

# 43RD ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2015



Mule deer. Photo Credit: Randy McCulloch

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Eighty-five Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this winter – up four from last year. The 2,458 mammals seen or heard were up 27 per cent over last year's 26-year low of 1,937. The slightly greater coverage notwithstanding, most of the increase was a result of an increase in the numbers of two ungulates: White-tailed deer and pronghorn. White-tailed deer



Moose. Photo Credit: Randy McCulloch

numbers rose from 598 last year to 758 this winter, while pronghorn rose from 66 to 223. Interestingly, mule deer numbers stayed much the same (486 vs 490).

Squirrels did well again this year. The 134 eastern fox squirrels on the Regina count smashed the previous record of 61 set in the Queen City only last winter. Its expansion also continues with the first CMC record from Yorkton. Greenwater set a new high for northern flying squirrels at five, the previous high was four at Togo in 2001, 2002, 2011, 2012 2013, and 2014.

Canids did well too. A pack of four wolves north of Kindersley on December 14 was well south of their usual range in the boreal forest, while a count of 35 coyotes on the Morse count set a new high for the species.

With 11 species seen or heard, Odessa edged out perennial winner and runner-up Indian Head with 10. 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).

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 three, four and five 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. 43rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2015.**

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL, 30 DEC 2015	AVONLEA, 28 DEC 2015	BALGONIE, 3 JAN 2016	BIGGAR, 27 DEC 2015	BIRCH HILLS, 2 JAN 2016	BORDEN -RADISSON, 16 DEC 2015	BRIERCREST, 2 JAN 2016	BROADVIEW, 24 DEC 2015	CATER, 1 JAN 2016	CHATSWORTH S.D., 4 JAN 2016	CHRISTOPHER LAKE, 23 DEC 2015	CHURCHBRIDGE B, 31 DEC 2015	CLARK'S CROSSING, 19 DEC 2015	CORONACH, 20 DEC 2015	CRAVEN, 19 DEC 2015	CREIGHTON, 2 JAN 2016	CROOKED LAKE, 21 DEC 2015	CROOKED RIVER, 29 DEC 2015	CYPRESS HILLS P.P., 30 DEC 2015	DENHOLM, 25 DEC 2015	DORINTOSH, 23 DEC 2015	DUVAL, 3 JAN 2016	EASTEND, 4 JAN 2016
Shrew species					t											t							
Nuttall's Cottontail																	t	t				t	2
Snowshoe Hare				t	t			t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t	t		1		t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	c		5	t			1	t					t	t	t					c		t	
Eastern Grey Squirrel			3												7								
Eastern Fox Squirrel		5	17					5							8								3
American Red Squirrel	3		1		2	2		1	4	4	2	3			6	7	1		4		1		
Northern Flying-Squirrel																				1			
Northern Pocket Gopher																							
American Beaver					L			L	L	L							L				L	L	
Deer Mouse								t															
Muskrat				L	L			L	L								L			L		L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																				1			
Meadow Vole											2												
Vole species				t				t								t	t				t	t	
House Mouse																							
Mouse species			t		t								t		t			t			t	t	
American Porcupine			t																				c
Coyote	c	1	1	1	1		1	1			c	t	1	2	1	t				5	t	2	2
Gray Wolf																t							t
Red Fox	c		1					t	t							c	t		c			t	
Raccoon	c													t									
American Marten	c																						
Fisher																t							
Ermine					t	1		t								t							
Long-tailed Weasel														t	1	t				c		t	
Weasel species	c											t											
American Mink	1				t			t	t						1								1
American Badger																							
Striped Skunk								t															s
River Otter																t							
Mountain Lion																			t				
Canada Lynx																t							
Mule Deer			7	20				t							12				c				57
White-tailed Deer	5	9	5	t	t			t	t	10	t	t	9	38	13		3		9	4	123	4	33
Deer species													t										t
Moose	1		t	t				t	2	8						t				2			1
Elk	t																						
Pronghorn																							
American Bison																							
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	10	15	40	21	3	3	2	7	6	22	4	3	10	40	49	7	4	0	13	14	124	9	96
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	3	8	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	2	2	8	1	2	0	2	6	2	3	6
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	0	3	5	6	0	0	10	5	0	2	4	4	3	3	11	1	4	2	0	3	9	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	3	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	11	3	11	8	10	2	2	15	9	4	5	5	5	5	11	13	5	4	4	11	5	13	7

