

# 46TH SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2018

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Eighty-three Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this past winter — the same number as last year. Even as the Christmas Bird Count was one of the duller of the century, the Christmas Mammal Count was one of the most interesting.

The 3,434 mammals seen or heard was only 14 fewer than the 3,448 recorded last winter. For the first time ever, more Mule Deer were recorded than White-tailed Deer (1,016 versus 948). Both species declined in numbers over 2017-18, but the difference was that the number of White-tails dropped drastically from 1,401 animals; the Mule Deer only slightly from 1,105 individuals.

Eastern Fox Squirrels continue to increase their numbers with a record high count of 130 at Regina, and a record provincial high of 243. They continue to work their way north along the South Saskatchewan River with three showing up on the Gardiner Dam count; it won't be long before they hit Outlook, then on to Saskatoon. It will be interesting to see how far north they will go. The 47 Eastern Grey Squirrels at Swift Current was a record high count for that species.

Other noteworthy records were a Fisher at Indian Head, a Gray Wolf at Kenaston and three at Saltcoats, and Cougars at Indian Head and Weyburn. Last year, I warned of the impending appearance of Wild Boar, and this year ominous evidence of its occurrence — admittedly only the basis of tracks — came from the Pike Lake Count.

With 16 species seen or heard, Indian Head led the way for the most species seen or heard on a count. For the 11th 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 three others recorded only on the basis of tracks).

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of Christmas Mammal Counts, see the Christmas Bird Count 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. 🦌



Mule Deer. Photo Credit: Nick Saunders

**TABLE 1. 46th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2018.**

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 27 DEC 2018	AVONLEA 2 JAN 2019	BALGONIE 5 JAN 2019	BIGGAR 20 DEC 2018	BIRCH HILLS 4 JAN 2019	BORDEN - RADISSON 21 DEC 2018	BROADVIEW 28 DEC 2018	CANDLE LAKE 5 JAN 2019	CATER 3 JAN 2019	CHATSWORTH 4 JAN 2019	CHURCHBRIDGE B 5 JAN 2019	CLARK'S CROSSING 15 DEC 2018	GRAVEN 15 DEC 2018	CROOKED LAKE 2 JAN 2019	CROOKED RIVER 27 DEC 2018	CYPRESS HILLS PP. 28 DEC 2018	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2018	DORINTOSH 22 DEC 2018	DUNDURN 22 DEC 2018	DUVAL 23 DEC 2018	E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 3 JAN 2019	EASTEND 3 JAN 2019	EBENEZER B 5 JAN 2019
Shrew species									t			1											
Eastern Cottontail																							
Nuttall's Cottontail																1				t			5
Snowshoe Hare	c			t	t	1	t				1						1	t	t	t	t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1	t			t					t	t									1	2
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																							2
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog																							
Eastern Grey Squirrel										1													
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1	23				4						21							4			
American Red Squirrel	6		1	1	d	6	2	20	7	4	3	2	10	5		7	1	2		t	11		
Northern Flying-Squirrel											c						1						
Northern Pocket Gopher																							
American Beaver							L			L				L				L		L			
Deer Mouse			t				t																t
Muskrat				L																L			
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	2	L					
Meadow Vole							t																
Vole species				t									2						c			t	
Norway Rat																							
Mouse species	t												t		2				t		t		
American Porcupine	c		t				1												c	1			
Coyote	c		7	3	1		3	m		3	t	2	4		t	2	3	t	t	t	t	2	2
Gray Wolf								t															
Red Fox			1				t		c							t	3	t	t		t		
Raccoon																							
American Marten																							
Fisher																			c				
Ermine																							
Long-tailed Weasel							t																
Least Weasel							t						1			t							
Weasel species	c			t	t						t											t	t
American Mink	c						t															t	
American Badger				d	d													d					
Striped Skunk	c																						
River Otter																			t			t	
Mountain Lion																							
Canada Lynx								1															
Wild Boar																							
Mule Deer			9	28		1	21					11	41			3	1	c	15	30		92	
White-tailed Deer	2	3	19	1	t		8	16			5	12	21	2	t	15	9	15	5	9	4	62	4
Deer species									t														
Moose	1						t			t	1							t				1	2
Elk																					t		
Pronghorn																							
American Bison																							
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	9	4	61	33	1	8	39	37	7	8	10	28	100	7	2	28	21	17	21	43	15	163	12
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	2	7	4	1	3	6	3	1	3	4	5	7	2	1	5	8	2	3	3	2	6	5
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	0	2	4	3	0	9	1	2	1	2	1	2	0	2	2	0	7	3	6	7	2	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	10	2	9	10	6	3	16	5	4	6	6	6	8	3	3	7	9	14	6	11	9	8	5

