
MAMMALS

40th ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2012

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It is hard to believe that 40 years has passed since the late Wayne Harris had the brilliant idea of adding a Christmas Mammal Count (CMC) to the Christmas Bird Count. A wealth of data has since been acquired with little added effort. This winter's 85 Christmas Mammal Counts brings the all-time total of CMCs conducted to 2756 and the number of mammals counted to over 94,000!

The 3406 mammals seen or heard this winter were about average but much higher than last year's 2384. Most of this was due to the doubling of the White-tailed Deer count from 767 in 2011 to 1421. As with the birds, the average number of mammal species per count set a new record at 4.4. No new species were, however, added to the all-time total of 49 species.

Bison numbers at Grasslands National Park continue to increase from 24 in 2008 to 42 in 2011 to a new record high of 77 this past winter. The 4 Northern Flying Squirrels at Togo tied the previous high also set at Togo in January of 2002 and 2003. Other noteworthy records were an American Marten during the count period south of its usual range at Saskatoon and 31 Pronghorn north of their usual range at Denholm.

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 (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. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Archerhill, 17 Dec 2012	Avonlea, 20 Dec 2012	Balgonie, 5 Jan 2013	Bangor, 3 Jan 2013	Biggar, 27 Dec 2012	Birch Hills, 15 Dec 2012	Borden-Radisson, 20 Dec 2012	Broadview, 26 Dec 2012	Cabri, 3 Jan 2013	Candle Lake, 29 Dec 2012	Cater, 1 Jan 2013	Chatsworth S.D., 5 Jan '13
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species										t		
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail									1			
Snowshoe Hare	1		t			t	t	t		t	1	6
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t		t			t				c
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel												
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1	3					3				
American Red Squirrel	c		1			1	2	5		6	c	1
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver								L		L		
Deer Mouse								t		t		
Muskrat					L	L	L	L				
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												1
Vole species					t		t	t		t		
House Mouse												
Mouse species		1				t						
American Porcupine				1			3	1			c	1
Coyote	c	2	5	3	6	2		4	t	1	1	c
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox			1					2		t	c	
Raccoon						t		t			c	
American Marten												
Fisher										t		
Ermine						t						
Long-tailed Weasel										t		c
Least Weasel						t						
Weasel species	c				t							
American Mink	c									t		
American Badger												6
Striped Skunk				2							m	
River Otter						1				t		
Mountain Lion	c											
Canada Lynx										t		
Mule Deer		4			30		4	10	1			
White-tailed Deer	10	33	22	64	24		3	12	15	10	14	39
Deer species						t						
Moose	c	1		2				9		t	c	
Elk	c							t				
Pronghorn												
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	11	42	32	72	60	4	12	46	17	17	16	54
Total species seen/heard	2	6	5	5	3	3	4	8	3	3	3	6
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	2	0	3	6	2	6	1	11	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0
Species recorded count period	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3
Total species count period and day	9	6	7	5	7	10	7	16	4	15	9	9

Table 1-2. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Christopher Lake, 3 Jan 2013	Churchbridge, 14 Dec 2012	Clark's Crossing, 15 Dec 2012	Codette Lake, 26 Dec 2012	Craven, 15 Dec 2012	Creighton, 29 Dec 2012	Crooked Lake, 21 Dec 2012	Crooked River, 27 Dec 2012	Cypress Hills P.P., 28 Dec 2012	Denholm, 25 Dec 2012	Eastend, 3 Jan 2013	Endeavour, 24 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew					1							
Shrew species												c
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail									t			
Snowshoe Hare	c	t	3	t	t	t	t	m		t		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1				t		1	1	m	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel					1							
Eastern Fox Squirrel					5							
American Red Squirrel	c	2	4	1	5	3	5	4	8	c		
Northern Flying-Squirrel	c									1		
American Beaver		L					L					
Deer Mouse				t			t			c		
Muskrat		L					L					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole										c		
Meadow Vole	4											
Vole species				t	t	t						
House Mouse												
Mouse species			t		t							
American Porcupine			d		1		1			c	1	c
Coyote			11	t	2		4		1	2	c	t
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox	c			1	2	t				t		
Raccoon			t									
American Marten	1											
Fisher												
Ermine					2							
Long-tailed Weasel			t		t			c	t			
Least Weasel				t	t							
Weasel species		t										t
American Mink							2				1	
American Badger				L	1							
Striped Skunk		c				1						
River Otter												
Mountain Lion									t			
Canada Lynx						t						
Mule Deer					30		7			1	29	c
White-tailed Deer	c	9	4	t	31		32	2	20	24	37	2
Deer species												
Moose		t		t			t		t		c	t
Elk				t								
Pronghorn										31		
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	5	11	23	2	81	4	51	6	30	60	68	2
Total species seen/heard	2	2	5	2	11	2	6	2	4	6	4	1
Total species recorded by tracks	0	3	3	8	4	4	4	0	4	2	0	4
Total species otherwise recorded	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Species recorded count period	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	3
Total species count period and day	7	8	9	11	15	6	12	4	8	12	7	8

