
MAMMALS

39th ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2011

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Eight-seven Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this past winter, the highest number since 2005 when 89 counts were conducted. The 2384 mammals seen or heard was much lower than the 3635 seen last year, and the lowest since 1993 when only 2002 were noted. Most of this decline over last year is attributable to the number of deer reported. Mule deer were down from 805 in 2010 to 568 in 2011, White-tailed Deer from 1797 to 767. It is uncertain as to the cause. As with the upland gamebirds, the decline may have been more perceived than real as there was little snow to concentrate animals. On the other hand the previous winter's deep snow and subsequent rains that formed a crust on the snow undoubtedly resulted in high mortality in many areas.

The number of species seen or heard (32) was about average for the last decade. No new species were added to the all-time total of 49 species. For the fifth consecutive year Indian Head led the way with the most species on count day-14.

Noteworthy are two Fox Squirrels on the Qu'Appelle Dam count. Unknown to the province until 1979 when it was seen by Bob Luterbach in Regina, the species has now completed its conquest of the Souris and Qu'Appelle River basins. Also of note were Mountain Lion tracks on the Cabri, Cypress Hills P.P. and Endeavour counts-the most in any year.

A new high for the recently reintroduced Bison was reached with 42 on the Grassland N.P. count. Four Northern Flying Squirrels at Togo tied the previous high set at that locality on the 2001 and 2002 counts.

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of Christmas Mammal Counts 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 (14 December to 5 January) 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.

Table 1-1. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Archerwill, 17 Dec 2011	Avonlea, 4 Jan 2012	Balgonie, 2 Jan 2012	Bangor, 28 Dec 2011	Biggar, 27 Dec 2011	Birch Hills, 20 Dec 2011	Broadview, 24 Dec 2011	Cabri, 4 Jan 2012	Candle Lake, 29 Dec 2011	Cater, 1 Jan 2012	Chatsworth S. D., 3 Jan 2012	Christopher Lake, 22 Dec 2011
SPECIES												
Shrew species												
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail								t				
Snowshoe Hare	t					1	t		t	t	t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				t		t						
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel							1					
Eastern Fox Squirrel		6	3				1					
American Red Squirrel	5			8		9	3		14	3	4	8
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
Northern Pocket Gopher												
American Beaver							L	L	L			
Deer Mouse			1				t	t	t	1		t
Muskrat					L	L	L			L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole					1							
Vole species						t	t		t			
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
Mouse species	t					t						
American Porcupine	m					t	m			1		
Coyote	1		3	6	2	1	3	t	t			
Gray Wolf	t								t	t		
Red Fox	t	t		3	1		1		t		c	
Raccoon						t	t					
American Marten									t			
Fisher									t			
Ermine						t	t					
Long-tailed Weasel				3		t	t		t			
Least Weasel						t		t	t			
Weasel species	t									t		
American Mink	t											
American Badger		d			d	d	1					
Striped Skunk						m		m				
River Otter									t			
Mountain Lion								t				
Canada Lynx									t			
Mule Deer					4			1				
White-tailed Deer	7		3	14	12		2		24	26	7	t
Deer species						t	t	t				
Moose	5						t			m		
Elk												
Pronghorn								t				
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	18	6	10	34	20	11	12	1	38	31	11	8
Total species seen/heard	4	1	4	5	5	3	7	1	2	4	2	1
Total species recorded by tracks	6	0	1	0	1	7	10	7	12	3	1	3
Total species otherwise recorded	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	3	1	2	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	11	2	5	5	8	13	19	10	15	9	4	4

Table 1-2. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Churchbridge, 14 Dec 2011	Clark's Crossing, 17 Dec 2011	Codette Lake, 17 Dec 2011	Coronach, 14 Dec 2011	Craven, 17 Dec 2011	Creighton, 2 Jan 2012	Crooked Lake, 18 Dec 2011	Crooked River, 28 Dec 2011	Cypress Hills P.P., 30 Dec 2011	Denholm, 25 Dec 2011	Dorintosh, 3 Jan 2012	Eastend, 3 Jan 2012
SPECIES												
Shrew species												
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail					c	t		t				
Snowshoe Hare		t	t		1					t	m	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1						t				
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel					4							
Eastern Fox Squirrel					5							
American Red Squirrel	3	4	12		10	2	2	5	4		t	
Northern Flying-Squirrel										1		
Northern Pocket Gopher										d		
American Beaver	L										L	
Deer Mouse										m		
Muskrat	L	2			3		3					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole										1		
Meadow Vole												
Vole species						t						
Norway Rat	d											
House Mouse												
Mouse species								3			t	
American Porcupine												
Coyote	2	7	2	1	7	t		t	1	1	t	3
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox		t	t									
Raccoon									t			
American Marten												
Fisher						t					t	
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel												
Least Weasel								1			t	
Weasel species		2								c		
American Mink											t	
American Badger												
Striped Skunk	s							c				
River Otter											t	
Mountain Lion									t			
Canada Lynx											t	
Mule Deer					26							
White-tailed Deer	1	11	6	3	30			t	7	14	54	
Deer species												
Moose	t							1	t			1
Elk			t								t	
Pronghorn												
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	6	27	20	4	86	2	5	10	12	17	54	4
Total species seen/heard	3	6	3	2	8	1	2	4	3	4	1	2
Total species recorded by tracks	1	2	3	0	0	4	0	2	5	1	9	0
Total species otherwise recorded	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Total species count period and day	9	8	6	2	9	5	2	7	8	8	12	2

