

Audubon International's **Common Mammals at a Glance**

SPECIES	NOTES	RANGE	HABITAT	FOOD PREFERENCES	COVER & BREEDING	MANAGEMENT TIPS
BEAVER	North America's largest rodent, beavers build dams and lodges on streams and creeks, and along the edges of lakes and rivers.	Throughout most of North America except most of Florida, So. California, and Nevada	Streams, marshes, lakes and ponds, especially with alders or other trees on banks	Herbivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beavers eat vegetable matter, preferring soft plant foods, including: grasses, ferns, mushrooms, duckweed, algae, and the leaves, stems, or roots of water plants. • Beavers also eat the bark, twigs, and buds of aspen, maple, willow, birch, black alder, and black cherry • Front teeth are always growing--- a beaver must continually cut on wood to keep them worn down 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beavers construct lodges of sticks and logs plastered with mud • Entrance to the lodge is below water, while the den is dry and above the water level • 3 to 6 young are born in April and May, usually stay in the nest for 5 to 7 weeks, and remain with parents for up to 2 years • Mate for life 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaver are primarily attracted to suitable habitat conditions <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If tree cutting is the primary problem, maintain a diversity of "soft" plant foods. Beavers cut down few trees unless they're needed for dam or lodge repair • Call local wildlife authorities for information on trapping and transferring • Construct a beaver deceiver/pond leveler device
COYOTE	Intelligent and seemingly brash, coyotes have survived despite widespread attempts to control them. Coyotes play prominent mythic roles as tricksters and creators. Coyotes are adaptable animals that can live in a wide variety of climates and conditions.	Throughout No. America	Open woodlands, edges of fields near forests, prairies, brushy areas, sagebrush, chaparral, and thickets	Carnivorous, scavenger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly varied diet includes rodents, rabbits, game, poultry, carrion and fruit • Chiefly nocturnal, but may be about during the day as well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Den in shallow burrow or tunnel 5 to 30 feet long-- favored sites are riverbanks, gulches, well-drained slopes, and sides of canyons • Average of 5 to 10 young born in April and May • Will sometimes cross with domestic dog 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain food chain and brushy areas for cover <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People are primary predators— some evidence suggests that hunting increases populations by enhancing survival of young • Provide secure shelters for animals • Do not feed • Fence livestock
DEER	This important big-game mammal is common throughout its range. Deer can do considerable damage to orchards, crops, forestland, and landscaping in areas where populations are numerous.	White-tailed range throughout most of the US and southern Canada, while the range of mule deer (including black-tailed) includes much of western North America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White-tailed deer show a preference for timbered areas, but also benefit from edges where two different habitats meet. Commonly found in wooded clearings, swamp borders, fencerows, and brushy areas. • Mule deer are found in a variety of habitats including forests, deserts, chaparral, and grassland. 	Herbivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deer are browsers—a major part of their diet consists of twigs and buds from woody plants. They readily eat corn, alfalfa, apples, and garden greens • Browsed vegetation looks torn since deer lack sharp incisors for cutting • As people expand into former farmland, woods, and rural settings, deer adapt by eating landscape plants • Feed at dawn, dusk, and on moonlit nights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooded and shrubby areas provide cover • During the winter, small groups of females and young may band together • Mule deer live in large groups defended by bucks • Young are born in May and early June; fawns remain inactive for first three weeks, then follow mothers and nibble on tender plants 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain wooded or brushy habitat with diverse vegetation and open areas interspersed <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use commercially-available repellents that contain the active agent thiram around key plantings • Plant deer-resistant vegetation and avoid plants that deer prefer • Use barriers such as fences and tree guards • Encourage natural predators such as coyote and wolves through habitat management • Consult your local Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Ministry of Nat. Res.- Canada) regarding hunting

