



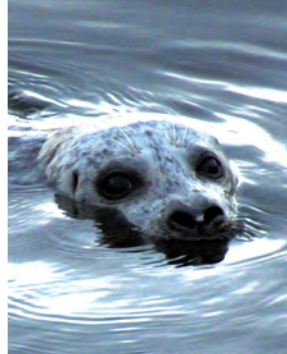
Townsend's Vole

In moist fields lives our largest vole species, the Townsend's Vole. After a snow melt, its many runways through the grass become clearly visible. These runways are used by multiple generations over many years. As well as eating grass, leaves and seeds, voles also strip off bark from shrubs or saplings. Hunters of voles include coyotes, ermine, owls and hawks.



Eastern Cottontail

Widespread in Langley, this introduced rabbit has a distinctive patch of rufous fur behind its ears. As many gardeners know, cottontails love to nibble on many plants: vegetables, fruit, clover, dandelions, etc. Blackberry hedges can provide vital cover for them to escape from predators, such as coyotes or a swooping Great Horned Owl.



Harbour Seal

Harbour Seals can be seen swimming in the Fraser River from Fort Langley or Brae Island and Derby Reach Regional Parks. Sightings can be year-round, but are most likely during salmon runs in the fall. Some seals have learned to steal fish from anglers. They are most active in early morning or late afternoon.



Shrews

Shrews live short but intense lives. With insanely fast heartbeats, they must eat more than their body weight every day, hunting almost non-stop for insects, worms, slugs, snails, mice, etc. All of our shrew species have pointed snouts and are bad-tasting, often causing coyotes or dogs to spit them out. Recently, the endangered Pacific Water Shrew was rediscovered in north Langley.



North American Deer Mouse

By far the most common of our native mice, the Deer Mouse has a bright white belly and a bi-coloured tail. A busy creature of the night, it may build its nest in forests or grasslands, in houses or abandoned cars. Nuts, seeds, insects and crumbs can all be part of its diet. As these mice can carry viruses, it is wise to keep them out of your house.



LITTLE BROWN BAT



SILVER-HAIRED BAT

Bats

Bat detectors can help to identify the 10 or so bat species in Langley. However, DNA may be needed to identify the Little Brown Bat, a species-at-risk and one that eats vast numbers of mosquitoes. In contrast, the Silver-haired Bat is easy to identify and has been found roosting in wood piles in Langley. Bats are an important part of our ecosystem; both Langley City and Township became official "Bat-Friendly Communities".
Learn more at bcbats.ca



Coast Mole

With shovel-like forelimbs and long stout claws, moles are well adapted for digging. They make their presence known by creating mole hills in lawns, fields and parks throughout Langley. These piles of dirt come from underground tunnels and nest chambers. Flexible noses and a keen sense of smell help the moles find food such as earthworms and beetle grubs.



House Mouse

The introduced House Mouse has gray undersides and a naked scaly tail. If you see one in your house, there may be several more. It reproduces quickly and enjoys all the comforts of home, including warmth and human food. Sensitive to cold, it will also nest in haystacks to stay warm on farms. Predators of mice include cats, coyotes, hawks and owls.

Going, going, gone?
Species with few or no recent sightings in Langley include:
Red Fox, Humbolt's Flying Squirrel, Mountain Beaver, Snowshoe Hare, Porcupine
Long gone: Gray Wolf, Canada Lynx, Roosevelt Elk, Wolverine, American Marten, Spotted Skunk
Find Injured Wildlife?
Contact Critter Care at crittercarewildlife.org



American Shrew-mole

At first glance, the shrew-mole looks like a cross between a mole and a shrew. Found more often dead than alive here, it can usually be closely examined. It has wide mole-like front paws and a long shrew-like tail. It is a mole, one that tunnels underneath leaf litter in search of earthworms, sow bugs, etc. Preferred habitat is woodlands near streams.



Rats

Intruders from Europe and Asia, the Black Rat and Brown (Norway) Rat have naked scaly tails and are viewed as pests. Both are mostly found near human habitation. The Black Rat may occupy the upper levels of buildings, hence the nickname "roof rat". The Brown Rat prefers ground level. Their diverse diets include grains, seeds, fruits, vegetables, carrion and garbage.

Mammals IN LANGLEY



Your handy guide to some of Langley's fascinating *wild* mammals

Photos contributed by members and friends of the
LANGLEY FIELD NATURALISTS

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**Columbian
Black-tailed
Deer**

A familiar sight to many, deer inhabit Langley’s forests, fields or backyard acreages. They enjoy eating tender twigs, leaves and berries. Each winter the males, or bucks, shed their antlers to grow larger new ones. The females, or does, seek forests in which to give birth. Their fawns are brown with white spots, which helps keep them camouflaged and safer from predators.



Coyote

This successful canine has a diverse menu that includes rodents and berries. In Langley, it is often seen in fields, not far from woods. It may also visit yards and gardens for food such as fruit, exposed garbage or uneaten pet food. When meeting other coyotes, individuals often make loud yips, barks and howls, which can be heard from far away.



