

45TH SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2017

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Eighty-three Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this winter — five fewer than last year. Even so, the 3,448 mammals seen or heard was five more than the 3,443 recorded the previous winter. As per usual, White-tailed Deer (1,401 individuals) and Mule Deer (1,105 animals) were by far the most common mammals.

Tree Squirrels made most of the headlines this past winter. An American Red Squirrel during the count period at Rouleau was slightly south of its previously known range. Eastern Fox Squirrels continue their slow expansion with observations in the northeast at Leroy and the Roscommon School Division near Kelvington.

A new high count of 43 Eastern

Gray Squirrels at Swift Current bested the 37 at the same locality in 2014. One wonders what their fortunes will be if and when their larger cousins, the Fox Squirrel, reach our westernmost city. Both coexist in Craven and Regina, but the Gray occurs in smaller numbers than the Fox.

A River Otter at Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley was unusual this far south. Perhaps due to the snowless conditions in many areas of the south, Pronghorn were noted in good numbers with 420 animals on five counts.

With 12 species seen or heard, Odessa edged out Indian Head's 11 for the most species seen or heard on a count. For the 10th year, no new species were added this winter so the all-time provincial total remains at 51 species seen or heard (plus three species found dead and two others recorded only on the basis of tracks). Expected but not yet

reported is the Wild Boar. Let's hope for the sake of our wildlife that it never gets reported!

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of CMCs see the CBC summary in this issue.

Explanation of entries in Table 1.

The number of mammals actually seen or heard on count day is treated separately from those recorded by other means, or those recorded during count period (December 14 to January 5) but not on count day. Numbers of individuals seen or heard are given in Table 1 and are tallied in the first line of totals at the bottom of the table. The number of species they represent is given in the second line.

For species only detected by tracks or by other means, or that are seen or heard only in the count period but not on count day, no numbers of individuals is given in Table 1. Species detected only by tracks are indicated by 't' in the table; those detected only by other means: dead animals 'm', more clearly identifiable chewing or digging 'd', dens or lodges 'L' (including Muskrat push-ups) and by smell 's.' Species detected by any means during the count period, but not on count day are indicated by 'c' in the table. These additional species are tallied in lines 3, 4 and 5 at the bottom of the table. If a mammal is reported as member of a species group (i.e. mouse species, deer species), it is counted as a species only if no other species in this group has been definitely recorded. The columns at the end of the table give totals for each species.