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FOX	North American species include red, gray, kit, and swift foxes	Throughout No. America	Open country, open forest, rolling farmland, and brushy areas; gray foxes prefer heavily wooded areas, swampy lands, and rugged, mountainous terrain	Carnivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodents, small mammals, carrion, poultry, insects, squirrels, game birds, songbirds, bird eggs, occasionally fruit and berries Opportunistic feeders—foxes will eat whatever is most easily obtained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Den in sandy bank Average of 6 young born in late spring Both parents care for young for 2 to 3 months Families disband in late-summer 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain food chain with small mammals and rodents Protect potential den sites <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce food availability or suitable habitat Consult local wildlife officials regarding hunting or trapping
MUSKRAT	Aquatic rodent with characteristic long, naked, scaly, dark tail. Muskrats burrow in soft banks or build conical houses of marsh vegetation. Most abundant fur-bearing mammal in No. America	Throughout most of the U.S. and Canada	Marshes, edges of lakes, ponds, and streams	Primarily herbivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquatic vegetation, chiefly cattail roots and stalks Clams, frogs, and fish on occasion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 ft. conical house built with marsh vegetation above water or burrows in banks with entrance usually underwater Breeds April – August in North, winter in South, 5-6 naked, blind young born 22 to 30 days later. Raise several litters per season 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant or maintain cattails and other aquatic vegetation <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trap and transfer is most effective
RABBIT	Rabbit family includes hares, rabbits, and pikas. The jackrabbit, our native western hare, is known for its long ears and legs and keen jumping ability -- leaping up to 20 ft.	Jackrabbits range primarily west of the Mississippi. Eastern cottontails range throughout the eastern two-thirds of the U.S.	Jackrabbits prefer semi-arid country; found in grasslands, mountains, and hills Cottontails prefer brushy areas such as hedge rows, tall grasses, farmland, and suburban yards	Herbivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diet is primarily grasses Jackrabbits browse on bark, twigs, buds, and other soft plant foods Eastern cottontails feed on a variety of plant materials including gardens and lawns Browse is cleanly cut by sharp incisors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burrows and brush heaps Several litters per year of 4 to 5 young are common; females may mate again within hours after giving birth Babies leave the nest in about 2 weeks and leave their mother in less than 2 months 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build a brush pile for shelter Maintain a variety of vegetation and shrubby cover <p>To Control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove brush and undergrowth Fence desired landscape and garden plantings
RACCOON	Because raccoons are highly adaptable animals, they are common in a variety of habitats. Unfortunately, their ability to adapt to human settings may create conflict.	Throughout the U.S., southern Canada, and Mexico, except in Rocky Mountain region	Prefer streams, ponds, and marshes near wooded areas. Easily adapted to human communities.	Omnivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunistic feeders; natural diet includes: insects, nuts, worms, frogs, small mammals, birds, eggs, snakes, and fruit Readily feed on agricultural crops, garden vegetables, and garbage Often washes its food when near water Nocturnal- hunt and feed at night and seek shelter during the day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek shelter in dark, dry, warm places Den often in a hollow tree or log In populated areas, shelter may be under buildings, in basements, attics, crawl spaces, storm sewers or drain pipes 3 to 6 young born in March or April; kits nursed by mother until 3 to 4 months old 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain diverse habitat and shelter near water <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate food sources such as bird feeders or unsecured garbage; fence gardens Eliminate den sites or alter warm, dark, dry conditions Install one-way doors at entrances or trap and transfer
SKUNK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weasel family; 4 species: striped, hooded, spotted, hog-nosed Rarely attack unless cornered or defending young; spray is a sulfur compound from 2 small openings near rectum; glands can hold 5 to 6 full-powered sprays Spray range up to 15 ft. 	Throughout U.S., Canada, Mexico in all types of terrain	Forest borders, brushy areas, fence rows, open meadow	Omnivorous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skunks eat both animals and plants, including: rodents, frogs, lizards, birds, eggs, garbage, carrion, acorns, fallen fruit, insects (especially beetles, larvae, earthworms; 70% of diet is insects considered harmful to people.) Travel well-defined pathways between burrows and hunting areas; often travel 5 to 10 miles within territory at night looking for food. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm, dry, dark, defensible den sites Den in shallow burrows or hollow logs Urban areas- beneath buildings, decks, dumps, woodpiles 4 to 7 young born late April to early June 	<p>To attract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leave hollow logs and brushy areas for den sites <p>To control:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control grubs Block or eliminate den sites—or alter preferred den conditions Fence problem areas Place mothball-filled socks in problem sites Install one-way doors at entrances or trap and transfer