

# SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1986

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A total of 66 counts were received this year reporting 37 species during the count period. Both the number of counts and the number of species are all time highs over 62 counts in 1985 and 34 species in 1984.

In setting the new species high four new species were added to the Christmas Mammal Count list. Both Short-tailed Shrew and Masked Shrew were seen at Fort Qu'Appelle, while a Pigmy Shrew was seen at Prince Albert. At Squaw rapids a Pine Marten was seen. All of these species do occur regularly (and in the case of the Masked Shrew are common) in the province but are not that frequently encountered. There were several rare or un-

common species, with the Fox Squirrels again being found at Regina and Weyburn; two Gray Squirrels were at Endeavour and a Fisher was seen at Prince Albert National Park.

The most frequently reported species was White-tailed Deer (54 of 66 counts) followed by Snowshoe Hare (47) and Coyote (44). White-tailed Deer populations appear to be up over last year while Mule Deer have declined, especially in the southwest. Snowshoe Hare populations continue to increase from their low in 1984. Although Moose were reported with the same frequency as last year, their numbers appear to be up with Loon Lake



*Ermine*

*Lorne Scott*



reporting 23 (compared to 11 in 1985) and Squaw Rapids having 12 (2 in 1985). Predator populations appear to be stable — with Lynx again unreported. All other species appeared stable except that both prairie dwelling lagomorphs — the White-tailed Jack Rabbit and Nuttall's Cottontail — were somewhat less common. The very mild weather of this and the past winter are probably the primary factors for the increases in the ungulates.

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
- S odour detected
- H heard with number in parentheses



Porcupine

Wayne Shiels/Four Winds Prairie Photography



Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE									
	ABERNETHY-KATEPWA LAKE January 02	ASSINIBOIA January 03	BANGOR December 31	BIGGAR December 29	BIRCH HILLS December 20	BROMHEAD January 01	GROOKED LAKE December 27	DALMENY December 26	DUVAL December 28	EASTEND December 27
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										
MASKED SHREW										
PYGMY SHREW										
SHREW species										
RACCOON										
RED FOX	+	2			1		*(1)	1	1	2
COYOTE	H	2	H(3)	2	1	*(1)	*(1)		3	2
GRAY WOLF										
PINE MARTEN										
FISHER										
ERMINE					*(5)		*(1)			
LEAST WEASEL	+									
LONG-TAILED WEASEL			1		*(1)		*(1)			
WEASEL species						*(1)			*(2)	
MINK							*(1)			
RIVER OTTER										
STRIPED SKUNK									*(1)	
BADGER										
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		4	4	*(5)	*(2)	*(4)	*(5)		1	
SNOWSHOE HARE	*(5)		*(4)	1	1		*(8)		1	2
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL										
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL	+				4		9			
GRAY SQUIRREL										
N. FLYING SQUIRREL										
BEAVER			*(1)				*(1)		L(2)	
DEER MOUSE										
MEADOW VOLE										
RED-BACKED VOLE										
VOLE species										
MOUSE species			2	*(5)	*(7)	*(5)	*(5)		*(9)	
MUSKRAT	+		1		*(1)		1	1		*(1)
NORWAY RAT										
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE	+		1		*(1)		*(1)		2	1
ELK										
MULE DEER		12								14
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(1)	12	7	*(10)	63		*		*(7)	4
DEER species										
MOOSE										
PRONGHORN		10								
TOTAL SPECIES	8	6	9	5	10	7	13	1	10	5

