

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1984

Compiled by WAYNE C. HARRIS, Box 414, Raymore, Saskatchewan.
S0A 3J0

A total of 54 counts were received this year reporting 34 species during the count period. The number of counts is one less than last year's all time high while the 34 species exceeds the previous high of 32 in 1983.

There were no new species reported this year. Unusual or rarely reported species included Fisher at Prince Albert National Park and Squaw Rapids; Fox Squirrel at Regina and Weyburn; Gray Squirrel at Regina; N. Flying Squirrel at Good Spirit Lake and La Ronge and Red-Backed Vole at Good Spirit Lake and Raymore. It is not that the latter two are rare in the province, but that both are difficult to locate. At Good Spirit Lake where both were seen they were visiting a feeder after dark.

Populations were quite stable compared to last year. Only one Lynx was reported as they remain very rare at the low in the Snowshoe Hare cycles. Coyotes were down from last year though some good counts were recorded (i.e. 14 at Pike Lake). Mink were much less evident with only 5 localities reporting this species compared to 17 last year. Snowshoe Hare numbers appear to be even lower than last year, if that's possible!

The only species which showed a significant increase was White-tailed Deer, but they may experience a difficult winter with our early snowfall in October which subsequently has crusted making travel difficult for this species.

One interesting note came from



Long-tailed Weasel Lorne Scott

Ravenscrag - Eastend count where the only Nuttall's Cottontail they were able to find was in the claws of a Great Horned Owl.

For weather, coverage and participants on these counts please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts found elsewhere in this issue. Symbols found in the tables 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
- N nests found with number seen in parentheses
- D fresh diggings seen
- d freshly dead animals seen

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY	ASSINIBOIA January 3	BANGOR December 22	BIGGAR December 22	BIRCH HILLS December 22	CORONACH December 21	CROOKED LAKE December 31	CYPRESS HILLS PROV. PARK December 16	DUCK MT. PROV. PARK December 23	DUVAL December 29	EASTEND December 31	ELBOW December 22
SHREW species												
RACCOON		4										
RED FOX		3		*(1)	*(1)					*(1)		
COYOTE					*(4)		5			*(8)		2
GRAY WOLF												
FISHER												
ERMINE					*(3)							
LEAST WEASEL												
LONG-TAILED WEASEL					*(2)		*(2)					
WEASEL species									*(1)	*(1)		
MINK							*(2)					
RIVER OTTER												
STRIPED SKUNK		2				d(1)						
LYNX												
BADGER		2										
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT		25	1	1	*(2)		*(11)			2	4	
SNOWSHOE HARE		2	1	*(2)	*(36)		*(30)		*(2)	*(3)		
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL												
FOX SQUIRREL												
RED SQUIRREL			1		H(1)		2	8	1			1
GRAY SQUIRREL												
N. FLYING SQUIRREL												
BEAVER												
DEER MOUSE												
MEADOW VOLE												
RED-BACKED VOLE												
MOUSE species					*(22)		*(2)			*(5)		
MUSKRAT												
NORWAY RAT												
HOUSE MOUSE												
PORCUPINE		1		2	1		1		1	1		
ELK									1			
MULE DEER								9			14	2
WHITE-TAILED DEER		14	+	2		11	4	7	8	*(3)	5	6
DEER species												
MOOSE												
PRONGHORN											6	
TOTAL SPECIES		8	4	5	9	2	9	3	6	8	4	4

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

ENDEAVOUR December 25	ESTEVAN December 20	FORT QU'APPELLE December 29	FORT WALSH December 15	GARDINER DAM December 17	GARDINER DAM December 22	GLAMIS-WISETON December 27	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE December 31	GOVENLOCK December 16	HERBERT December 27	HUMBOLDT December 27	LOCALITY SPECIES
									*(1)		SHREW species
											RACCOON
				2				*(1)	*(1)	1	RED FOX
*(1)			3	7			*(6)	4	1	+	COYOTE
											GRAY WOLF
											FISHER
											ERMINE
										*(1)	LEAST WEASEL
						1	1				LONG-TAILED WEASEL
*(1)							*(2)	*(1)			WEASEL species
											MINK
											RIVER OTTER
								*(1)			STRIPED SKUNK
											LYNX
								D(1)		+	BADGER
*(1)			2	16	*(10)	6	*(28)	4	1	2	WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT
				3			*(17)			*(15)	SNOWSHOE HARE
			3	4				7	3		NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
											FOX SQUIRREL
		2	40				3				RED SQUIRREL
											GRAY SQUIRREL
							2				N. FLYING SQUIRREL
							L(1)	L(1)			BEAVER
				1							DEER MOUSE
											MEADOW VOLE
							1				RED-BACKED VOLE
			*(1)				*(4)				MOUSE species
							L(4)				MUSKRAT
											NORWAY RAT
		1									HOUSE MOUSE
*(1)		1	7			1	2	2		1	PORCUPINE
			3								ELK
			47	31				69			MULE DEER
	14	4	66	21	5		4	27	27	*(12)	WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
*(3)			*(2)								MOOSE
								65			PRONGHORN
5	1	4	10	8	2	3	11	12	6	8	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY										
	INDIAN HEAD January 2	KAMSACK December 31	KELVINGTON January 2	KENASTON January 2	KUTAWAGAN LAKE December 31	LA RONGE December 26	LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE January 2	LEADER December 18	LITTLE BEAR LAKE December 24	LOVE-TORCH RIVER January 1	LUSELAND January 2
SHREW species											
RACCOON											
RED FOX	1			*(8)	*(2)	*(4)	*(1)			*(1)	*(6)
COYOTE	1	H			*(4)		1	H(1)		*(3)	*(4)
GRAY WOLF											
FISHER											
ERMINE						*(6)					
LEAST WEASEL			*(2)	*(1)							*(1)
LONG-TAILED WEASEL	2			*(1)							
WEASEL species		*			*(1)		*(1)				
MINK						*(1)					
RIVER OTTER											
STRIPED SKUNK											
LYNX											
BADGER											
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT	6	4		*(1)	4		2	*(1)			4
SNOWSHOE HARE	8				*(1)	1			*(3)		
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL				*(5)				2			
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL	3				2					2	
GRAY SQUIRREL											
N. FLYING SQUIRREL							+				
BEAVER											
DEER MOUSE											
MEADOW VOLE						*(10)					*(3)
RED-BACKED VOLE											
MOUSE species					*(2)		*(7)				
MUSKRAT							L(7)				
NORWAY RAT								d(1)			
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE					2		3				1
ELK											
MULE DEER								12			
WHITE-TAILED DEER	121	4		*(7)	*(3)		22	22			9
DEER species										*(25)	
MOOSE										*(1)	
PRONGHORN											
TOTAL SPECIES	7	4	1	6	8	6	8	6	1	5	7