Table 1-3. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	38
	Endeavour, 18 Dec 2011	Estevan, 30 Dec 2011	Estuary North, 3 Jan 2012	Fenton, 19 Dec 2011	Fort Qu'Appelle, 16 Dec 2011	Gardiner Dam, 19 Dec 2011	Good Spirit Lake, 29 Dec 2011	Grandora, 5 Jan 2012	Grasslands N.P., 22 Dec 2011	Harris, 16 Dec 2011	Hazlet, 26 Dec 2011	Indian Head, 30 Dec 2011
SPECIES												
Shrew species												
Eastern Cottontail		t										
Nuttall's Cottontail						t			1			
Snowshoe Hare	t			t	1	t	1					1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit						t	t		1			1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel												
Eastern Fox Squirrel		3			1							5
American Red Squirrel	3			4	27		4					20
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
Northern Pocket Gopher											d	
American Beaver				L		L	L					1
Deer Mouse												
Muskrat		1		L	3	1	L		1	L		1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole	1									1		
Vole species				t				4				1
Norway Rat					c							2
House Mouse						3						
Mouse species				t		t		t				
American Porcupine	c				1				1	3		1
Coyote	1	4	1	t	5	4	1	1	15	6	t	12
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox			c		c	t			2			1
Raccoon			c					2				
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine	1	t		t	c	t						
Long-tailed Weasel												
Least Weasel				t		t						
Weasel species												
American Mink					1							
American Badger									m	d	d	1
Striped Skunk												
River Otter								1				
Mountain Lion	t											
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer		13			5	23			224	6		15
White-tailed Deer	c	1	15		13	77	15	m	30	22	4	33
Deer species			t						5			
Moose			9		c		t					
Elk												
Pronghorn									14			
American Bison									42			
Totals seen/heard on count day	6	22	25	4	60	105	23	6	336	38	4	95
Total species seen/heard	4	5	3	1	10	4	5	3	10	5	1	14
Total species recorded by tracks	2	2	0	7	0	8	2	1	0	0	1	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	0
Species recorded count period	2	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	8	7	5	10	14	13	9	4	11	7	4	14

Table 1-4. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	48	49	50	51
	Kenaston, 19 Dec 2011	Kenosee Lake, 29 Dec 2011	Katchen, 26 Dec 2011	Kilwinning, 22 Dec 2011	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2011	Kinloch, 4 Jan 2012	Kyle, 22 Dec 2011	Lac La Plonge, 28 Dec 2011	Last Mountain Lake, 1 Jan 2012	Last Mountain Lake-Nokomis, 17 Dec 2011	Love-Torch River, 27 Dec 2011	Luseland, 2 Jan 2012
SPECIES												
Shrew species										c		
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail							2					
Snowshoe Hare		t				1					t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t			t	c		1		1	c	t	c
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel				1								
Eastern Fox Squirrel								3		1		
American Red Squirrel		6	c	9		2		6			21	
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
Northern Pocket Gopher											d	
American Beaver	L	L	L			L	t					
Deer Mouse											c	
Muskkrat		1	L			L				L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole				1						c		
Vole species			c									1
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
Mouse species							t					
American Porcupine		1				t						
Coyote	c			t		1	3		t	2	2	5
Gray Wolf						t						
Red Fox	c			t					t	c	1	c
Raccoon	t											
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel	t											
Least Weasel	t											
Weasel species						t						1
American Mink												
American Badger	d	d						d				
Striped Skunk	d											
River Otter												
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer		2			3		14		8	c		c
White-tailed Deer	c	12		1		t	4				3	28
Deer species			t									
Moose	t		t			t						c
Elk			t			m					t	
Pronghorn					c		74					
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	4	18	0	12	3	4	98	6	12	6	54	5
Total species seen/heard	3	2	0	4	1	3	6	1	3	3	6	1
Total species recorded by tracks	5	1	3	3	0	5	2	0	2	0	3	0
Total species otherwise recorded	3	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	0
Species recorded count period	3	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	1	4
Total species count period and day	14	6	6	7	3	11	9	1	5	10	11	5

