

Rare Animals of Louisiana

Long-tailed Weasel

Mustela frenata

Rarity Rank: S2S4/G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure



Photo by Emlyn Smith

Identification:

- Body is small and long with short legs and long tail
- Upperparts are brown with yellowish to yellowish-white underneath and chin is white
- The tip of the tail is black which continues for about one-third of its length
- Hair is moderately fine and relatively short

Habitat:

- Usually near water, though live in a wide variety of habitats including brushland, and open areas such as woodlands, marshes, swamps, field edges and riparian (bank) grasslands
- Den locations may include burrows that have been abandoned by other species, brush piles, hollow stumps and among tree roots

Food habits:

Feeds mainly on small mammals, also birds, insects or other small invertebrates

Range:

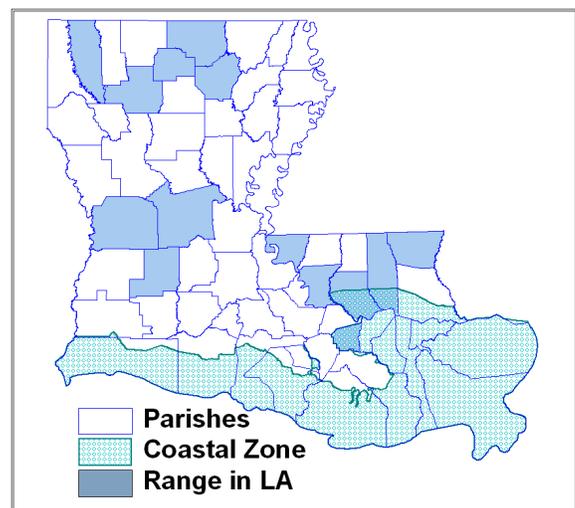
- Located in southern Canada to Peru
- Throughout United States and Mexico with the exception of a small area in the southwestern region
- Species is highly local in Louisiana

Reproduction:

- Breeds in July through August
- Litter size average is from 4 to 7 but can have up to 12
- Young will disperse after 11 to 12 weeks
- Males reach sexual maturity in one year

Threats:

- Agriculture development and monoculture farming
- Wetland drainage
- Pesticide use



Range based on occurrences in Natural Heritage database

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Beneficial Management Practices:

Maintenance of landscape connectivity during development or when being used for agriculture due to the species' sensitivity to habitat fragmentation

LA River Basins:

Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Vermilion-Teche, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine, Red River, Ouachita



Photo by Chris Melder

References:

Lowery, Jr., George H. The Mammals of Louisiana and Its Adjacent Waters. Kingsport: Kingsport P, Inc., 1974. 423.

NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. 2006. Version 6.1 . Arlington, Virginia, USA: NatureServe. Available: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: June 21, 2007).