**Table 1.2. 43rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2015.**

SPECIES	EBENEZER A, 30 DEC 2015	EBENEZER B, 31 DEC 2015	ENDEAVOUR, 21 DEC 2015	ESTEVAN 1 JAN 2016	ESTUARY NORTH, 4 JAN 2016	FENTON, 5 JAN 2016	FLORAL, 15 DEC 2015	FORT QU'APPELLE, 18 DEC 2015	GARDINER DAM, 21 DEC 2015	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE, 31 DEC 2015	GRASSLANDS N.P., 17 DEC 2015	GREENWATER, 3 JAN 2016	GRENFELL, 29 DEC 2015	HARRIS, 14 DEC 2015	HAZLET, 26 DEC 2015	INDIAN HEAD, 28 DEC 2015	KENASTON, 14 DEC 2015	KENOSEE LAKE, 22 DEC 2015	KETCHEN, 26 DEC 2015	KINDERSLEY NORTH, 26 DEC 2015	KINLOCH, 30 DEC 2015	KUTAWAGAN LAKE, 27 DEC 2015	KYLE, 17 DEC 2015	
Shrew species																								
Nuttall's Cottontail					2				t						1									t
Snowshoe Hare	t						t	1	4	1		t	t	2		1		t	t			2		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				t			t		t	t	1		t	t	t		1			t			t	t
Eastern Grey Squirrel																4								
Eastern Fox Squirrel	t			3				c					3			10								
American Red Squirrel	2		1					9	t	3		4	1					4	2			t		
Northern Flying-Squirrel										c			5											
Northern Pocket Gopher																		d						
American Beaver	L							1		L			L					L	L			L		
Deer Mouse				t				c					t	t										
Muskrat	L			L		L	L	1	L	L			L	L		1		L				L		L
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																								
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species	t			t									t					t						t
House Mouse																								
Mouse species									t	t														t
American Porcupine		1	t		2				1	t	1	t		1			t					t		
Coyote	1	2	t	1	1	t	t	c	8	1	3	1	2	6	1	9	t	2	t	1	t	t	1	1
Gray Wolf																					c	t		
Red Fox								c					t	t		5	1	t	1			t		
Raccoon										t			t											
American Marten																								
Fisher			t																					
Ermine																			1			t	t	
Long-tailed Weasel																1								
Weasel species			t							t			t											
American Mink				t						t														
American Badger																d		t						
Striped Skunk								s							s		t	s						
River Otter																								
Mountain Lion																								
Canada Lynx												t										c		
Mule Deer							4	2	17		33			52	17	27	t					4	8	
White-tailed Deer	4	7	6	2	29			7	75	13	11	2	4	20	8	18	t	4	2		7	14	2	
Deer species						t																		t
Moose			c		5					3		t	1			1	t				c		t	
Elk			c									t						t	t			8		
Pronghorn											60					105					c			22
American Bison											1													
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	7	10	7	6	39	0	4	21	105	21	110	12	11	81	132	77	2	10	6	1	17	18	33	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	3	2	3	5	0	1	6	5	5	7	4	5	5	5	10	2	3	4	1	3	2	4	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	3	0	4	4	0	2	3	0	4	6	0	8	5	3	2	0	7	4	3	1	6	4	5	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	4	1	0	2	0	1	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	8	3	8	8	5	3	6	10	10	14	7	12	12	10	8	10	9	11	8	5	12	5	9	

**Table 1.3. 43rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2015.**

SPECIES	LAST MTN. LAKE NWA, 29 DEC 2015	LEADER NORTH, 29 DEC 2015	LOVE-TORCH RIVER, 27 DEC 2015	LUSELAND, 26 DEC 2015	MEADOW LAKE, 26 DEC 2015	MOOSE JAW, 26 DEC 2015	MOOSE MTN. PP., 4 JAN 2016	MORSE, 23 DEC 2015	NIPAWIN, 23 DEC 2015	NISBET FOREST NW., 26 DEC 2015	NISBET FOREST W., 1 JAN 2016	ODESSA, 28 DEC 2015	PIERCE LAKE, 30 DEC 2015	PIKE LAKE, 2 JAN 2016	PONTEIX, 28 DEC 2015	PRINCE ALBERT, 20 DEC 2015	QU'APPELLE, 30 DEC 2015	QU'APPELLE DAM, 20 DEC 2015	RAYMORE, 25 DEC 2015	REGINA, 27 DEC 2015	ROSCOMMON S.D., 28 DEC 2015	ROULEAU, 28 DEC 2015	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.), 14 DEC 2015	
Shrew species			c													t	1							
Nuttall's Cottontail		1															t	3						
Snowshoe Hare			t										t	t		t	t		t	t	t		t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	2	2		1				3				2		t	t		2			42	t			
Eastern Grey Squirrel																				5				
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1					7	1					3					5			134				
American Red Squirrel			10		3		2		9		2	2	14			10					t		4	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																								
Northern Pocket Gopher																			d					
American Beaver						L						1											L	
Deer Mouse			2	2													c						t	
Muskrat								L									L		L				L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole			1														1				6			
Meadow Vole																							t	
Vole species	t							1							t	t				t	t			
House Mouse																					8			
Mouse species								t					t	t	t	3				t				
American Porcupine								1			1	1					t	1			t			
Coyote	2	2	5	7		1	35		m	1	2	t	1	2	1	3	4		2	1	1	1	5	
Gray Wolf			t																					
Red Fox			t		1		c	1	c		1				t		t			t	t		t	
Raccoon											3	5					t					t		
American Marten																								
Fisher																								
Ermine											1						t							
Long-tailed Weasel								t								t								
Weasel species														t									t	
American Mink						c											t			t				
American Badger								d				1				d					d			
Striped Skunk			c					s				1			m		c		s		s			
River Otter													t											
Mountain Lion																								
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer	15	5				1	15					18		2	14	t	3	43		8	6		3	
White-tailed Deer	2	6	34	12	3		39	10	c	t	14	7	6	12	t	11	3	5	3	10		t		
Deer species	t												t		t						t			
Moose												2	t	t			1	1	1		4	3	1	
Elk			t																					
Pronghorn		2																						
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	22	18	52	22	7	9	3	94	20	0	8	50	10	23	28	11	30	55	6	194	35	4	13	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	6	5	4	3	3	2	6	3	0	5	11	3	4	3	2	9	6	2	6	6	2	4	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	4	6	5	9	5	0	1	5	9	0	5	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	0	2	0	2	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	6	6	11	4	3	5	2	11	3	3	6	11	7	9	10	9	16	6	6	10	15	2	11	