Table 1-5. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
	Maccowall, 30 Dec 2011	MacNutt, 24 Dec 2011	Matador, 2 Jan 2012	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2011	Moose Jaw, 16 Dec 2011	Moose Mountain P.P., 3 Jan 2012	Morse, 17 Dec 2011	Nipawin, 30 Dec 2011	Nisbet Forest Northwest, 27 Dec 2011	Nisbet Forest West, 1 Jan 2012	Odessa, 23 Dec 2011	Outlook, 26 Dec 2011
SPECIES												
Shrew species									m			
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail						t						
Snowshoe Hare							t	t				
White-tailed Jack Rabbit					1		3				6	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel									1			
Eastern Grey Squirrel												
Eastern Fox Squirrel				14								2
American Red Squirrel	2	2		11		3		6		2	2	
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
Northern Pocket Gopher												
American Beaver									L			
Deer Mouse							t					
Muskrat	c				L	1 L			L			
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species			1		1		1 t					
Norway Rat												
House Mouse						t						
Mouse species												
American Porcupine			c						c			c
Coyote	2	2	6 t		1		9 t		1	2	5 m	
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox					1		4				2	
Raccoon												
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel												
Least Weasel							m					
Weasel species								t				
American Mink												
American Badger							3					
Striped Skunk							2					m
River Otter												
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer			74				41				10	2
White-tailed Deer	t		2	3 c			53	2 t	c	25	3	
Deer species							4					
Moose		c					2					
Elk			c					t				
Pronghorn												
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	4	4	83	14	18	4	122	8	2	4	52	5
Total species seen/heard	2	2	4	2	5	2	9	2	2	2	7	2
Total species recorded by tracks	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	6	2	0	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	2
Species recorded count period	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Total species count period and day	4	3	6	3	7	2	13	8	8	3	7	5

Table 1-6. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	73	74	75	76
	Pierce Lake, 18 Dec 2011	Pike Lake, 2 Jan 2012	Prince Albert, 18 Dec 2011	Prince Albert N.P., 16 Dec 2011	Qu'Appelle, 9 Dec 2012	Qu'Appelle Dam, 18 Dec 2011	Raymore, 25 Dec 2011	Regina, 27 Dec 2011	Roscommon S.D., 30 Dec 2011	Rouleau, 23 Dec 2011	Round Lake (Q.V.), 17 Dec 2011	Saltcoats, 31 Dec 2011
SPECIES												
Shrew species	t	t	t									
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail												
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	t	t				1				
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t			1				1		1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel								8				
Eastern Fox Squirrel					2	2		30				
American Red Squirrel	4	10	16	28					1		1	1
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
Northern Pocket Gopher												
American Beaver			L			L					L	
Deer Mouse		t					t					
Muskrat			L			L		t			2	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole		t				2		1				
Vole species			t	t								
Norway Rat												
House Mouse									1			
Mouse species			t	t				t				
American Porcupine			1	d		t		1			d	
Coyote	t	t	t	t	1	4	6	4	3		2	5
Gray Wolf	t			1								
Red Fox	t		t	t	1			1		t	t	1
Raccoon									1	m		
American Marten				t								
Fisher				t								
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel			t			1			t			
Least Weasel												
Weasel species				t								
American Mink								1				
American Badger								d				L
Striped Skunk			m					1	1	s		
River Otter	t			t								
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer		5				33			6		t	
White-tailed Deer	7	11	t	2		20	3	1	14		t	2
Deer species						1						
Moose				t					t		1	
Elk				t								
Pronghorn								c				
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	11	27	16	31	4	64	9	49	27	2	5	10
Total species seen/heard	2	4	1	3	3	7	2	10	7	2	3	5
Total species recorded by tracks	5	5	9	11	0	0	1	1	4	1	3	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	2	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	7	9	14	14	3	7	5	13	10	5	8	6

Table 1-7. 39th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2011.

CBC number	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
	Saskatchewan Landing P.P., 30 Dec 2011	Saskatchewan River Forks, 17 Dec 2011										
SPECIES												
Shrew species	1	t		t								
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail							t		2			
Snowshoe Hare		t	6	c		t				1		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1			c			t				2	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel									1			
Eastern Grey Squirrel			1						21			
Eastern Fox Squirrel											12	
American Red Squirrel		16	4	7		6	3	3		6		
Northern Flying-Squirrel										4		
Northern Pocket Gopher												
American Beaver												
Deer Mouse		t	t	t							1	
Muskrat			2									
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole			4	t					1			
Vole species		t										
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
Mouse species	t		t					t				
American Porcupine		t	t				t					
Coyote	2	3	3	t	1		2	2	1	5	8	
Gray Wolf		t		t						t		
Red Fox		t	t				1		c		4	
Raccoon	t					t				1		
American Marten		t										
Fisher		t										
Ermine		t		c								
Long-tailed Weasel		t				t						
Least Weasel			1			t						
Weasel species	t											
American Mink			t						1	t		
American Badger	c	d			d				d			
Striped Skunk									s			
River Otter							m					
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer	9		4		4		6		14			16
White-tailed Deer	5	t	40	c	9	4	9	6	32	15	9	
Deer species												
Moose	2			c			3			t		c
Elk		t		t						t		
Pronghorn	15								3			35
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	35	19	65	7	14	10	24	11	76	32	36	51
Total species seen/heard	7	2	9	1	3	2	6	3	9	6	6	2
Total species recorded by tracks	3	13	6	6	0	4	4	1	0	4	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total species count period and day	11	16	13	12	4	6	11	4	12	10	6	3

