

# SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1976

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A total of 33 areas recorded 22 species during the count period — an increase of five reporting localities over last year. Several new species were added this year including Elk at two localities, Badger at three and Norway Rat and Pronghorn at one each.

Several species which normally spend the winter hibernating were still active at Christmas — Striped Skunk and Badger. The Badger which relies primarily on rodents and insects for food, may have been stimulated into prolonged activity by the extremely dry fall which resulted in the soil not freezing solid, allowing them to dig into the ground after mice.

White-tailed Jack Rabbits and Snowshoe Hares were very common, with several localities commenting on the large number of Snowshoe Hares present. Snowshoe Hares in particular may be nearing the peak of their pop-

ulation cycle. Coyotes were the most frequently reported species, appearing to be thriving on the rabbit populations.

Conversely the Lynx was reported. Are their populations moving south of the forest because of the high Snowshoe Hare populations in the forest which supply ample food for them there?

For weather, coverage and participants please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts found elsewhere in this issue. Mouse tracks have been recorded under Mouse spp. in the table.

Symbols found in the table are as follows:

- \* Identified by tracks with number of animals by track parentheses.
- + Seen during the count period but not on the count day.
- H Heard only.



White-tailed Jack Rabbit

Lorne S

Species	Asquith — Dec. 31	Biggar — Dec. 24	Duperow-Ruthilda — Jan. 2	Feudal — Dec. 27	Fort Walsh — Dec. 31	Gull Lake — Dec. 30	Harris — Dec. 18	Round Lake — Jan. 1	Broadview — Jan. 1	Duck Lake — Jan. 2	Emma Lake — Dec. 27	Gardiner Dam — Dec. 30	Humboldt — Dec. 25	Indian Head — Dec. 27	Kenaston — Dec. 18	Kindersley — Dec. 26	Kutawagan Lake — Dec. 27	Last Mountain Lake — Jan. 1	Leader — Dec. 30	Leader — Dec. 26	Maidstone Ferry — Dec. 23	Moose Jaw — Dec. 27	Raymore — Dec. 26	Saltcoats — Jan. 2	Skull Creek — Dec. 25	Spirit Lake — Dec. 27	Spring Valley — Jan. 1	Turtle Lake — Dec. 20	Waseca — Dec. 29	Webb — Jan. 1	White Bear — Dec. 31	Whitebeech — Dec. 26	Wynyard — Jan. 10	Total Counts		
Shrew spp	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Red Fox	*	1	+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Coyote	—	*	*	—	20	—	*	*	*(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24
Ermine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Least Weasel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Long-tailed Weasel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Weasel spp	—	*	*	*	*	—	*	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
Mink	—	—	—	—	*	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Striped Skunk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Badger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	—	*	2	—	*	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Snowshoe Hare	—	1	*	1	—	—	*	*	1	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Nuttall's Cottontail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Red Squirrel	*	—	—	—	87	—	*	3	H	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13
Beaver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meadow Vole	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mouse spp	*	—	*	—	—	—	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Muskkrat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Norway Rat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Porcupine	+	1	—	—	—	—	*	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Elk	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Mule Deer	—	*	*	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
White-tailed Deer	*	*	—	—	15	—	11	*	4	*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
Moose	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pronghorn	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total Species	5	8	7	2	8	1	6	9	6	4	3	4	9	13	7	3	4	8	4	3	3	6	9	8	5	1	9	7	5	8	6	6	6	6	—	1