Table 1-3. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	35	36	38
	Estevan, 31 Dec 2012	Estuary North, 31 Dec 2012	Fenton, 17 Dec 2012	Floral, 20 Dec 2012	Fort Quappelle, 21 Dec 2012	Gardiner Dam, 17 Dec 2012	Good Spirit Lake, 29 Dec 2012	Grandora, 4 Jan 2013	Grasslands N.P., 14 Dec 2012	Harris, 19 Dec 2012	Hazlet, 31 Dec 2012	Indian Head, 27 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species								m				
Eastern Cottontail	2											
Nuttall's Cottontail		3				1					1	
Snowshoe Hare				1	2	t	t			1		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1	5	t	t		t			t	t	t	1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel												
Eastern Fox Squirrel	3											5
American Red Squirrel			11		8		3					19
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver			L				L					
Deer Mouse			t									
Muskrat	L		L				L			L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species	t			t		t				t		1
House Mouse												
Mouse species						t	t	t			t	
American Porcupine					1	2				1		1
Coyote	4	1	t	3	8	6	1	m	9	3	1	6
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox							t	1			t	1
Raccoon					1							
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine			t									
Long-tailed Weasel												
Least Weasel			t							t		
Weasel species				t			t					3
American Mink												
American Badger			d						1		d	
Striped Skunk			t						s			
River Otter												
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer	34	10			2	25			95	19		11
White-tailed Deer		43	5	9	36	46	10	m	23	83		29
Deer species											t	
Moose		3					c					3
Elk												
Pronghorn		6								46		
American Bison									77			
Totals seen/heard on count day	44	71	16	13	58	80	14	1	205	153	2	80
Total species seen/heard	5	7	2	3	7	5	3	1	5	6	2	11
Total species recorded by tracks	1	0	6	3	0	3	4	1	1	3	4	1
Total species otherwise recorded	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	1	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	7	7	11	6	7	8	10	5	7	10	7	12

Table 1-4. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	48	49	50	51	52
	Kenaston, 30 Dec 2012	Kerosee Lake, 16 Dec 2012	Ketchen, 26 Dec 2012	Kilwinning, 14 Dec 2012	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2012	Kinloch, 15 Dec 2012	Kyle, 20 Dec 2012	LMLNWA, 29 Dec 2012	Leader North, 21 Dec 2012	Love-Torch River, 26 Dec 2012	Luseland, 4 Jan 2012	Macdowall, 30 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species				t				1				
Eastern Cottontail		t										
Nuttall's Cottontail							4					
Snowshoe Hare		t				1				t		1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1			t	1		3	c	2		c	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel												
Eastern Fox Squirrel								1				
American Red Squirrel		1	1	3		4				4		5
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver		L	L			L						
Deer Mouse												c
Muskrat		L	L									
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species												
House Mouse												
Mouse species							t		2			
American Porcupine				t			t		1	t	c	1
Coyote	1	2		1	1	t	3	1	2	1	c	
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox	t	1		1							c	
Raccoon	t											
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel	t						1					
Least Weasel												
Weasel species						t						
American Mink						t						
American Badger							d					
Striped Skunk		s										
River Otter												
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx						t						
Mule Deer	8				15		8	17	15		18	
White-tailed Deer	16	8	3	4		13	29	29	22	26	1	3
Deer species												
Moose	2	1	4		c	2	3				c	
Elk			t			8				t		
Pronghorn					10		106					
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	28	13	8	9	27	28	157	49	44	31	19	10
Total species seen/heard	5	5	3	4	4	5	8	5	6	3	2	4
Total species recorded by tracks	3	2	1	3	0	4	2	0	0	3	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	6	0
Total species count period and day	8	10	6	7	5	10	11	6	6	6	8	4

