

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS, 1973

Compiled by WAYNE HARRIS*

This is the beginning of what I hope will become an annual feature in the *Blue Jay*. This year as usual, a few people submitted mammal observations with their Christmas Bird counts. These observations are normally never used and as these would be a valuable addition to our knowledge of Saskatchewan mammals it is hoped that Christmas Mammal Counts will become as popular as the bird counts.

Although mammals, especially the smaller ones, are seldom observed, this may at least serve as an indicator of population trends in some of our larger mammals.

This year observations were submitted from 8 localities and represented 11 species. The only unusual sighting was that of a Gray Squirrel which was visiting a bird feeder daily at Wauchope. For weather, coverage and participants, please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts elsewhere in this issue.

	Gardiner Dam Dec. 27	Kutawagan Lake Dec. 29	Last Mountain Lake Dec. 15	Luseland Dec. 22	Maidstone Ferry Dec. 22	Paradise Hill - Ministikwan Lake Dec. 24	Raymore Dec. 28	Wauchope Dec. 29
Red Fox			1		*		*	
Coyote	3				1			
Weasel sp.	*				*(5)	*(4)	*(3)	
Link			*					
Oryz					*(1)			
White-tailed Jackrabbit	*	8	1	2	*		2	
Snowshoe Hare				1	8	7	11	
Red Squirrel					3	4		
Gray Squirrel								1
Arctic Skunk			1	1	*(3)			1
White-tailed Deer			*		*	1	8	

* Identified by tracks (number of animals by tracks in parentheses).

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It is the part of wisdom never to revisit a wilderness, for the more golden the land, the more certain that someone has gilded it. *Aldo Leopold*. Sketches from here and there.



Porcupine

Lorne Scott

Porcupine tracks in snow

Lorne Scott