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

MELFORT January 2	MOOSE JAW December 26	PIKE LAKE December 29	PRINCE ALBERT N. P. December 15	RAVLENSCRAG-EASTEND December 16	RAYMORE January 1	REGINA December 29	ROUND LAKE January 2	SASKATCHEWAN R. FORKS January 2	SASKATOON December 26	SCOTT January 2	LOCALITY SPECIES
					*(3)			*(1)			SHREW species
											RACCOON
1			*(4)		1	*(2)	*(1)	*(1)		*(1)	RED FOX
H	*(1)	14		4	3		*(12)	*(2)	1		COYOTE
											GRAY WOLF
			1								FISHER
					1		*(2)	*(2)			ERMINE
					*(1)		*(4)				LEAST WEASEL
2					1		*(5)				LONG-TAILED WEASEL
		*(1)			*(3)				*(1)	*(4)	WEASEL species
							*(3)				MINK
											RIVER OTTER
					*(1)						STRIPED SKUNK
											LYNX
											BADGER
6	*(7)	*(1)			1	6	1		3	15	WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT
	*(3)	*(3)	1		2	*(1)	*(18)	*(18)	5	*(1)	SNOWSHOE HARE
				d(1)							NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
						*(1)					FOX SQUIRREL
3		2	H(2)	2	1	*(1)	*(15)	H(1)			RED SQUIRREL
						1					GRAY SQUIRREL
											N. FLYING SQUIRREL
L											BEAVER
					2						DEER MOUSE
					2						MEADOW VOLE
					1						RED-BACKED VOLE
	*(1)	*(1)		*(3)	*(18)	*(1)	*(1)	*(1)		*(6)	MOUSE species
*					L(3)				2		MUSKRAT
											NORWAY RAT
											HOUSE MOUSE
					1		2	1	1	1	PORCUPINE
											ELK
				13							MULE DEER
	38	11	*(1)	12	17		5	*(4)	8	*(2)	WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
			*(5)					*(2)			MOOSE
											PRONGHORN
7	5	7	6	6	16	7	12	10	7	7	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY	SKULL CREEK January 2	SQUAW RAPIDS December 23	ST. VICTOR December 22	SWIFT CURRENT December 16	TISDALE December 26	WEYBURN December 23	WHITE BEAR January 2	WHITEBEECH December 31	WOLSELEY January 1	YORKTON December 22	TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTS PER SPECIES OR GROUP
SHREW species			*(1)				*(6)	*(2)				6
RACCOON												1
RED FOX			1		1		*(3)	*(1)		*(1)		27
COYOTE		3	*(4)	1		*(4)		1	*(1)	1		33
GRAY WOLF			*(5)									1
FISHER			*(1)									2
ERMINE												5
LEAST WEASEL		*					*(2)	*(1)				9
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		*				*(1)		*(4)	*(1)	*(1)	*(1)	15
WEASEL species			*(2)									13
MINK		*(4)	*(2)									5
RIVER OTTER			*(1)									1
STRIPED SKUNK							*(1)	*(1)				6
LYNX			*(1)									1
BADGER								+				4
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT		1	*(2)	1	1	*(4)	3	*(10)	+	1	1	41
SNOWSHOE HARE			*(3)				1		*(10)	*(4)	3	28
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL		3			*(5)			5				10
FOX SQUIRREL							N(7)					2
RED SQUIRREL			12									21
GRAY SQUIRREL												1
N. FLYING SQUIRREL												2
BEAVER			L(2)									4
DEER MOUSE												2
MEADOW VOLE		*										4
RED-BACKED VOLE												2
MOUSE species		*	*(9)				*(12)	*(20)				19
MUSKRAT			L(1)									6
NORWAY RAT												1
HOUSE MOUSE												1
PORCUPINE		*(1)	*(1)	d(1)				*(2)				25
ELK			*(20)									3
MULE DEER		16		5	34			62				12
WHITE-TAILED DEER		47	1	5	20	*(4)	6	1	*(10)	*(2)	2	46
DEER species												1
MOOSE			*(3)						*(3)			7
PRONGHORN					5							3
TOTAL SPECIES		10	19	5	6	4	9	13	6	6	4	