

44TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2016

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Eighty-eight Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this winter – three more than last year. The 3,443 mammals seen or heard were up by 40 per cent over the 2,458 animals recorded in 2015. Over half of this change was, however, a result of an increase in the numbers of Mule Deer, which were up from 490 to 1,005. In comparison, White-tailed Deer were only up from 758 to 856.

Several high count records were set or tied. Five Northern Flying Squirrels at Togo tied the high count set last year at Greenwater. Estevan set the record for Eastern Cottontail with 15, the previous high was five at Estevan on January 4, 2010 and January 1, 2014. Two American

Marten at Togo on January 5, 2017 set a new high exceeding singles at Squaw Rapid on the 1986 count, Love in 2000, Togo in 2007 and 2008, Prince Albert National Park in 2009, and Christopher Lake in 2012. Bison are flourishing in Grasslands National Park: 237 were counted, tripling the previous high of 77 in 2012.

With 14 species seen or heard, Odessa bested Togo's 11 for the most species seen or heard on a count. For the ninth 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).

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of CMCs, see the CBC summary that will be provided in the next issue of *Blue Jay*.



White-tailed Jackrabbit.
Photo credit: Randy McCulloch

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 Deer. Photo credit: Randy McCulloch

Table 1. 44th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2016.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 28 DEC 2016	AVONLEA 21 DEC 2016	BALCONIE 2 JAN 2017	BENGOUGH 2 JAN 2017	BIGGAR 27 DEC 2016	BIRCHHILLS 23 DEC 2016	BORDEN - RADISSON 16 DEC 2016	BROADVIEW 29 DEC 2016	CATER 1 JAN 2017	CHATSWORTH S.D. 5 JAN 2017	CHRISTOPHER LAKE 20 DEC 2016	CHURCHBRIDGE A 28 DEC 2016	CHURCHBRIDGE B 31 DEC 2016	CLARK'S CROSSING 17 DEC 2016	CORONACH 18 DEC 2016	CRAVEN 17 DEC 2016	CREIGHTON 30 DEC 2016	CROOKED LAKE 17 DEC 2016	CROOKED RIVER 19 DEC 2016	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 30 DEC 2016	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2016	DUVAL 28 DEC 2016	EASTEND 29 DEC 2016	EBENEZER B 21 DEC 2016	
Shrew species	c					t												t							
Eastern Cottontail																									
Nuttall's Cottontail																	2				1			4	
Snowshoe Hare	t		t		t	t		t	t		t			t		1	t		1			1		2	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1		t			t						1	t			t					t		
Eastern Grey Squirrel			2													2									
Eastern Fox Squirrel		5	16	1				4								4							6		
American Red Squirrel	6					1	2	6	2	4	3	1	2			4	3	4	1	3					
Northern Flying-Squirrel																						1			
Northern Pocket Gopher																									
American Beaver						L		L		L													L		
Deer Mouse	c							t			t											c			
Muskrat					L	L		L	L									L				c	L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																						c			
Meadow Vole											1														
Vole species					t											1	t						t		
House Mouse																									
Mouse species						t									t	t			1				t		
American Porcupine	c						1																		
Coyote	c		1		3	t	7	t		1			1	13	8	6	t	1	1		1	1	9	1	
Gray Wolf																		t							
Red Fox			t		1	t		t			t			2	t	1	1	1			1	t	1		
Raccoon	t															m									
American Marten											1														
Fisher								t																	
Ermine						t		t								t					1	t			
Long-tailed Weasel						t		t		t													t		
Weasel species																		t						t	
American Mink	1				1								t		t										
American Badger	1		t			t												t						1	
Striped Skunk																									
River Otter						t								1											
Mountain Lion								t										t							
Canada Lynx																		t							
Mule Deer			38	21	16		1	4	1					12	63	19		2			c		206		
White-tailed Deer	7	7	4	14	9		8	t	4	19	t		c	26	4	45		7	8	12	7	10	42	2	
Deer species						t																			
Moose	2						2	1					c				t	1		2	1	c		6	
Elk	c																								
Pronghorn																									
American Bison																									
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	17	12	62	36	30	1	21	15	7	24	5	1	3	55	75	85	4	16	12	18	13	17	262	12	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	2	6	3	5	1	6	4	3	3	3	1	2	6	3	10	2	6	5	4	7	3	5	5	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	2	0	3	0	3	10	0	10	1	1	4	0	1	1	4	2	9	2	0	0	0	6	1	0	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	12	2	9	3	9	13	6	16	5	5	7	1	5	7	7	12	11	9	5	4	11	12	6	5	