SPECIES	ENDEAVOUR 23 DEC 2018	ESTEVA 30 DEC 2018	ESTUARY NORTH 27 DEC 2018	FENTON 4 JAN 2019	FLORAL 14 DEC 2018	FORT QU'APPELLE 14 DEC 2018	GARDINERDAM 7 DEC 2018	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 4 JAN 2019	GRASLANDS N.P. 12 DEC 2018	GRAYSON 27 DEC 2018	GRENFELL 5 JAN 2019	HARRIS 19 DEC 2018	HUDSON BAY 29C 2018	INDIAN HEAD 27 DEC 2018	KENASTON 15 DEC 2018	KENOSEE LAKE 27 DEC 2018	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2018	KINLOCH 27 DEC 2019	KUTAWAGAN LAKE 4 JAN 2019	KYLE 29 DEC 2018	LAC LA PLONGE 28 DEC 2018	LA RONGE 22 DEC 2018	LMLNWA 5 JAN 2019	
Shrew species																								t
Eastern Cottontail		9																						
Nuttall's Cottontail			3				4	2								t				3				
Snowshoe Hare	1				t	c		t			t		t	1		t						t	1	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t	1		t		t	t	1		t	t		1	t				t	t	t			t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel									1															
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog									55															
Eastern Grey Squirrel																								
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1	2				2	3				2		2	6										2
American Red Squirrel				1		13		2	5		1		1	14		1		11					4	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																								
Northern Pocket Gopher								d																
American Beaver								L								L	L	L						
Deer Mouse						c					t			1									t	t
Muskrat												L							L			L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																								
Meadow Vole																								
Vole species							t	t				t				t								t
Norway Rat																								
Mouse species								t					t		t	t				t				t
American Porcupine	1				1		m	t	1				d	1					t					
Coyote	1	1	1	t	3	1	9	t	17		1	5	t	5	4	1	2	t	t	6	1		4	
Gray Wolf															1									
Red Fox								t			t	1		2	t	t	t	t	t					t
Raccoon									1						1		2							t
American Marten																								
Fisher														1					t					
Ermine				t		c								1										t
Long-tailed Weasel															t									
Least Weasel	1																							t
Weasel species								t								t			t					
American Mink	1					1		t							t				t					
American Badger		d										d		1	d									
Striped Skunk															1									
River Otter						c								1										2
Mountain Lion														1										
Canada Lynx																								
Wild Boar																								
Mule Deer		12	37				38	87			43		36	3					56	30	t		17	
White-tailed Deer	4		109	t	4	15	43	18	57		4	28	12	18	2	8	1	22	4	50				
Deer species																								
Moose	8		11					t						15					2		1			
Elk																	t	1				1		
Pronghorn			6						102												178			
American Bison																								
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	18	24	168	1	8	32	97	20	329	0	8	77	15	105	12	10	5	36	60	268	2	7	23	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	8	4	7	1	3	5	5	2	11	0	4	4	3	16	6	3	3	4	2	6	2	3	3	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	0	3	2	0	2	10	0	0	4	2	3	0	5	6	2	8	3	2	2	1	9	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	8	6	7	4	5	9	8	14	11	0	8	8	7	16	12	9	6	13	5	8	5	4	11	

SPECIES	LERROY 5 JAN 2019	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2018	LUSELAND 22 DEC 2019	MARTINEAU RIVER 21 DEC 2018	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2018	MELFORT 22 DEC 2018	MOOSE JAW 22 DEC 2018	MOOSE MOUNTAIN PP. 29 DEC 2018	MORSE 16 DEC 2018	NICOLLE FLATS 19 DEC 2018	NIPAWIN 26 DEC 2018	NISBET FOREST NW 26 DEC 2018	NISBET FOREST WEST 29 DEC 2018	ODESSA 29 DEC 2018	OUTLOOK 26 DEC 2018	PIKE LAKE 5 JAN 2019	PRINCE ALBERT 16 DEC 2018	QU'APPELLE 28 DEC 2018	QU'APPELLE DAM 16 DEC 2018	RAYMORE 25 DEC 2019	REGINA 29 DEC 2018	ROSCOMMON S.D. 2 JAN 2019	ROULEAU 17 DEC 2018
Shrew species																		1					
Eastern Cottontail																							
Nuttall's Cottontail																			10				
Snowshoe Hare		t								1		t	2		4		3			t	t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t	t							3			t	4	t					c	20	t		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												1											
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog																							
Eastern Grey Squirrel													2										
Eastern Fox Squirrel	t						16			2			4				10	1	1	130	c		
American Red Squirrel	t	14		6				3			10		t			14	12		1		c		
Northern Flying-Squirrel																							
Northern Pocket Gopher																							
American Beaver		t								L		L					L	L		L	L		
Deer Mouse										t								c			t	1 1	
Muskrat	L								L								L						
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																		c					
Meadow Vole																		c				2	
Vole species												t					t						
Norway Rat																						t	
Mouse species	t																t					t	
American Porcupine		t								t			1							1		t	
Coyote	t	1	1		2			5	7		1		3		6	t	4	3	2	5	t		
Gray Wolf																	t						
Red Fox		1				1		1					2	1				t		1	1	t 1	
Raccoon									m					4								t	
American Marten		1																					
Fisher		t																					
Ermine		t															t	t					
Long-tailed Weasel	t	1											1		1			t					
Least Weasel		t							t									t					
Weasel species										t											t	t	
American Mink																t					1		
American Badger									m								d					d m	
Striped Skunk		s																				t	
River Otter		t		t																			
Mountain Lion																							
Canada Lynx																							
Wild Boar																t							
Mule Deer	2		1				4	61	48	1			20		5		2	100	c	12	9	19	
White-tailed Deer	4	34	2	4	4		10	2	25	19	12	t	3	14	3	16	11	6	39	18	5	10	
Deer species																							
Moose		t	4	t										3	2		t	c	3	2		3	
Elk		1																				t	
Pronghorn								25															
American Bison										20													
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	6	53	8	10	6	1	30	5	120	97	23	2	5	59	5	46	23	26	156	26	174	25	21
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	7	4	2	2	1	3	2	6	6	3	2	2	12	2	6	2	6	6	7	7	5	3
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	6	9	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	3	2	0	1	2	6	4	0	0	3	11	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	1
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	2	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	17	4	4	2	1	3	2	10	10	3	6	4	12	3	8	11	15	6	10	11	19	4

