

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1977

Compiled by WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 93, Raymore, Saskatchewan S0A 3J0

A total of 41 counts were taken this year, recording 24 species during the count period. The number of counts continues to increase — up 8 from the 33 reporting last year. Two new species were added this year — a set of Fisher tracks was seen in Prince Albert National Park, and at Raymore a freshly dead Gapper's Red-backed Mouse was found.

Aside from the new species, several interesting trends can be noted in the table. White-tailed Deer populations have continued to rise with last winter's mild weather and lack of snow being the probable explanation. A herd of over 200 Pronghorns in the Skull Creek area and reports from Leader and Eastend-Ravenscrag seem to indicate that they also did well last winter. Snowshoe Hare numbers have remained high, as have the White-tailed Jack Rabbit.

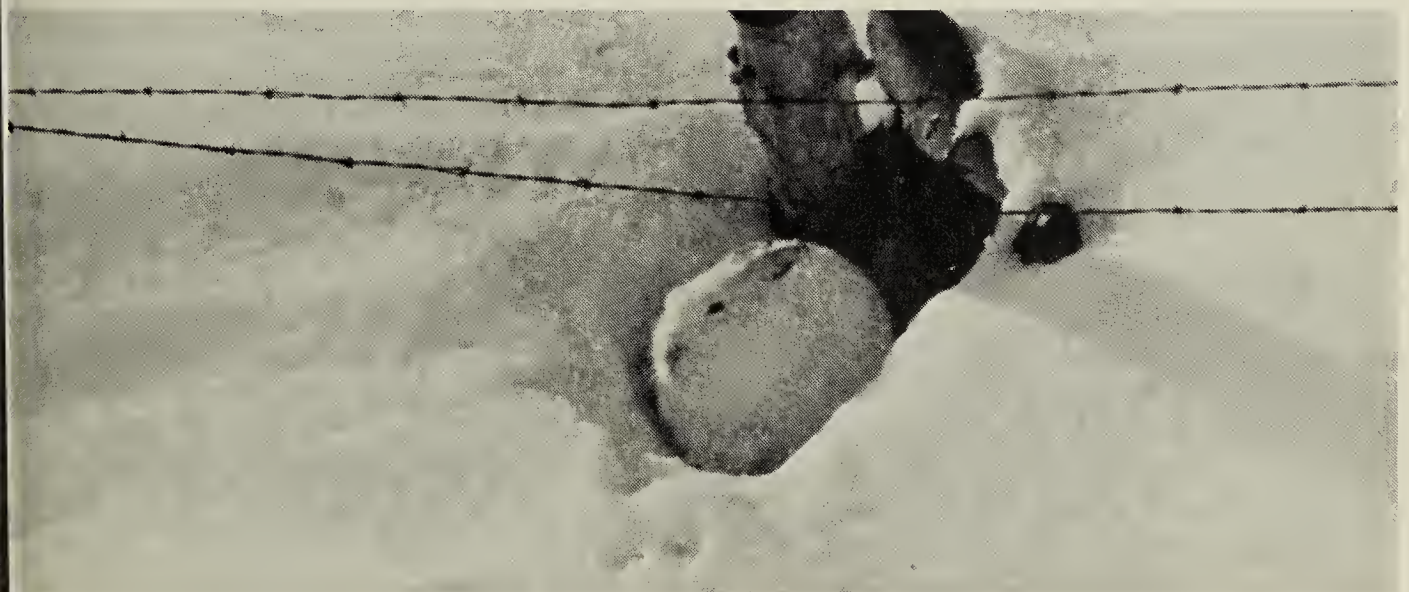
Both Red Fox and Coyote have shown sharp decreases in numbers. With one of their main winter food sources, the rabbits, being high in numbers, this is surprising. However, several people commented on both of these species being taken by snowmobile operators. Thus it would

appear that Fox and Coyote populations fluctuate more in relation to fur prices than to food supply, as reflected by the high prices being paid last year for these species. If this is true, populations should be even lower next Christmas, as the prices are continuing very high.

The Lynx was again unreported this year, yet their food supply, the Snowshoe Hare, is common in most areas of the northern forest. Even trappers in the north are apparently finding Lynx to be few and far between. As last year, both the Badger and Striped Skunk were reported, indicating that they may regularly remain active to the end of December.

For weather, coverage and participants, please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts found elsewhere in this issue. Symbols found in the table are as follows:

- * Identified by tracks with the number of animals estimated in parentheses.
- + Seen during the count period but not on count day.
- L Active lodges seen, with number of active lodges in parentheses.
- D Freshly dead animal found.



