

# Identifying Nutria (*Myocastor coypus*)



## Nutria *Invasive*



Photos courtesy of Tony Northrup and Joyce Gross



## Beaver *Native*



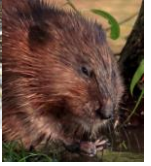
Photos courtesy of Alaska DFG and Cheryl Reynolds



## Muskrat *Native*



Photos courtesy of N. Carolina State Parks and Merle Ann Loman



### Whiskers/ head

- Conspicuous **white whiskers**
- Muzzle often white

- **Black whiskers**

- Fine, **black whiskers**
- Muzzle may be white

### Tail



- Tail **rounded**, rat-like, and sparsely covered in coarse hair
- Tail still while swimming; body propelled by feet



- Tail **broad and flat**.
- Tail flattened top-to-bottom
- Slap water with tail when disturbed



- Tail **flattened side-to-side**
- Tail used for swimming with rapid side-to-side serpentine motion

Drawings courtesy of Danielle M. Crosier

### Body



- Adult size: 10-20 pounds; body length to 2 feet, with 1 foot tail
- Juveniles similar in size to muskrats
- Hunched appearance on land



- Adult size averages 40 pounds
- Length to over 3 feet, including tail



- Adult size: 2-5 pounds; body length up to 1 foot

Silhouettes courtesy of USFWS

### Hind feet



Photo courtesy of M. Enos

- Partially webbed; one free toe



Photo courtesy of Anh Vinh Nguyen

- Fully webbed



Photo courtesy of USFWS

- No webbing

### Tracks

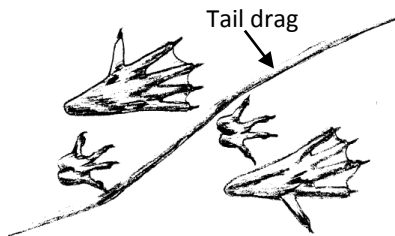


Photo courtesy of Peggy A. Duhon

- 5 front toes; 4 visible in tracks
- Rear track to 6 inches in length
- Narrow tail drag may accompany tracks



Photo courtesy of Ohio DNR Division of Wildlife

- 5 visible toes on front track
- Rear track to 6 inches in length
- Tracks may be accompanied by a broad tail drag



Photo courtesy of WDFW

- Rear track is 2-3 inches in length

If nutria are found in CA, immediately contact the CDFW Invasive Species Program to report your sighting at [Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov) or by calling (866) 440-9530