White-tailed Jackrabbit. Photo Credit: Nick Saunders

TABLE 1. 45th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2017.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 18 DEC 2017	AYONLEA 3 JAN 2018	BALGONIE 30 DEC 2017	BIGGAR 14 DEC 2017	BIRCH HILLS 4 JAN 2018	BORDEN -RADISSON 2 JAN 2018	BROADVIEW 21 DEC 2017	CATER 4 JAN 2018	CHATSWORTH S.D. 5 JAN 2018	CHRISTOPHER LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CHURCHBRIDGE B 26 DEC 2017	CLARK'S CROSSING 16 DEC 2017	CORONACH 17 DEC 2017	CRAVEN 16 DEC 2017	CREIGHTON 16 DEC 2017	CROOKED LAKE 18 DEC 2017	CROOKED RIVER 30 DEC 2017	CYPRESS HILLS PP. 29 DEC 2017	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2017	DORINTOSH 31 DEC 2017	DUNDURN 4 JAN 2018	DUVAL 1 JAN 2018	EASTEND 4 JAN 2018	
Short-tailed Shrew																								
Shrew species																	1							
Eastern Cottontail																								
Nuttall's Cottontail													1						t					1
Snowshoe Hare	t		t	t	t		t	t		t				2	t				t	t	t	t	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1	t	t			t					2									t		m	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel								c						5										
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1					3							14									4	
American Red Squirrel	8			1		3	2	3	2	4	2	1		14	6	3	1	1		1			1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel															2				1					
Squirrel Species			1																					
Northern Pocket Gopher																								
American Beaver							L		L							L				L			L	
Deer Mouse							t																	
Muskrat				L	L		L	L	L							1						L	L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																			1					
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species				t																			t	
House Mouse												1												
Mouse species														1			1			t			t	
American Porcupine	c						d	m												d	2			
Coyote	2		2		2	1	1	2			t	2		3	1	3	c	t	c	t	t	t	3	
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox	c		t				t		1		t	1			c		c		c	t	t	1	c	
Raccoon	c																							
Fisher																								
Ermine																			t					
Long-tailed Weasel				c																c			t	
Least Weasel																			t				t	
Weasel species	c				t						t											t		
American Mink	c																		1			t	c	
American Badger																			d					
Striped Skunk	c																			s	s			
River Otter																								
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer		8	31	11		7	3	8				20	1	7		7			4	c	55	16	96	
White-tailed Deer	7		19	3	3	37	t	m	10	t	3	65	4	26		2	c	18	14	80	21	3	51	
Deer species														5										
Moose	c						1								t	t		t	c					
Elk																					c			
Pronghorn																								
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	17	10	53	15	5	48	10	13	13	4	5	92	6	77	9	16	3	20	20	81	78	25	151	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	3	4	3	2	4	5	3	3	1	2	7	3	8	3	5	3	3	4	2	3	5	4	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	0	3	3	2	0	5	1	0	2	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	5	1	5	6	5	1	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	2	1	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	7	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	4	2	0	0	2	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	11	3	7	8	5	4	14	7	5	3	5	7	3	8	6	7	6	8	10	12	11	12	8	

SPECIES	EBENEZERB 5 JAN 2018	ENDEAVOUR 27 DEC 2017	ESTEVAN 4 JAN 2018	ESTUARY NORTH 2 JAN 2018	FENTON 3 JAN 2018	FLORAL 28 DEC 2017	FORT OU'APPELLE 16 DEC 2017	GARDINER DAM 18 DEC 2017	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 21 DEC 2017	GRASSLANDS N.P. 17 DEC 2017	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2018	GREENFELL 3 JAN 2018	HARRIS 21 DEC 2017	HAZLET 27 DEC 2017	INDIAN HEAD 29 DEC 2017	KENASTON 15 DEC 2017	KENOSEE LAKE 24 DEC 2017	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2017	KINDERSLEY NORTH, 26 DEC 2017	KINLOCH 2 JAN 2018	KYLE 29 DEC 2017	LA RONGE 26 DEC 2017	LEADER NORTH 3 JAN 2018	
Short-tailed Shrew																								
Shrew species		1					c																	
Eastern Cottontail			7														t							
Nuttall's Cottontail				10				2						1								4		
Snowshoe Hare						t			t			t			2			t			1			
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t	4		t		t					t	t	18	t	t		t				1	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel																								
Eastern Fox Squirrel			4				1					2			7									
American Red Squirrel		1	1		1		26		5		2	1			11		11	1		7			3	
Northern Flying-Squirrel											1													
Squirrel Species																								
Northern Pocket Gopher																								
American Beaver									L							L	L	L		L				
Deer Mouse																t								
Muskrat			L			L		1	L							L			L			L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																								
Meadow Vole		1						2					1											
Vole species			t			t					1			t			t				3			
House Mouse																								
Mouse species												t		t								t		2
American Porcupine	2			1					1	1		d	1		3	m				1		d		
Coyote	2	t	4	10	t	t	2	1	2	6		t	3	3	2	c	t	t	1	1	2		4	
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox				1		t								t		c	t	t						
Raccoon		1													3	t								
Fisher																								
Ermine		1																						
Long-tailed Weasel																t								
Least Weasel																								
Weasel species						t															t			
American Mink							1																	
American Badger																d						d		
Striped Skunk															1	d								
River Otter																								2
Canada Lynx																					t			
Mule Deer			22	72		2	c	33		31			31	14	19	2				t		52	10	
White-tailed Deer	8	9	7	55	t	41	12	78	11	88	6	12	49	2	10	2	6	8		7	57		15	
Deer species																								
Moose	3		1	14					3	c					3	c	t	2		3	t		2	
Elk																		t	1	25				
Pronghorn				15										212								141		
American Bison										30														
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	15	14	46	182	1	43	42	117	22	156	10	15	85	232	79	4	17	11	2	48	256	5	34	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	6	7	9	1	2	5	6	5	5	4	3	5	5	11	2	2	3	2	8	5	2	6	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	2	0	2	6	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	4	0	4	6	4	2	2	2	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	1	1	1	1	3	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	4	7	10	9	3	9	7	7	8	6	4	7	6	9	11	13	9	8	5	11	10	2	6	