Table 1-5. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
	MacNutt, 5 Jan 2013	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2010	Meadow Lake South, 4 Jan 2013	Moose Jaw, 5 Jan 2013	Moose Mtn P.P., 3 Jan 2013	Morse, 21 Dec 2012	Nipawin, 28 Dec 2012	Nisbet Forest NW, 5 Jan 2013	Nisbet Forest W., 30 Dec 2012	Odessa	Outlook, 26 Dec 2012	Pierce Lake, 15 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species												
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail												
Snowshoe Hare			t				t					
White-tailed Jack Rabbit					t	1	t			4		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel								t				
Eastern Grey Squirrel										2		
Eastern Fox Squirrel				14						3		
American Red Squirrel	2	1	t		1		4		1			1
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver												
Deer Mouse												
Muskrat						1						1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole			t									
Vole species					1							
House Mouse												
Mouse species						t						
American Porcupine		1						d		2		
Coyote	c	1	t	1		4	1	t		6		
Gray Wolf												
Red Fox				1		1		t	2	2		
Raccoon										4		
American Marten												
Fisher			t									
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel						t						
Least Weasel												
Weasel species												
American Mink												
American Badger				1		1				1		
Striped Skunk	1					s				1		
River Otter												t
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer			1	10		15				8	2	
White-tailed Deer	9	43	14			123	22	t		10	7	28
Deer species												
Moose						1				2		4
Elk												
Pronghorn						43						
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	12	46	15	27	2	190	27	0	3	45	9	34
Total species seen/heard	3	4	2	5	2	9	3	0	2	12	2	4
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	5	0	1	2	2	4	0	0	0	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	4	4	7	5	3	12	5	5	2	12	2	5

Table 1-6. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	65	66	67	68	69	70	72	73	74	75	76	77
	Pike Lake, 5 Jan 2013	Prince Albert, 16 Dec 2012	Qu'Appelle, 5 Jan 2013	Qu'Appelle Dam, 16 Dec 2012	Raymore, 1 Jan 2013	Regina, 29 Dec 2012	Roscommon S.D, 31 Dec 2012	Rouleau, 20 Dec 2012	Round Lake (Q.V.), 14 Dec 2012	Saltcoats, 29 Dec 2012	Sask. Landing P.P., 28 Dec 2012	Sask. River Forks, 14 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species		t										t
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail				1							7	
Snowshoe Hare	t	t			c	t	t		t			t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t	1			c	13		3				
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Eastern Grey Squirrel						12		c				
Eastern Fox Squirrel			2	2		43						
American Red Squirrel	17	8			1	1			1	1		3
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver		L							L			
Deer Mouse		t				t						t
Muskrat		L							L			L
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species				1	c						1	t
House Mouse						3						
Mouse species	t				c		t				t	
American Porcupine	1				1	3				2	1	
Coyote	5	3		13	t	10	t	c	2	2	7	t
Gray Wolf												t
Red Fox	t	1				4	1	3	1		1	1
Raccoon									1			
American Marten												
Fisher												t
Ermine		t			c							t
Long-tailed Weasel	1			t								
Least Weasel					c							
Weasel species						t	t					
American Mink												
American Badger					c		d	c				
Striped Skunk		2										t
River Otter												
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												t
Mule Deer	4			24			t		3		42	
White-tailed Deer	9	8		3	8	7	30		18	39	18	5
Deer species												
Moose				3	t		c	c	1		c	
Elk							c					t
Pronghorn												
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	37	23	2	47	10	96	31	6	27	44	77	9
Total species seen/heard	6	6	1	7	3	9	2	2	7	4	7	3
Total species recorded by tracks	4	4	0	1	2	3	5	0	1	0	1	11
Total species otherwise recorded	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	6	0	2	4	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	10	12	1	8	11	12	10	6	10	4	8	15