SPECIES	ROUND LAKE (PA) 5 JAN 2019	ROUND LAKE (Q.V) 17 DEC 2018	SALCOATS 18 DEC 2018	SASK LANDING P.P. 20 DEC 2018	SASK. RIVER FORKS 15 DEC 2018	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2018	SAWYER LAKE 24 DEC 2018	SHAMROCK 19 DEC 2018	SHELL LAKE 18 DEC 2018	SWIFT CURRENT 15 DEC 2018	THICKWOOD HILLS SPRITWOOD 21 DEC 2018	TURTLE LAKE 27 DEC 2018	TURTLEFORD 28 DEC 2018	WEYBURN 15 DEC 2018	WHITE BEAR 2 JAN 2019	WHITEWOOD 24 DEC 2018	WINGARD 2 JAN 2019	# INDIVIDUALS SEEN/HEARD COUNT DAY	# COUNTS SEEN/HEARD	# COUNTS RECORDED AS TRACKS	# COUNTS RECORDED AS OTHER	# COUNTS COUNT PERIOD	# COUNTS, COUNT PERIOD & COUNT DAY
Shrew species													c		t			2	2	3	0	1	6
Eastern Cottontail																t		9	1	1	0	0	2
Nuttall's Cottontail				t				1		2					t			31	9	4	0	0	13
Snowshoe Hare					t	2	t		t				1					19	12	21	0	2	35
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				1		3		m		1				23		2		64	14	20	1	1	36
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																		4	3	0	0	0	3
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog																		55	1	0	0	0	1
Eastern Grey Squirrel										47								50	3	0	0	0	3
Eastern Fox Squirrel			4											21		2		264	23	1	0	1	25
American Red Squirrel		1			2	12	t		28		4	5	4			10	1	268	42	4	1	1	48
Northern Flying-Squirrel																		1	1	0	0	1	2
Northern Pocket Gopher													c					0	0	0	1	1	2
American Beaver				L					L		L	L	c			L		0	0	1	20	1	22
Deer Mouse					t								c					3	3	9	0	3	15
Muskrat									L				L	c				0	0	0	10	1	11
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																		2	1	0	1	1	3
Meadow Vole																t		2	1	2	0	1	4
Vole species					t		t						c					2	1	11	0	2	14
Norway Rat																		0	0	1	0	0	1
Mouse species				t											t			2	1	15	0	0	16
American Porcupine					t								1			1		10	10	7	2	2	21
Coyote		2		1	t	1	t	2		1			7	2	t	5		155	47	17	1	1	66
Gray Wolf			3															4	2	3	0	0	5
Red Fox							t		1				1		1	6		25	16	16	0	1	33
Raccoon																1		9	5	2	1	0	8
American Marten																		1	1	0	0	0	1
Fisher							t											1	1	3	0	1	5
Ermine					t		t											1	1	7	0	1	9
Long-tailed Weasel																		3	3	4	0	0	7
Least Weasel																		2	2	6	0	0	8
Weasel species													c			t		0	0	12	0	2	14
American Mink					t					3								6	4	7	0	1	12
American Badger								d		d								1	1	0	12	0	13
Striped Skunk									s									1	1	1	2	1	5
River Otter							t											3	2	5	0	1	8
Mountain Lion														1				2	2	0	0	0	2
Canada Lynx																		1	1	0	0	0	1
Wild Boar																		0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer				13		6		48	1	20	5		10	17	1			1016	43	1	0	2	46
White-tailed Deer				3	7	22	1	7	5	14	8		4	7		18		948	66	4	0	0	70
Deer species																		0	0	1	0	0	1
Moose			t	1	t		t						3	3		t		66	18	11	0	1	30
Elk					t								5			t		8	4	5	0	0	9
Pronghorn														9	53			373	6	0	0	0	6
American Bison																		20	1	0	0	0	1
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	0	3	7	19	9	46	1	58	35	88	17	5	36	83	55	45	1	3434					
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	0	2	2	5	2	6	1	4	4	7	3	1	9	8	3	8	1	36					
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	1	2	9	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0		28				
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0			11			
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0					22	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	0	2	3	8	11	6	10	6	8	8	4	3	16	8	7	14	1						41