SPECIES	LEROY 2 JAN 2018	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2017	LUSELAND 4 JAN 2018	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2017	MOOSE JAW 4 JAN 2018	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 4 JAN 2018	MORSE 27 DEC 2017	NIPAWIN 23 DEC 2017	NISBET FOREST WEST 27 DEC 2017	ODESSA 3 JAN 2018	PIKE LAKE 5 JAN 2018	PONTEIX 26 DEC 2017	PRINCE ALBERT 17 DEC 2017	QU'APPALLE 28 DEC 2017	QU'APPALLE DAM 17 DEC 2017	REGINA 26 DEC 2017	ROSCOMMON S.D. 3 JAN 2018	ROULEAU 18 DEC 2017	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 16 DEC 2017	SALT COATS 15 DEC 2017	SASK LANDING P.P. 28 DEC 2017	SASK RIVER FORKS 16 DEC 2017	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2017	
Short-tailed Shrew														c										
Shrew species																								
Eastern Cottontail																								
Nuttall's Cottontail							t								5						1			
Snowshoe Hare	t	t									t		t	1		5	t					t	2	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1				t			6	t	t				12	t				2		t	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																								
Eastern Grey Squirrel																	2							
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1				16	3				6				12	5	45	2			2				
American Red Squirrel		9				8		4	6		12		19				12	c	4	1		5	5	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																								
Squirrel Species																								
Northern Pocket Gopher														c										
American Beaver													L	L		d				L		L	L	
Deer Mouse							t									t							t	
Muskrat													L						L		L	L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														c										
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species											t					t	t							
House Mouse	2									4														
Mouse species	t	t									t										t			
American Porcupine	1	t	1				1			2				3		t	t				d		1	
Coyote	t	1	13	1	3		t			4	7	2	1	2	5	3	2		1		2	t	5	
Gray Wolf																		c						
Red Fox	t	1	1				t		1	2	t	t	1			1	1		1	1		1	1	
Raccoon										4			t				t							
Fisher																								
Ermine													t	c		t							t	
Long-tailed Weasel	t						t			1				c		t								
Least Weasel			c				c																	
Weasel species		t									t													
American Mink					1									c			t							
American Badger							d			2							d				d			
Striped Skunk		t												s			t							
River Otter																			1					
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer		3	89		7		58			28	6	15	2	1	90	6	4					29		
White-tailed Deer	4	33	12	2	9	3	191	17	c	20	36	31	8	4	9	8	12		t	3	9	1	47	
Deer species																								
Moose		1	4							2			t	c	4		6			1	2	t		
Elk		t															6						t	
Pronghorn																						33		
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	8	48	121	3	36	14	250	21	7	81	61	48	31	23	118	82	45	0	7	8	78	7	61	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	6	7	2	5	3	3	2	2	12	4	3	5	6	6	8	8	0	4	5	7	3	6	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	5	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	2	4	0	0	5	7	0	1	0	1	6	1	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	2	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	12	8	2	5	3	11	2	3	12	9	5	11	15	6	14	17	1	7	5	12	11	7	

