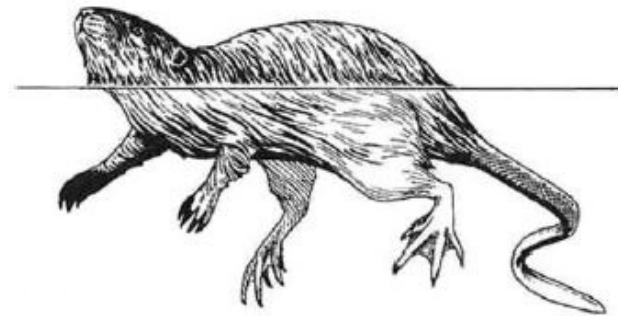


throughout the US and southern Canada. They are found in many different habitats, but especially in areas near streams, ponds, and marshes. The distinctive black facemask and ringed tail make this nocturnal mammal easily identifiable. Raccoons are omnivorous with a highly adaptable diet. Although they are often observed dunking their food in water, they do not wash all of their food before eating. Highly agile fingers and toes allow raccoons to complete tasks with amazing dexterity.

### Muskrat

*Ondatra zibethicus*

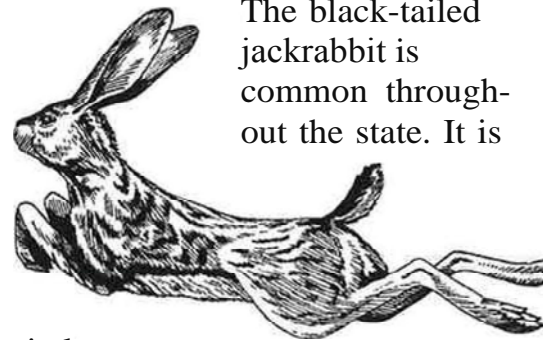


The muskrat is abundant in fresh water emergent wetland habitat. It feeds primarily on aquatic plants, but will occasionally eat invertebrates and vertebrates. The muskrat excavates its

burrows in waterway banks or builds cone-shaped "houses" above ground from emergent plants.

### Black-tailed Jackrabbit

*Lepus californicus*



The black-tailed jackrabbit is common throughout the state. It is

strictly herbivorous, preferring grasses but will eat almost any vegetation that occurs in the area. Their predators include coyotes, eagles, and a number of birds of prey. Unlike cottontails, female jackrabbits do not build nests, but bear their young in shallow resting places called "forms".



### Desert Cottontail

*Sylvilagus audubonii*

Cottontails can be found throughout California. Light gray in color, this species of rabbit dons a white fluffy tail that gives rise to its name. Cottontails are true rabbits; they build nests and bear furless young. Their diet consists of grasses, various plants, fallen fruits, and occasionally acorns.



### California Vole

*Microtus californicus*

The California vole prefers areas in California that have thick annual grasslands and wet meadows. Voles often make a network of runways in the grasslands by clipping grasses and herbs at their bases. Many predators, such as birds of prey, predatory mammals and snakes rely on voles as an important food source.

## Common Mammals of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area



Produced by Yolo Basin Foundation & CA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
www.yolobasin.org (530) 758-1018

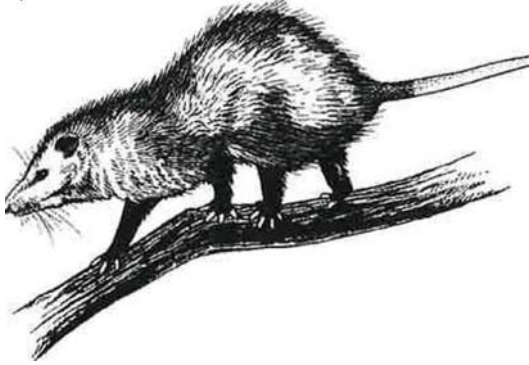
Thanks to the Thornton S. and Katrina D. Glide Foundation

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## Virginia Opossum

*Didelphis virginiana*

This nocturnal marsupial can be found in moist woodland areas throughout California.



The female opossum has a furry pouch on her abdomen where her newborn young are nourished. Predators of the opossum include dogs, foxes, and owls.



## Mexican Freetail Bat

*Tadarida brasiliensis*

The Mexican free-tailed bat can be found extensively in California, except for the high Sierra Mountains and the north coastal

region. Like most bats, they are active between sunset and sunrise and eat flying insects, especially moths. Some Mexican free-tailed bats will fly 40 miles between their roosting location and their foraging areas.

## Coyote

*Canis latrans*

Adaptable to almost any habitat, coyotes are common residents of California. They are



omnivorous opportunists feeding on mice, rats, ground squirrels, gophers and carrion. Coyotes hunt either alone, in pairs or in small packs, and are adept predators.

## California Ground Squirrel

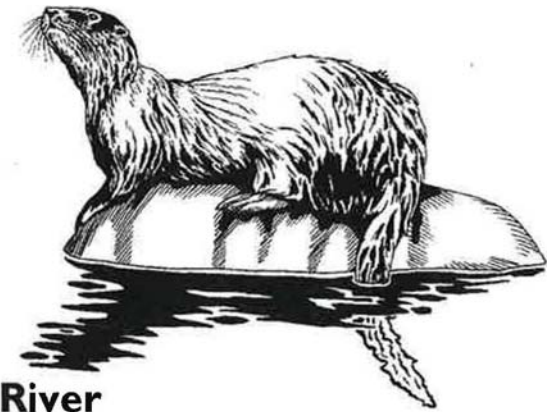
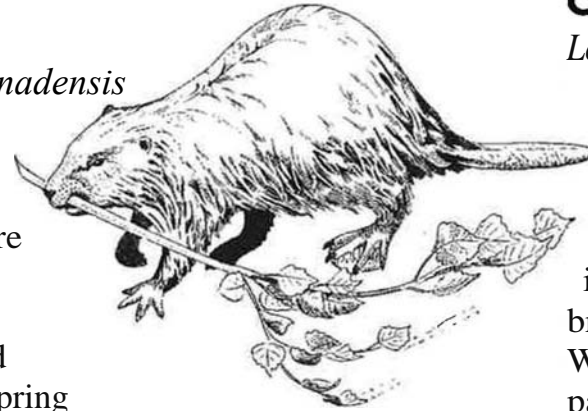
*Spermophilus beecheyi*

Ground squirrels are very common in California. They feed on seeds, nuts, fruits, bulbs, fungi and stems. Burrows excavated in rocky areas or under trees or logs provide their cover. Ground squirrels are important prey for many carnivores.

## Beaver

*Castor canadensis*

These aquatic animals are found in streams, ponds and lakes. In spring and summer they feed on grasses, leaves and aquatic vegetation, such as tule and cattail. In winter they prefer the bark of aspen, willow, alder and cottonwood. Beaver live in lodges built from fallen trees or bank burrows and can have a profound effect on habitats. Their feeding and construction of dams and lodges can change species composition and abundance of trees, alter water tables and create meadows and ponds.



## River Otter

*Lontra canadensis*

These playful creatures are year-long residents of rivers, large streams, lakes and wetlands. They are carnivorous, feeding on amphibians, mollusks, other aquatic invertebrates and carrion. In the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, crayfish are a major part of their diet. Look for waterslides or scat to mark their presence.

## Raccoon

*Procyon lotor*

Raccoons can be found

