

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1985

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A total of 62 counts were received this year reporting 32 species during the count period. The number of counts exceeds the previous high of 55 received in 1983 while the total number of species is two less than the record high reported last year.

There were no new species reported this year. There were, however, several rare species reported. Fox Squirrels were again found at Regina and Weyburn, the latter having seven seen and eight nests found. Both Fisher and River Otter were seen at Prince Albert National Park and a Richardson's Ground Squirrel was found at Moose Jaw. The report of Timber Wolves near Indian Head is well south of the normal range of this species.

From a population viewpoint Mink seem to have recovered from last year's low and were the only species to show a significant increase over last year. Far more species showed decreases including White-tailed Jack Rabbit (down from last year's already decreased populations), Porcupine, White-tailed Deer and Pronghorn. The last two may very well be a result of the severe winter last year, however no plausible explanation can be found for the other two. The White-tailed Deer populations were most notably down in central Saskatchewan and holding their own in the southwest as were Mule Deer, of which 182 individuals were seen on the Fort Walsh count. Very encouraging was the report of 11 Moose at Loon Lake where Moose populations have been quite low for close to 10 years.

For weather, coverage and participants on these counts please refer to the Christmas Bird Counts found 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



Long-tailed Weasel

Lorne Scott

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE										
	ARDATH - OUTLOOK December 20	ASSINIBOIA January 04	BANGOR December 26	BIGGAR December 28	BIG GULLY CREEK January 05	BIRCH HILLS December 23	BRIGHTWATER RESERVOIR December 27	BROMHEAD December 30	CROOKED LAKE December 26	DALMENY December 30	DILKE December 29
SHREW species			*(3)								
RACCOON								+			*
RED FOX		7					*(1)	1	1		
COYOTE	*(2)				2	1	1	+			
TIMBER WOLF											
FISHER											
ERMINE									1		
LEAST WEASEL			1								
LONG-TAILED WEASEL			1								
WEASEL species					*(2)			+			
MINK					*(1)				*(1)		
RIVER OTTER											
STRIPED SKUNK	S(1)	1						*(1)			
BADGER		3	1								
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	1	21			*	*(6)		5			*
SNOWSHOE HARE				2	*	*(3)	1		1	1	
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL											
RICHARD. GROUND SQUIRREL											
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL					17	4			2		
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL											
BEAVER					L(2)						
DEER MOUSE											
MEADOW VOLE								*(2)			*
MOUSE species				*(2)	*	*(1)		*(7)	*(1)	1	
MUSKRAT											
NORWAY RAT											
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE	1							2			*(1)
ELK											
MULE DEER		1			*(7)						
WHITE-TAILED DEER	3	40	*(3)	2	8			77			
DEER species											
MOOSE											
PRONGHORN		8									
TOTAL SPECIES	5	7	5	3	10	6	2	10	5	3	4

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE									
	DUCK MOUNTAIN December 19	DUVAL December 29	EASTEND December 30	ENDEAVOUR December 25	FORT QU'APPELLE December 21	FORT WALSH December 18	GARDINER DAM December 20	GLAMIS - WISETON December 27	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE December 22	GOVENLOCK December 19
SHREW species									+	
RACCOON										
RED FOX	*(2)	*(1)				*(1)		+		1
COYOTE	+	*(1)	*(1)			*(20)	8	*(1)	*(3)	2
TIMBER WOLF										
FISHER										
ERMINE										
LEAST WEASEL				*(5)						
LONG-TAILED WEASEL						+			1	
WEASEL species	*(5)	*(2)				*(1)	*(1)			*
MINK	+			*(1)					+	
RIVER OTTER										
STRIPED SKUNK									+	D(1)
BADGER										1
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		*(3)	2			4	3	*	+	1
SNOWSHOE HARE	*(2)	*(2)		*			*(1)		*(9)	
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL						3	1	1		8
RICHARD. GROUND SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL	H(1)			3	7	42				4
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										1
BEAVER		L(1)			1				L(2)	L(1)
DEER MOUSE	*(1)				+					
MEADOW VOLE					+					
MOUSE species	*(10)	*(2)				*(5)	*(3)		+	*
MUSKRAT		L(3)			+		1		*(2)	
NORWAY RAT										
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE				D(1)		2	2	1	*(3)	1
ELK						14				
MULE DEER			9			182	2			19
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(10)	3	35	*(2)	+	77	3	*(1)	*(9)	41
DEER species										
MOOSE	*(3)			*(2)		*(2)				
PRONGHORN										66
TOTAL SPECIES	9	8	3	8	7	12	10	6	12	12