SPECIES	SAWYER LAKE 28 DEC 2017	SHAMROCK 14 DEC 2017	SHELL LAKE 14 DEC 2017	SNOWDEN 3 JAN 2018	SPINNEY HILL 16 DEC 2017	SQUAW RAPIDS 5 JAN 2018	SWIFT CURRENT 16 DEC 2017	THICKWOODHILLS- SPRITWOOD/15 DEC 2017	TURTLE LAKE 19 DEC 2017	TURTLEFORD 30 DEC 2017	WEYBURN 2 JAN 2018	WHITE BEAR 21 DEC 2017	WHITEWOOD 27 DEC 2017	WINGARD 3 JAN 2018	# INDIVIDUALS SEEN/HEARD COUNT DAY	# COUNTS SEEN/HEARD	# COUNTS RECORDED AS TRACKS	# COUNTS RECORDED AS OTHER	# COUNTS COUNT PERIOD	# COUNTS, COUNT PERIOD & COUNT DAY	HIGH COUNT
Short-tailed Shrew															0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Shrew species	t									t					2	2	2	0	1	5	1
Eastern Cottontail													t		7	1	2	0	0	3	7
Nuttall's Cottontail											t				25	8	3	0	0	11	10
Snowshoe Hare	t		t			t				t			1		14	7	26	0	0	33	5
White-tailed Jack Rabbit											1	t			48	10	18	1	0	29	18
Richardson's Ground Squirrel										L					0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Eastern Grey Squirrel							43								50	3	0	0	1	4	43
Eastern Fox Squirrel			15								14		3		160	20	0	0	0	20	45
American Red Squirrel	1			9	11	2		2	5	4			7	1	250	48	0	0	1	49	26
Northern Flying-Squirrel															4	3	0	0	0	3	2
Squirrel Species															1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Northern Pocket Gopher										d			d		0	0	0	2	1	3	0
American Beaver			L					L	L	L			L		0	0	0	21	0	21	0
Deer Mouse										1		1		4	6	3	5	0	0	8	4
Muskrat			L						1	L		L	L		3	3	0	21	0	24	1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole															1	1	0	0	1	2	1
Meadow Vole													t		4	3	1	0	0	4	2
Vole species	t					t				t					4	2	12	0	0	14	3
House Mouse															7	3	0	0	0	3	4
Mouse species			t	t											4	3	11	0	0	14	2
American Porcupine			t					1				t			22	15	5	7	1	28	3
Coyote	t	m	t			t		1		4	5	2	8		137	45	17	1	3	66	13
Gray Wolf	t														0	0	2	0	1	3	0
Red Fox	c		1		1					4			3		25	19	13	0	7	39	4
Raccoon															8	3	3	0	1	7	4
Fisher	t														0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Ermine	t												1		2	2	5	0	1	8	1
Long-tailed Weasel															1	1	5	0	3	9	1
Least Weasel													t		0	0	3	0	2	5	0
Weasel species										t					0	0	8	0	1	9	0
American Mink	c						3								6	4	2	0	4	10	3
American Badger		d					d			d		d	d		2	1	0	11	0	12	2
Striped Skunk			m										m		1	1	2	6	1	10	1
River Otter	c														3	2	0	0	1	3	2
Canada Lynx			t												0	0	2	0	0	2	0
Mule Deer		47					40			35	51	32	c		1105	43	1	0	3	47	96
White-tailed Deer	3		3	3	1	7	11	6			25	1	33		1401	67	4	1	2	74	191
Deer species															5	1	0	0	0	1	5
Moose	t		t					c		2			4		58	18	9	0	6	33	14
Elk										c			t		32	3	4	0	2	9	25
Pronghorn												19			420	5	0	0	0	5	212
American Bison															30	1	0	0	0	1	30
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	4	47	19	12	13	9	97	10	6	50	96	55	60	5	3848						
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	1	3	2	3	2	4	4	2	6	5	5	8	2		30					
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	8	0	6	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	3	4	0			23				
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	2	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	2	5	0			10				
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0					20		
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	13	3	12	3	3	5	5	6	3	16	5	10	18	2						37	