part of the bibliography. In addition, beginning with the seventh revision, new and recently discovered publications are included in the main body of the bibliography and also in a separately published addendum. This allows individuals, who have a complete version of the previous year’s bibliography, to download the new and recently publications separate from the entire bibliography.

Accessing citations can occur through downloading the citation tile alone or via a hyperlink. Originally hyperlinks were not added to the earlier versions of this bibliography. However, hyperlinks are now being gradually being added to the citation titles in the bibliography. While all the new and recently discovered citations in the Addendum contain hyperlinks if they are available. If a hyperlink cannot be located for a citation the statement the words “No hyperlink located” follow the citation. The hyperlinks used in the bibliographic resources are either a DOI (digital object identifier) or a URL (Universal Resource Locator).

Should you be conducting or planning to conduct research on any of the three otters in North America - Sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*), or Neotropical otter (*Lontra longicaudis*) - I wish to recommend you tell your research colleagues about your initiative(s). The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) hosts a publication entitled The North American Otter Chronicles (NAOC) available at <https://www.otterchronicles.org>. The “Chronicles” was modelled after “The River Otter Journal” (ROJ) and all publications of the “Journal” are held as “A Historical Archive” only in the “Chronicles”. You can locate the information on how to submit an article to the Chronicles by going to the top of the Chronicles Home page and clicking on CHRONICLES. Once in, click on “How to submit an article to the Chronicles”. You can also access all the ROJ publications by clicking on RIVER OTTER JOURNAL at the top of the Home page.

20 November 2023

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*(Lontra canadensis)*

11<sup>th</sup> Edition (2024)

Compiled by

Victor L. Camp

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