SPECIES	ENDEAVOUR 2 JAN 2017	ESTEVAN 1 JAN 2017	ESTUARY NORTH 2 JAN 2017	FENTON 2 JAN 2017	FLORAL 22 DEC 2016	FORT QU'APPELLE 17 DEC 2016	GARDINER DAM 19 DEC 2016	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 2 JAN 2017	GRASSLANDS N.P. 16 DEC 2016	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2017	HARRIS 15 DEC 2016	HAZLET 22 DEC 2016	INDIAN HEAD 28 DEC 2016	KENASTON 20 DEC 2016	KENOSEE LAKE 23 DEC 2016	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2016	KILWINNING 19 DEC 2016	KINDERSLEY NORTH 27 DEC 2016	KINLOCH 30 DEC 2016	KUTAWAGAN LAKE 2 JAN 2017	KYLE 30 DEC 2016	LA RONGE 26 DEC 2016	LAST MTN. LAKE NWA 1 JAN 2017	LEADER NORTH 30 DEC 2016
Shrew species																c								
Eastern Cottontail		15																						
Nuttall's Cottontail			6				3		6													5		
Snowshoe Hare					t		3			t	2								2			c		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		2			2		t	1	1		t			t				t	c	t	1		1	2
Eastern Grey Squirrel																								
Eastern Fox Squirrel						3	1						2											
American Red Squirrel	3			3		14		4		7			13		4	1	6		2				1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																						c		
Northern Pocket Gopher																								
American Beaver							1	L						L	L	L			L					
Deer Mouse																								
Muskrat				L	1		L	L			L			L	L			L		L			1	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																								
Meadow Vole			2		1		2	t							t									
Vole species		t		t							t											t		t
House Mouse																								
Mouse species	t											t			t							t		2
American Porcupine	1	c	1			1		t						c			1		t					
Coyote		5	4	t		4	5		6	t	1	t	5	t	t	2	1	2	2	1	5	c	5	2
Gray Wolf																								
Red Fox	2			1		1		t		t			3	1	t	t			t	3				
Raccoon														t										
American Marten																								
Fisher	1																							
Ermine							t																	
Long-tailed Weasel															t									
Weasel species				t															t					
American Mink																								
American Badger																								
Striped Skunk					d							d								d				
River Otter														t			s							
Mountain Lion																						c		
Canada Lynx																								
Mule Deer		56	32			11	6		135		45		47	t				7	12	31	18			6
White-tailed Deer		5	27		1	22	38	23	29	7	18	m	15	2	4		t			1	29		12	16
Deer species	4			t												t				1				
Moose	t	1	3					8		1			2	c		t			4		t			2
Elk	t									t						t			t					
Pronghorn			30									65									c			32
American Bison									237															
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	11	84	105	4	5	56	56	39	414	15	66	65	87	3	8	3	8	9	23	36	58	0	20	62
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	6	8	2	4	7	7	5	6	3	4	1	7	2	2	2	3	2	6	4	5	0	5	7
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	3	1	0	4	1	0	1	4	0	4	2	2	0	6	4	4	1	1	4	1	3	0	2	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	8	8	8	7	6	7	9	11	6	7	7	5	7	12	7	8	5	4	11	7	9	4	7	7

SPECIES	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2016	LUSELAND 26 DEC 2016	MARTINEAU RIVER 27 DEC 2016	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2016	MOOSE JAW 20 DEC 2016	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 27 DEC 2016	MORSE 18 DEC 2016	NIPAWIN 27 DEC 2016	NISBET FOREST WEST 28 DEC 2016	ODESSA 27 DEC 2016	PIKE LAKE 2 JAN 2017	PONTEIX 17 DEC 2016	PRINCE ALBERT 18 DEC 2016	PRINCE ALBERT N.P. 27 DEC 2016	QU'APPELLE 28 DEC 2016	QU'APPELLE DAM 18 DEC 2016	RAYMORE 25 DEC 2016	REGINA 26 DEC 2016	ROSCOMMON S.D. 28 DEC 2016	ROULEAU 21 DEC 2016	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 19 DEC 2016	SALT COATS 26 DEC 2016	SK LANDING P.P. 18 DEC 2016	SK RIVER FORKS 19 DEC 2016	
Shrew species	t																		t						
Eastern Cottontail																									
Nuttall's Cottontail															2								3		
Snowshoe Hare	1			t					2	7		t		t	t	c	t	t		t	t	1		t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		2					1		6	t	m			t				12	t	m	t		t		
Eastern Grey Squirrel									2									2							
Eastern Fox Squirrel					31				4					9	3		72	1				2			
American Red Squirrel	14		5	3		1		7	4		8		28	12		2	1		t		1			9	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																									
Northern Pocket Gopher																									
American Beaver					1								L				L							L	
Deer Mouse							1							c										t	
Muskrat							L						L		L		L	1			L		L	L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																									
Meadow Vole										t								2							
Vole species	1						1			t			2		t	t			t	t			2	t	
House Mouse																		1	7						
Mouse species										t	t	t							t						
American Porcupine	t								2						c										
Coyote	2	3		2	2		18		3	6	t	6		1	1	t	2	t	t	4	6		t	t	
Gray Wolf	t		t																						
Red Fox	1	1	t						2	1	t	5	t	1					t	1		1	t	t	
Raccoon									3						t				t						
American Marten																									
Fisher																									
Ermine	t												t		c										
Long-tailed Weasel	t																							t	
Weasel species	t																								
American Mink									3											t					
American Badger																					1				
Striped Skunk							d		1										d						
River Otter							s		2		s				s				t						
Mountain Lion																									
Canada Lynx																									
Mule Deer		13			5		40		12	4	9				24	10			t				35		
White-tailed Deer	35	4	1	t			86	13	c	9	12	26	14	1	5		30	8	3		t		10	t	
Deer species		7																							
Moose									3	t					c	4	c		2	1	1			t	
Elk	t													20										t	
Pronghorn							18					10							c						
American Bison																									
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	54	30	6	5	39	1	165	20	4	54	38	45	55	33	16	36	41	100	13	6	9	4	50	9	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	6	6	2	2	4	1	7	2	1	14	6	3	5	3	4	6	3	8	4	3	4	3	4	1	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	7	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	3	1	4	2	1	1	12	1	3	0	3	9		
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	13	5	4	4	4	1	10	2	2	14	9	8	9	4	14	8	8	10	16	5	8	3	8	12	