**American
Beaver**

Our largest rodent, the beaver uses its teeth to cut down trees and shrubs for its lodge and dams. Found on waterways throughout Langley, the beaver is a “keystone species”, creating ponds that benefit many other species. Their large, flat tails are used for balance and for slapping the water to send a loud “danger signal”, sometimes startling a nearby human.



Ermine

Although sightings are very rare, ermine may still exist in forests near streams in north Langley. Also known as the Short-tailed Weasel, this small carnivore has a brown and white coat and a black-tipped tail. It is a skillful tree climber and can go down tree trunks head-first. A narrow body enables it to fit inside vole tunnels to hunt voles, its favourite food.



**American
Black Bear**

Bears can travel long distances and occasionally one is seen here, usually in north Langley. In summer and fall, they are attracted to berry bushes, apple orchards and spawning salmon. Watch for the “calling cards” they leave behind: large tracks and piles of droppings. Keeping your area garbage-free can reduce unwanted human/bear interactions.



Raccoon

This animal is well adapted to live in the wild or in your neighbourhood. In the wild, it prefers habitat near streams where it can catch fish, crayfish, frogs, etc. It leaves behind “hand-like” tracks in the mud. In suburbs, raccoons usually raid backyards after dark, eating fruit, grubs, garbage or perhaps your prize goldfish. It is safest to watch them from a distance.



Muskrat

Another pond dweller, the muskrat is smaller than a beaver and has a long narrow tail that is flattened side to side. It feeds mostly on wetland plants such as cattails. A sure sign of muskrat presence is a clump of cut cattail leaves floating on the water’s surface. A busy animal, the muskrat can often be seen in the daytime here.



**Townsend’s
Chipmunk**

Seldom still, this chipmunk is on a mission: to quickly find as many seeds or nuts as possible to stuff into its cheek pouches. Then it will make a beeline to its underground food cache, storing food there to eat later. Active during daylight, Townsend’s chipmunks can be seen along forest trails, such as those in Campbell Valley Regional Park.



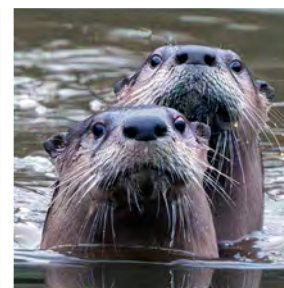
Cougar

The cougar, our largest cat, is secretive by nature and rarely seen. A sighting in Langley is likely of an adult passing through. It prefers to be in or near large tracts of forest, where its main prey item, deer, are also found. Smart and adaptable, a hungry cougar may also occasionally prey on livestock; farmers need to be vigilant if one is in their area.



**Virginia
Opossum**

This opossum is our only marsupial, carrying its babies in a pouch like kangaroos do. A night-time forager, it is not picky and will eat seeds, berries, leaves, insects, slugs, rodents, road-killed animals, etc. In Langley, it is more often seen dead than alive, often a traffic casualty. More suited to warmer climates, it’s ears can get frost-bitten here!



**North
American
River Otter**

Though seldom seen, otters travel along Langley’s rivers and streams, leaving behind tracks in the mud. Occasionally one is seen in Brydon Lagoon. They are excellent swimmers and adept at catching fish, their main food item, although they also eat crayfish, frogs, etc. Otters are also playful and can be very entertaining to watch.



**Douglas
Squirrel**

A woodland resident of conifer forests in Langley, this is our only native squirrel active in the daytime. It makes its presence known with loud trills or short, sharp alarm calls. Seeds from Douglas-fir cones are a key source of food, but fungi, fruits and handouts (such as peanuts) are also eagerly consumed. Quick and agile, it races up and down trees with ease.



Bobcat

Extremely rare in Langley, the bobcat may indicate its presence only by leaving behind tracks that are larger than a housecat’s. The influx of coyotes in the 1900’s was undoubtedly bad news for this feline. Coyotes eat grouse (bobcat’s main food) and they also kill bobcats. A night prowler, the bobcat is secretive; only the most fortunate wildlife observer will see one.



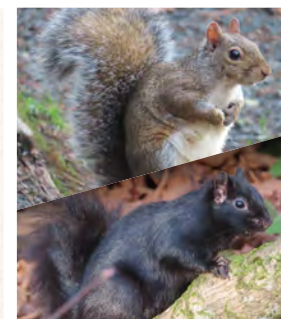
**Striped
Skunk**

Skunks aren’t fussy. They might nest in the woods or under your garden shed. A grub, an egg, a mouse, a seed: all make a tasty meal. But watch out if a skunk’s tail is facing you! You might get sprayed with a foul-smelling liquid that can cause pain or nausea. This works well against predators, except for eagles and owls, which have little or no sense of smell.



**American
Mink**

Like an otter but smaller, the mink is another member of the weasel family with a long, streamlined body. It also travels along streams but will venture into farmland as well. It is strictly a meat eater, taking shrews, mice, muskrats, frogs, crayfish, ducks, etc. If it is able to get into a chicken pen, it can cause considerable carnage.



**Eastern Grey
Squirrel**

This larger, introduced squirrel can be either gray or black. It has adapted well to life in Langley; in some places it has replaced our native Douglas Squirrel but in other areas, both seem to happily exist side by side. Its diet includes nuts, fruits and seeds. It has proven capable of figuring out ingenious ways to raid backyard bird feeders.