

## **Additional Observations of the Long-Tailed Weasel (*Mustela frenata*) and the River Otter (*Lutra canadensis*) in Southeastern Oklahoma**

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A two-year sign survey to determine river otter (*Lutra canadensis*) distribution and relative abundance within southeastern Oklahoma was initiated in 1993 (1). During this study, field sign of river otter and other mammals were identified within the river basins of the Little River, the Poteau River, and the San Bois Creek, by using *Peterson's Field Guide To Animal Tracks* (2).

According to Caire (3), river otter are distributed throughout far southeastern Oklahoma excepting Pushmataha, Choctaw, and Bryan Counties. Two identifications of river otter tracks were made in Pushmataha County during the 1993-1994 survey period: east of Nashoba (NW/4, S20, T1S, R21E) and near Cloudy (NW/4, S14, T3S, R19E). Additionally, Bruce Leland, District Supervisor of the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control (ADC), reported two incidental river otter deaths during beaver control activities in the eastern half of Pushmataha County during the surveyed period (pers. comm.): one near Kiamichi in 1993 and one near Honobia in 1994. No further reports of river otter in this county exist with the ODWC.

Previous reports of the long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*) in Oklahoma are confined to Texas, Cleveland, and Payne Counties (3). Additional observations do not exist within the ODWC. Eleven weasel tracks were identified in this study over 1993 and 1994, within Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, and Pushmataha Counties; locations are given in Table 1.

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### **REFERENCES**

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TABLE 1. Locations of identified weasel tracks.

County	Exact Location	Approx. Location
Haskell	E/2, S35, T8N, R19E	Near Lewisville
	NE/4, S1, T7N, R19E	Near
	NW/4, S6, T7N, R20E	Kinta
	N/2, S6, T7N, R22E	E of Lequire
Latimer	N/2, S6, T5N, R19E	Near Wilburton
LeFlore	W/2, S14; SE/4, S15; T6N, R23E	Near Yearby Station
	SE/4, S12; SW/4, S13; T8N, R26E	Near Williams
	N/2, S9, T8N, R25E	Near Panama
	SE/4, S3; SW/4, S4; T5N, R22E	North of LeFlore
McCurtain	NE/4, S23; NW/4, S24; T8S, R24E	Southeast of Idabel
	SE/4, S14; SW/4, S13; T7S, R24E	South of Broken Bow
Pushmataha	NW/4, S23, T4S, R20E	E of Corinne