SPECIES	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2016	SAWYER LAKE 28 DEC 2016	SHAMROCK 28 DEC 2016	SNOWDEN 3 JAN 2017	SPINNEY HILL 29 DEC 2016	SQUAW RAPIDS 30 DEC 2016	SWIFT CURRENT 21 DEC 2016	THICKWOOD HILLS- SPRITWOOD 17 DEC 2016	TOGO 5 JAN 2017	TURTLE LAKE 22 DEC 2016	TURTLEFORD 29 DEC 2016	WEYBURN 17 DEC 2016	WHITE BEAR 1 JAN 2017	WHITEWOOD 30 DEC 2016	WINGARD 26 DEC 2016	YORKTON 31 DEC 2016	# 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						0	0	6	0	2	8	0
Eastern Cottontail																	15	1	0	0	0	1	15
Nuttall's Cottontail							2						1				35	11	0	0	0	11	6
Snowshoe Hare	2	t		t		t		t	10		2			2			39	15	23	0	2	40	10
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	7						1						t	1		t	42	16	17	2	1	36	12
Eastern Grey Squirrel							29									1	38	6	0	0	0	6	29
Eastern Fox Squirrel												6		13			183	18	0	0	0	18	72
American Red Squirrel	8	3		8	4	12		1	1	3	2			11	1	1	250	50	1	0	0	51	28
Northern Flying-Squirrel		c							5								6	2	0	0	2	4	5
Northern Pocket Gopher											d						0	0	0	1	0	1	0
American Beaver						L		L			L			L			2	2	0	16	0	18	1
Deer Mouse											T						1	1	4	0	3	8	1
Muskrat	1	c				L					1			L			5	5	0	23	2	30	1
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Meadow Vole	1		1											1			11	8	3	0	0	11	2
Vole species		t				t		t			t						7	5	18	0	0	23	2
House Mouse							1										9	3	0	0	0	3	7
Mouse species		t	t	t									t				3	2	17	0	0	19	2
American Porcupine	d				t			1				1					9	8	4	1	4	17	2
Coyote	2	t	5		1	t	1	1	5		4	1	4	2		1	187	53	15	0	2	70	18
Gray Wolf		t				t			4								4	1	5	0	0	6	4
Red Fox	1	c	t				t	1	1		3	3		c			41	26	19	0	2	47	5
Raccoon			t														3	1	5	1	0	7	3
American Marten						t			2								3	2	1	0	0	3	2
Fisher		c															1	1	1	0	1	3	1
Ermine	1	t								t							2	2	9	0	1	12	1
Long-tailed Weasel								1									1	1	7	0	0	8	1
Weasel species						t											0	0	6	0	0	6	0
American Mink																	5	3	3	0	0	6	3
American Badger	t	c															3	3	4	0	1	8	1
Striped Skunk			d				d										1	1	0	7	0	8	1
River Otter															s		3	2	3	5	0	10	2
Mountain Lion		c				1					t						1	1	3	0	2	6	1
Canada Lynx																	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Mule Deer		c	39				4				9	2	10				1005	37	2	0	2	41	206
White-tailed Deer	28	t		3	7		15	25	16	3	1	12		t		5	856	59	8	1	2	70	86
Deer species						t											12	3	4	0	0	7	7
Moose		c						1	9		7			t			64	22	7	0	6	35	9
Elk		t							109								129	2	7	0	1	10	109
Pronghorn													75				230	6	0	0	2	8	75
American Bison																	237	1	0	0	0	1	237
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	51	3	45	11	12	13	53	30	163	6	29	25	90	30	1	8	3443						
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	9	1	3	2	3	2	7	6	11	2	8	6	4	6	1	4		32					
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	9	3	2	1	7	1	2	0	1	4	0	2	2	0	1			24				
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	1	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	1				9			
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0					19		
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	11	17	6	4	4	11	9	9	11	3	14	6	6	11	1	6							37