Table 1-7. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2012	Sawyer Lake, 5 Jan 2013	Shamrock, 2 Jan 2013	Snowden, 5 Jan 2013	Spinney Hill, 17 Dec 2012	Squaw Rapids, 15 Dec 2012	Swift Current, 29 Dec 2012	Togo, 4 Jan 2013	Weyburn, 15 Dec 2012	White Bear, 30 Dec 2012	Whitewood, 23 Dec 2012	Wingard-Ft Carlton, 29 Dec 2012
Masked Shrew												
Shrew species		t										
Eastern Cottontail												
Nuttall's Cottontail							2			2		
Snowshoe Hare	t	t		t		t		2				t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	7	t	4		t		1		t	2		c
Richardson's Ground Squirrel								22				
Eastern Grey Squirrel									22			1
Eastern Fox Squirrel												1
American Red Squirrel	13	4		12	2	6		6				2
Northern Flying-Squirrel		c						4				
American Beaver												L
Deer Mouse		t			t							
Muskrat		c										L
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species												
House Mouse	1											
Mouse species				t		t				t		
American Porcupine	1							2	1		1	c
Coyote	7	t	16		1	1	2	3	1	1	6	
Gray Wolf		t						1				
Red Fox	1	t	t	1			t			2	t	
Raccoon		c										
American Marten	c											
Fisher		t										
Ermine		t		t								
Long-tailed Weasel												
Least Weasel		c										
Weasel species					t	t						
American Mink		c				1	t					
American Badger												d
Striped Skunk								s				s
River Otter		c				7						
Mountain Lion												
Canada Lynx												
Mule Deer	5		97		1		66					1
White-tailed Deer	31	t	10	6	15		34	13	10	20	36	c
Deer species						t						
Moose	1	2		1				3				7
Elk		t						6				4
Pronghorn								3		154		
American Bison												
Totals seen/heard on count day	67	6	127	20	19	15	132	39	33	182	56	2
Total species seen/heard	9	2	4	4	4	4	8	9	3	7	6	2
Total species recorded by tracks	1	11	1	3	3	4	2	0	1	1	2	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0
Species recorded count period	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total species count period and day	11	19	5	7	7	8	11	9	4	8	13	5

Table 1-8. 40th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2012.

CBC number	90								
	Yorkton, 20 Dec 2012	# individuals seen/heard count	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded as tracks	# Counts recorded as other	# Counts, count period	# Counts, count period & count	High count	% Counts seen/heard
Masked Shrew		1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1.0
Shrew species		1	1	5	1	1	8	1	1.0
Eastern Cottontail		2	1	1	0	0	2	2	1.0
Nuttall's Cottontail		22	9	1	0	0	10	7	9.4
Snowshoe Hare		19	10	30	1	2	43	6	10.5
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		53	19	17	1	5	42	13	19.9
Richardson's Ground Squirrel		0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.0
Eastern Grey Squirrel		37	4	0	0	1	5	22	4.2
Eastern Fox Squirrel		108	14	0	0	0	14	43	14.7
American Red Squirrel	3	198	46	1	0	4	51	19	48.3
Northern Flying-Squirrel		5	2	0	0	2	4	4	2.1
American Beaver		0	0	0	12	0	12	0	0.0
Deer Mouse		0	0	10	0	2	12	0	0.0
Muskrat		2	2	0	16	1	19	1	2.1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole		0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.0
Meadow Vole		5	2	1	0	0	3	4	2.1
Vole species		4	4	12	0	1	17	1	4.2
House Mouse		4	2	0	0	0	2	3	2.1
Mouse species		3	2	15	0	1	18	2	2.1
American Porcupine		32	24	3	2	5	34	3	25.2
Coyote		191	52	11	1	6	70	16	54.6
Gray Wolf		1	1	2	0	0	3	1	1.0
Red Fox		32	22	12	0	3	37	4	23.1
Raccoon		6	3	4	0	2	9	4	3.1
American Marten		1	1	0	0	1	2	1	1.0
Fisher		0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0.0
Ermine		2	1	6	0	1	8	2	1.0
Long-tailed Weasel		2	2	7	0	2	11	1	2.1
Least Weasel		0	0	5	0	2	7	0	0.0
Weasel species		3	1	10	0	1	12	3	1.0
American Mink		4	3	3	0	2	8	2	3.1
American Badger		11	6	0	6	2	14	6	6.3
Striped Skunk		7	5	2	6	1	14	2	5.2
River Otter		8	2	2	0	1	5	7	2.1
Mountain Lion		0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0.0
Canada Lynx		0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0.0
Mule Deer		672	36	1	0	1	38	97	37.8
White-tailed Deer		1421	67	3	1	2	73	123	70.3
Deer species		0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0.0
Moose		55	20	7	0	9	36	9	21.0
Elk		18	3	6	0	3	12	8	3.1
Pronghorn		399	8	0	0	0	8	154	8.4
American Bison		77	1	0	0	0	1	77	1.0
Totals seen/heard on count day	3	3406							
Total species seen/heard	1		30						
Total species recorded by tracks	0			27					
Total species otherwise recorded	0				10				
Species recorded count period	0					26			
Total species count period and day	1						38		