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

GUERNSEY December 16	HERBERT January 01	HUMBOLDT December 26	INDIAN HEAD December 29	KAMSACK December 18	KENASTON January 03	KINDERSLEY January 01	KINDERSLEY January 01	KUTAWAGAN LAKE January 01	LAKE DIEFENBAKER January 01	LOCALITY & DATE	SPECIES
											SHREW species
											RACCOON
			1		*(15)	+		*(1)		*	RED FOX
1	*(4)	+	4	2	*(2)			*(1)		1	COYOTE
			?3								TIMBER WOLF
											FISHER
								*(3)			ERMINE
			*(1)								LEAST WEASEL
			1	1							LONG-TAILED WEASEL
											WEASEL species
							*(1)				MINK
											RIVER OTTER
					+						STRIPED SKUNK
	*(1)										BADGER
	*(15)	+	21	2	*(5)	*	1	*(3)			WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
		+	5		1		+				SNOWSHOE HARE
	1				*(5)						NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
											RICHARD. GROUND SQUIRREL
											FOX SQUIRREL
			20	2							RED SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
				1							BEAVER
											DEER MOUSE
		1						*(2)			MEADOW VOLE
*											MOUSE species
				1							MUSKRAT
											NORWAY RAT
											HOUSE MOUSE
		*(1)		3		+	+				PORCUPINE
											ELK
	*(3)									1	MULE DEER
		*(2)	18	7						1	WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
				2							MOOSE
											PRONGHORN
1	5	6	9	9	6	3	3	5	6		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE									
	LA RONGE December 28	LAST MOUNTAIN LAKE January 02	LEADER December 27	LITTLE BEAR LAKE January 01	LIVELONG December 22	LOON LAKE January 05	LOVE - TORCH RIVER December 31	LUSELAND January 05	MAIDSTONE BRIDGE January 04	MELFORT January 05
SHREW species										
RACCOON										
RED FOX	*(2)	*(1)					*(1)	1	*(1)	
COYOTE	*(1)	2	H(1)	*(1)		1	*(1)	*(4)	3	
TIMBER WOLF							*(1)			
FISHER										
ERMINE	*(4)								1	
LEAST WEASEL										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL									1	
WEASEL species		*							*(2)	
MINK	*(1)			*(1)			+		*(1)	
RIVER OTTER										
STRIPED SKUNK									*(1)	
BADGER										
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		7	2		1		*(2)	3	*(5)	
SNOWSHOE HARE	*(6)			*(1)				*(16)	3	
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL			2							
RICHARD. GROUND SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL	4				1		2		2	5
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										
BEAVER									L(3)	
DEER MOUSE										
MEADOW VOLE										
MOUSE species	*(6)							*(6)		*
MUSKRAT		*							*(1)	
NORWAY RAT										
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE						+		*(1)		
ELK										
MULE DEER			4			20			2	
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(1)	3	10			24	2	*(2)	3	
DEER species										
MOOSE						11	*(2)			
PRONGHORN			22							
TOTAL SPECIES	8	6	6	3	3	4	8	7	13	2

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

MOOSE JAW December 26	NAICAM January 04	NIPAWIN December 23	PIKE LAKE January 04	PINE CREE REGIONAL PARK December 22	PRINCE ALBERT NATIONAL PARK December 19	RAYMORE December 26	REGINA December 26	ROSCOMMON December 26	ROUND LAKE January 04	LOCALITY & DATE SPECIES
						*				SHREW species
									1	RACCOON
	1	*(3)	*(1)	*(1)	1	1	2	*(1)		RED FOX
	*(2)	*(1)	*(5)			2	*(1)	*(1)	*(9)	COYOTE
					H(4)					TIMBER WOLF
					*(1)					FISHER
						1				ERMINE
									*(6)	LEAST WEASEL
*(1)			*(2)			1			*(4)	LONG-TAILED WEASEL
	*(3)			*(2)	*(4)	*(3)				WEASEL species
									*(3)	MINK
					3					RIVER OTTER
						*(1)	S(1)			STRIPED SKUNK
						D(1)				BADGER
			*(2)	1		*	*	*(1)	*(1)	WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
	*(10)		2	*(4)		*	1		*(6)	SNOWSHOE HARE
				*(20)						NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
*(1)										RICHARD. GROUND SQU
							*(1)			FOX SQUIRREL
			1		2	1	6		2	RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
		*(1)		1						BEAVER
	2					1		1		DEER MOUSE
						1				MEADOW VOLE
			*(2)	*(8)	*(3)	*	*(1)		*(20)	MOUSE species
						L(17)				MUSKRAT
						*				NORWAY RAT
						1				HOUSE MOUSE
	*			2		*			1	PORCUPINE
					2					ELK
				9						MULE DEER
*(4)	*(10)	3	2	6	D(1)	12			*(20)	WHITE-TAILED DEER
							*(1)			DEER species
										MOOSE
										PRONGHORN
3	7	4	8	9	9	17	9	4	11	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-6. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE											TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTS PER SPECIES OR GROUP
	ST. WALBURG December 26	SASKATOON December 26	SCOTT January 02	SKULL CREEK January 05	SPRING VALLEY December 31	SQUAW RAPIDS December 24	WEYBURN December 22	WHITE BEAR December 28	WHITEBEECH January 01	WOLSELEY SOUTH January 01	YORKTON December 21	
SHREW species												3
RACCOON				*(1)								4
RED FOX					1		*(4)	+				30
COYOTE				*(2)	2	*(3)		+		+		38
TIMBER WOLF						*(2)						4
FISHER												1
ERMINE		1				*(2)						7
LEAST WEASEL							*(2)			*(1)		5
LONG-TAILED WEASEL										*(4)		11
WEASEL species												13
MINK					+	*(1)					*(1)	14
RIVER OTTER												1
STRIPED SKUNK					+							10
BADGER												5
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		1	*(5)	*	1	*(42)	2			+		40
SNOWSHOE HARE	1	3	*(1)			*	1		*(6)		*(6)	32
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL				7				+				10
RICHARD. GROUND SQUIRREL												1
FOX SQUIRREL							7					2
RED SQUIRREL		1		+		32					1	24
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL												1
BEAVER						L(1)						10
DEER MOUSE												5
MEADOW VOLE		1										7
MOUSE species		1			*		*(5)				*(4)	21
MUSKRAT		2			+	L(2)					L(10)	12
NORWAY RAT												1
HOUSE MOUSE												1
PORCUPINE		1		1				+				22
ELK						*(3)			*(2)			4
MULE DEER							3	22				14
WHITE-TAILED DEER	+	7		65		4	*(12)		*(5)		*(2)	42
DEER species												1
MOOSE						2			1			8
PRONGHORN												3
TOTAL SPECIES	2	8	2	7	7	11	8	6	4	4	6	