**Table 1.4. 43rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2015.**

SPECIES	SASK. LANDING PP., 4 JAN 2016 SASK.	RIVER FORKS, 3 JAN 2016	SASKATOON, 26 DEC 2015	SAWYER LAKE, 26 DEC 2015	SHAMROCK, 28 DEC 2015	SNOWDEN, 4 JAN 2016	SPINNEY HILL, 21 DEC 2015	SQUAW RAPIDS, 31 DEC 2015	SWIFT CURRENT, 19 DEC 2015	THICKWOOD HILLS, 18 DEC 2015	TOGO, 5 JAN 2016	WEYBURN, 19 DEC 2015	WHITE BEAR, 31 DEC 2015	WHITEWOOD, 28 DEC 2015	WINGARD, 4 JAN 2016	YORKTON, 29 DEC 2015	# 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
Shrew species			t	t													1	1	5	0	1	7	1
Nuttall's Cottontail	1								t				1				10	6	7	0	0	13	3
Snowshoe Hare			1	c				t		t	5			4		t	13	8	28	0	1	37	4
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1		1		t				t			1	t	t			64	13	21	0	2	36	42
Eastern Grey Squirrel									40							1	59	5	0	0	0	5	40
Eastern Fox Squirrel												14		8		2	205	14	1	0	1	16	134
American Red Squirrel		6	6	c		9	6	9		2	4			4	1		161	37	3	0	1	41	14
Northern Flying-Squirrel				c							3						6	2	0	0	2	4	5
Northern Pocket Gopher														d			0	0	0	2	0	2	0
American Beaver									c	L				L			2	2	0	16	1	19	1
Deer Mouse			t														4	2	6	0	2	10	2
Muskrat	L	L												L			2	2	0	24	0	26	1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	9	4	0	0	0	4	6
Meadow Vole						t								t			2	1	2	0	0	3	2
Vole species	t		t	t			t	t		t							1	1	22	0	0	23	1
House Mouse						t											8	1	1	0	0	2	8
Mouse species			1	t									t				4	2	16	0	0	18	3
American Porcupine	t						1										11	10	9	0	1	20	2
Coyote	t	2	3	t	6			t	4	t	t	1	5	t		2	149	48	15	1	3	67	35
Gray Wolf				t								t					0	0	6	0	1	7	0
Red Fox	t				2				2	t	3		2	t	1		15	9	17	0	6	32	5
Raccoon																	8	2	5	0	1	8	5
American Marten											1						0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Fisher				t													0	0	3	0	0	3	0
Ermine				t							1						3	3	7	0	0	10	1
Long-tailed Weasel														t			2	2	5	0	1	8	1
Weasel species			1										t				1	1	6	0	1	8	1
American Mink				t					2								5	4	8	0	1	13	2
American Badger					d									d			1	1	1	5	0	7	1
Striped Skunk	m		m											s			1	1	2	10	2	15	1
River Otter				t				t									0	0	4	0	0	4	0
Mountain Lion																	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Canada Lynx																	0	0	2	0	1	3	0
Mule Deer	37				54		t		6		c		13				490	28	4	0	1	33	57
White-tailed Deer	50	2	7	c	2	3	t	3	11	3	22		12	7		t	758	56	11	0	2	69	123
Deer species			t		t			t									0	0	11	0	0	11	0
Moose	t			c							t			t			37	16	10	0	3	29	8
Elk		t		t							8			3	3		8	1	7	0	1	9	8
Pronghorn	19								15				62				223	6	0	0	1	7	105
American Bison																	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	108	10	20	0	64	12	7	12	80	5	47	16	95	26	5	5	2458						
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	3	7	0	4	2	2	2	7	2	8	3	6	5	3	3		32					
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	5	1	4	10	2	2	3	5	2	4	3	0	3	6	0	3			27				
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0			6				
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0					23		
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	12	5	10	14	6	4	5	6	10	7	13	3	9	16	3	6						36	