White-tailed Jack Rabbit

Larry A. Morgotch

| | Red Fox | Coyote | Timber Wolf | Fisher | Ermine | Least Weasel | Long-tailed Weasel | Weasel sp. | Mink | Striped Skunk | Badger | White-tailed Jack Rabbit | Snowshoe Hare | Nuttall's Cottontail | Red Squirrel | Beaver | Deer Mouse | Capper's Red-backed Mouse | Meadow Vole | Mouse sp. | Porcupine | Elk | Mule Deer | White-tailed Deer | Moose | Pronghorn | Total Species |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------------|------------|-------|---------------|--------|--------------------------|---------------|----------------------|--------------|--------|------------|---------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----------|-------------------|-------|-----------|---------------|
| Bangor — Jan. 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Biggar — Dec. 23 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | * (2) | — | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Big Gully Creek — Dec. 23 | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | + | * | — | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 7 |
| Broadview — Dec. 31 | — | 3 | — | — | * (1) | — | * (1) | — | * (1) | — | — | * | * | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 5 | — | — | 9 |
| Candle Lake — Dec. 26 | — | * | * (8) | — | — | — | — | * | * | — | — | — | * | — | 18 | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | * | * | — | 9 |
| Duck Lake — Jan. 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Duperow-Ruthilda — Jan. 2 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | — | — | — | + | * (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (3) | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 7 |
| Eastend-Ravenscrag — Dec. 26 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Eastend-Ravenscrag — Dec. 28 | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | 18 | — | 27 | 6 |
| Feudal — Jan. 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (2) | — | — | — | — | * (5) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Fort Walsh — Dec. 18 | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | 1 | 1 | * | 4 | 48 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | * | 23 | 19 | 1 | — | 12 |
| Gardiner Dam — Dec. 21 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| Glaslyn-Turtleford — Jan. 1 | — | — | * (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | * (3) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (30) | 2 | — | 5 |
| Hafford-Blaine Lake — Dec. 26 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | * | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Humboldt — Jan. 2 | — | * (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | — | — | * (5) | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (6) | — | — | 5 |
| Indian Head — Dec. 18 | + | + | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | + | 3 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (6) | — | — | 6 |
| Kenaston — Dec. 28 | — | * (2) | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Kindersley — Dec. 29 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Kutawagan Lake — Dec. 31 | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 75+ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Langham — Dec. 21 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | + | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Last Mountain Lake — Dec. 29 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 1 | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 5 |
| Leader — Dec. 28 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | 1 | — | — | 3 |
| Luseland — Dec. 21 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Maidstone Bridge — Dec. 22 | — | * | — | — | * | — | * | — | — | — | — | * | * | — | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | 7 |
| Moose Jaw — Dec. 26 | 3 | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 18 | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 9 | — | — | — | 5 |
| North Battleford — Dec. 27 | * (1) | * (1) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (6) | — | — | — | 5 |
| Prince Albert — Dec. 25 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | * | — | — | * | * | — | 13 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | 6 |
| Prince Albert National | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Park — Dec. 29 | 7 | — | — | * (1) | — | — | — | — | 1+ | — | — | — | 1+ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3+ | 11+ | — | 7 |
| Raymore — Dec. 30 | — | * | — | * | * | * | * | — | — | — | — | * | * | — | * | — | — | D (1) | — | — | * | — | — | * | — | — | 10 |
| Round Lake — Jan. 2 | * (2) | 1 | — | — | * (8) | * (3) | — | — | * (2) | * (1) | — | * (1) | 6 | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | * (3) | * (2) | — | 7 | — | — | — | 12 |
| Saltcoats — Dec. 29 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | * (1) | * (1) | — | * (4) | * (35) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | — | — | * (38) | — | — | 6 |
| Saskatoon — Dec. 26 | * | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1+ | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Scott — Dec. 27 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | + | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| Skull Creek — Dec. 30 | * | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | * (2) | — | — | — | * | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | 1 | — | 5 | 20 | — | 200 | 10 |
| Spirit Lake — Dec. 28 | — | * (1) | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 2 | L (2) | — | — | — | 3 | 1 | — | 6 | — | — | 8 | |
| Spring Valley — Dec. 31 | + | + | — | — | — | * | — | — | + | — | — | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 3 | + | — | — | 8 |
| Valley Centre — Dec. 31 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * (1) | — | — | — | 1 | * (2) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Waseca — Dec. 31 | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | — | — | * | — | — | — | 4 |