

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1983

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A total of 55 counts were received this year reporting 32 species during the count period. The number of counts exceeds the previous high of 49 in 1982 and the number of species exceeds the high of 28 recorded in 1978, 1980 and 1982. These new high totals are in spite of the particularly harsh weather during this count period.

Although no new species were added to the Christmas mammal count list there were four species seen only once in the past ten years. These were the Fisher at Prince Albert National Park, Fox Squirrel at Regina, Gray Squirrels at Saskatoon and Northern Flying Squirrel at Good Spirit Lake.

Populations are similar to last year. Lynx were not reported. Only White-tailed Jack Rabbit and Snowshoe Hare show declines over last year. The apparent decline in Red Squirrels may be due to the extremely cold weather rather than a real decrease in population.

The only species for which a noticeable increase occurred is Nuttall's Cottontail, for which more than usual were seen and over a greater range. Is it a coincidence that cottontail numbers seemingly are increasing while hare population decline? Do cottontail populations peak when hares are at their low?

In spite of the cold weather during much of the count period both Striped Skunks and Badgers were active. Is this normal, regardless of weather?

pants on these counts please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts found elsewhere in this issue. Symbols found in the table are as follows:

- * Identified by tracks with estimated number of individuals in parentheses
- † Seen during count period but not on count day
- L Active lodges or huts seen with number in parentheses
- H Species heard but not seen with number in parentheses
- S Presence indicated by odor with number in parentheses
- D Fresh diggings seen
- d Freshly dead animal seen



Porcupine

G.J. Smith

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY	ASSINIBOIA January 3	BANGOR December 24	BIGGAR December 22	BIG GULLY CREEK December 29	BIRCH HILLS December 19	BRIGHTWATER RESERVOIR December 18	BROADVIEW December 28	CROOKED LAKE December 26	DUCK MOUNTAIN PARK January 2	DUVAL December 29	EASTEND December 26
SHREW species					*			*(12)	*(2)			
RACCOON		2										
RED FOX		3			*	*(2)	*(1)				*(2)	
COYOTE					3	1		*(4)	*(2)	*(1)	*(3)	
TIMBER WOLF												
FISHER												
ERMINE		1				*(1)		*(4)				
LEAST WEASEL												
LONG-TAILED WEASEL					1			*(4)	*(2)		*(6)	
WEASEL species					*	*(1)			*(2)	*(3)	*(9)	
MINK					*		*(1)			*(1)		
RIVER OTTER												
STRIPED SKUNK		4									*(1)	
BADGER		2			D(1)							
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		16			2	*(4)	1	*(2)	*(5)		*(14)	6
SNOWSHOE HARE		6		1	1	*(11)		*(44)	*(10)	*(6)	1	
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL												
FOX SQUIRREL												
RED SQUIRREL					4	2		*(10)	6	1		
GRAY SQUIRREL												
N. FLYING SQUIRREL												
BEAVER					L		L			L(4)		
DEER MOUSE												
MEADOW VOLE												
MOUSE species						*(3)	*(5)	*(7)	*(3)	*(12)	*(29)	
MUSKRAT					L							
NORWAY RAT											*(2)	
HOUSE MOUSE												
PORCUPINE				2	2				1			
ELK												
MULE DEER				+	7							28
WHITE-TAILED DEER		15	9	*(10)	3	*(7)		*(18)	*(5)	*(5)	*(3)	13
DEER species							d(1)					
MOOSE										*(2)		
PRONGHORN												
TOTAL SPECIES		8	1	4	14	8	6	10	9	9	9	3

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

ENDEAVOUR January 2	FORT QU'APPELLE December 31	FORT WALSH December 17	GARDINER DAM December 19	GLAMIS - WISETON December 29	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE December 28	GOVENLOCK December 18	GREENWATER LAKE January 1	HUMBOLDT December 26	INDIAN HEAD December 27	KELVINGTON January 1	LOCALITY SPECIES
				* (1)	* (1)						SHREW species
											RACCOON
						3		* (1)	2		RED FOX
* (3)	1	2	1	* (2)	* (1)	4		* (1)	14		COYOTE
											TIMBER WOLF
											FISHER
											ERMINE
*				* (2)				* (2)			LEAST WEASEL
				* (2)					3		LONG-TAILED WEASEL
	* (1)	* (2)	* (1)		* (8)	*					WEASEL species
1	1			* (1)					1		MINK
											RIVER OTTER
											STRIPED SKUNK
						D (1)					BADGER
1		6	5	+	* (5)	7		* (3)	5		WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
*	+			+	* (8)			* (12)			SNOWSHOE HARE
		3	1			4			1		NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
											FOX SQUIRREL
1	7	22			* (1)	H (1)		* (2)	6	1	RED SQUIRREL
											GRAY SQUIRREL
					2						N. FLYING SQUIRREL
					L (1)						BEAVER
	+										DEER MOUSE
	* (1)			*							MEADOW VOLE
		* (2)	* (1)	*	* (6)				* (7)		MOUSE species
											MUSKRAT
											NORWAY RAT
	1										HOUSE MOUSE
	+	2	1		1	2		+			PORCUPINE
* (2)		* (5)					* (6)				ELK
		9	30	+		28					MULE DEER
* (4)	*	39	3		1	2	* (5)	* (10)	36		WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
* (1)		3					* (2)				MOOSE
		1				343					PRONGHORN
9	10	12	8	10	11	10	4	8	9	1	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY	KENASTON December 30	KUTAWAGAN LAKE December 21	LA RONGE December 26	LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE January 2	LEADER January 2	LOON LAKE December 28	LOVE - TORCH RIVER December 31	MAIDSTONE BRIDGE December 28	MELFORT December 29	MOOSE JAW January 2	NIPAWIN December 18
SHREW species												
RACCOON												
RED FOX		* (15)	1	* (1)	*			* (1)	*		3	
COYOTE		* (1)	2		2	2	1	* (10)	2		3	* (5)
TIMBER WOLF												
FISHER												
ERMINE												
LEAST WEASEL		* (1)										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		* (2)									* (1)	
WEASEL species			*	* (4)	*				*			
MINK				* (1)							* (4)	
RIVER OTTER												
STRIPED SKUNK									+		S(1)	
BADGER					D(1)							
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		* (10)	2		1	2			1		* (4)	* (7)
SNOWSHOE HARE				* (8)	*		* (2)		1	2	* (11)	* (1)
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL		+									* (1)	
FOX SQUIRREL												
RED SQUIRREL				2			1		2			
GRAY SQUIRREL												
N. FLYING SQUIRREL												
BEAVER					L(1)				L			
DEER MOUSE												
MEADOW VOLE			1	* (11)								
MOUSE species		*	*		*				*		1	
MUSKRAT			L		L(40)				L			
NORWAY RAT												
HOUSE MOUSE												
PORCUPINE		* (2)	*		*				1			
ELK												
MULE DEER						6	3					
WHITE-TAILED DEER		* (1)		* (2)		3	3	* (24)	4		5	* (5)
DEER species			*		*							
MOOSE							12					
PRONGHORN												
TOTAL SPECIES		9	8	7	11	4	4	5	12	1	10	4

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

NUT MOUNTAIN December 26	PELICAN NARROWS December 26	PIKE LAKE January 2	PRINCE ALBERT January 2	P.A. NATIONAL PARK December 17	RAYMORE December 20	REGINA December 31	ROUND LAKE January 2	ST. WALBURG December 26	SASKATOON December 26	SCOTT December 31	LOCALITY SPECIES
					*	*(1)					SHREW species
											RACCOON
*(3)	+		2	5	*	1	*(6)	1			RED FOX
*(1)		H(2)	H		2		*(12)	2	2	1	COYOTE
	+			2							TIMBER WOLF
				*(1)							FISHER
						*(3)	*(12)				ERMINE
						*(1)	*(5)				LEAST WEASEL
*(1)					1	*(7)	*(18)	1			LONG-TAILED WEASEL
	*(1)	*(2)			1				1		WEASEL species
	+			*(1)	*		*(6)				MINK
											RIVER OTTER
					+						STRIPED SKUNK
					+						BADGER
		*(1)			6	14	*(1)		4	1	WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
*(2)	*(3)	4		*(3)	3		2	*(5)	3		SNOWSHOE HARE
											NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
						+					FOX SQUIRREL
	2	1		2	2		3				RED SQUIRREL
									2		GRAY SQUIRREL
											N. FLYING SQUIRREL
L(1)					L(1)						BEAVER
					2						DEER MOUSE
	+				1	*					MEADOW VOLE
	+	*(19)		*(1)		*	*		*	*(2)	MOUSE species
L(6)	*(1)				L(7)				1		MUSKRAT
					*						NORWAY RAT
					1						HOUSE MOUSE
		1			3	*(1)	4		1		PORCUPINE
				33							ELK
		*(5)									MULE DEER
+				1	5		*(12)	*(3)	2		WHITE-TAILED DEER
		*(5)									DEER species
				*(1)				*(2)			MOOSE
											PRONGHORN
7	8	8	2	10	18	8	12	6	9	3	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY	SKULL CREEK January 3	SPRING VALLEY January 2	SQUAW RAPIDS December 24	SWIFT CURRENT December 17	TISDALE December 29	TONKIN December 31	WAUCHOPE December 26	WHITEBEECH January 1	WHITE BEAR January 1	WOLSELEY SOUTH January 1	YORKTON December 31	TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTS PER SPECIES OR GROUP
SHREW species													6
RACCOON													1
RED FOX			* (3)					* (1)				* (1)	26
COYOTE		* (6)	2	2	2	* (3)			* (1)	11	1	* (1)	41
TIMBER WOLF				*					* (3)				4
FISHER													1
ERMINE													5
LEAST WEASEL			* (1)										7
LONG-TAILED WEASEL			* (1)										14
WEASEL species					* (1)			* (3)	+				21
MINK			* (2)	1			* (3)					* (1)	17
RIVER OTTER				*									1
STRIPED SKUNK													5
BADGER										* (1)			6
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		*	2		5	* (10)	* (3)		*	3	1	* (5)	38
SNOWSHOE HARE									*			* (21)	30
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL		1			* (2)					1			9
FOX SQUIRREL													1
RED SQUIRREL				6					+				23
GRAY SQUIRREL													1
N. FLYING SQUIRREL													1
BEAVER				L									9
DEER MOUSE								* (3)					3
MEADOW VOLE		*											7
MOUSE species					* (5)		* (20)		* (1)			* (10)	27
MUSKRAT			* (1)										9
NORWAY RAT													2
HOUSE MOUSE													2
PORCUPINE				1				1		1	3		22
ELK				*					* (2)				6
MULE DEER		+	* (3)		8					72			15
WHITE-TAILED DEER		12	* (2)	1		* (4)	* (3)	21	* (8)	3			41
DEER species													4
MOOSE				*					* (2)				9
PRONGHORN		+											3
TOTAL SPECIES		7	9	10	6	3	4	5	10	7	3	6	