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

ENDEAVOUR December 25	FORT QU'APPELLE December 20	FORT WALSH December 20	GARDINER DAM December 22	GLENGARIFF SD (Kelvington) January 01	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE December 21	GOVENLOCK December 21	GRAND CENTRE - PIERCELAND December 26	GRAVELBURG December 24	HENDON January 01	LOCALITY & DATE
	+									SHORT-TAILED SHREW
	+									MASKED SHREW
		1			* (3)		* (6)			SHREW species
	+									RACCOON
										PYGMY SHREW
* (1)	1	* (1)		* (1)						RED FOX
1	+	11	1		H (4)	1			* (2)	COYOTE
										GRAY WOLF
										PINE MARTEN
										FISHER
										ERMINE
* (1)										LEAST WEASEL
	+	1								LONG-TAILED WEASEL
				* (2)	* (2)		* (1)			WEASEL species
	+	* (1)			* (1)	1				MINK
										RIVER OTTER
	+				* (1)					STRIPED SKUNK
					* (1)	D (4)				BADGER
	+	1			* (10)					WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
*	1	* (6)	* (1)	1	* (20)		* (20)		* (15)	SNOWSHOE HARE
		17	1			10				NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
										RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL
										FOX SQUIRREL
3	5	62		* (1)	3		H (4)			RED SQUIRREL
2										GRAY SQUIRREL
					1					N. FLYING SQUIRREL
					L (2)					BEAVER
	+									DEER MOUSE
										MEADOW VOLE
	+				1					RED-BACKED VOLE
						1				VOLE species
		3	3	1	*	*	* (10)			MOUSE species
	2				* (3)	1				MUSKRAT
										NORWAY RAT
										HOUSE MOUSE
* (1)	+	1			* (3)		* (1)			PORCUPINE
		* (11)								ELK
		29	14			36				MULE DEER
* (1)	1	112	2		4	4		6	* (6)	WHITE-TAILED DEER
							* (8)			DEER species
* (3)		1								MOOSE
						31				PRONGHORN
9	16	15	6	5	16	11	7	1	3	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE									
	HERBERT December 23	HUMBOLDT December 26	INDIAN HEAD December 28	KAMSACK January 09	KENASTON December 24	KINDERSLEY December 26	KUTAWAGAN LAKE December 30	LA RONGE December 26	LAST MOUNTAIN L.W.M.U. December 27	LEADER December 29
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW species		+					+			
RACCOON										
PYGMY SHREW										
RED FOX	+(1)	+	+(2)		+	+(1)	+	+(2)	2	
COYOTE		+	3	H	+(5)		2		3	
GRAY WOLF										
PINE MARTEN										
FISHER										
ERMINE								*(7)	1	
LEAST WEASEL					*(1)					
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		+			+(3)					
WEASEL species				1			*			
MINK		+			*(1)			*(1)	*	
RIVER OTTER										
STRIPED SKUNK		+			*(1)		*		*(1)	
BADGER		+			1		D(1)		D(2)	
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	*(5)	1		4	1	2	3		4	2
SNOWSHOE HARE		*					*	*(25)	*	2
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	4				*(20)					
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL		+	2					3		
GRAY SQUIRREL										
N. FLYING SQUIRREL										
BEAVER				*					L(1)	1
DEER MOUSE									1	
MEADOW VOLE		1							1	
RED-BACKED VOLE										
VOLE species										
MOUSE species	*(2)	d(2)			*		*	*(8)		
MUSKRAT				*	*(1)			1	L(18)	
NORWAY RAT							*			
HOUSE MOUSE							*			
PORCUPINE	1	1			*(5)		2		2	
ELK				*						
MULE DEER	1					*(1)				12
WHITE-TAILED DEER	1	+	*(3)	3	8	*(3)	*		7	20
DEER species										
MOOSE				2				+		
PRONGHORN										
TOTAL SPECIES	7	12	5	8	13	4	13	8	14	6



Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

LIVELONG January 02	LOON LAKE December 27	LOVE - TORCH RIVER December 30	LUSELAND December 24	MELFORT January 03	MOOSE JAW December 26	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. December 30	NAICAM December 22	NOKOMIS January 01	PIKE LAKE January 03	LOCALITY & DATE
										<b>SPECIES</b>
										SHORT-TAILED SHREW
										MASKED SHREW
* (6)										SHREW species
										RACCOON
										PYGMY SHREW
* (1)	+	+(2)		*	* (1)	*	* (2)	2		RED FOX
* (11)		* (5)	* (6)	* (4)	* (4)				3	COYOTE
										GRAY WOLF
										PINE MARTEN
										FISHER
							* (7)	1		ERMINE
* (2)			1							LEAST WEASEL
* (3)						* (1)				LONG-TAILED WEASEL
				1	* (2)		* (5)		* (2)	WEASEL species
* (1)					* (6)		* (1)			MINK
										RIVER OTTER
			* (2)		* (2)				5 (1)	STRIPED SKUNK
										BADGER
1		* (1)	2		* (15)			*	1	WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
		* (12)	* (8)	10	2	* (3)	* (25)		1	SNOWSHOE HARE
										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
										RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL
										FOX SQUIRREL
* (3)	1	6		6		4	1		* (4)	RED SQUIRREL
										GRAY SQUIRREL
										N. FLYING SQUIRREL
					3				* (1)	BEAVER
										DEER MOUSE
		1			1					MEADOW VOLE
										RED-BACKED VOLE
										VOLE species
* (6)		2				* (2)	* (5)		* (20)	MOUSE species
					2					MUSKRAT
										NORWAY RAT
										HOUSE MOUSE
1							1			PORCUPINE
		s				* (1)				ELK
* (7)	17		* (9)							MULE DEER
* (20)	15	8	* (13)		* (10)	* (4)	* (10)		8	WHITE-TAILED DEER
									* (20)	DEER species
	23	1				* (2)				MOOSE
										PRONGHORN
12	4	10	8	5	11	8	8	1	10	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE								
	PINE CREE R.P. (Eastend) December 31	PRINCE ALBERT January 01	PRINCE ALBERT NAT. PARK December 19	QU'APPELLE DAM December 23	RAYMORE December 26	REGINA December 26	ROSCOMMON SD (Kelvington) December 21	ROUND LAKE January 2	SQUAW RAPIDS December 18
SHORT-TAILED SHREW									
MASKED SHREW									
SHREW species			*(1)		*			*	
RACCOON								1	
PYGMY SHREW		\$							
RED FOX			2	*(3)	1	1		*(2)	*
COYOTE	H(4)		*(3)	*(6)	4	1	*(3)	2	3
GRAY WOLF			*(4)						*(2)
PINE MARTEN									1
FISHER			1						
ERMINE								*(30)	
LEAST WEASEL								*(12)	*
LONG-TAILED WEASEL					*			*(4)	
WEASEL species	*(3)		*(2)	*(1)	*	*(1)			*(5)
MINK			*(3)	*(2)	*(1)			2	*(1)
RIVER OTTER			*(5)						*
STRIPED SKUNK					5(1)		*(1)		
BADGER									
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT				*(4)	7	11	*(1)	*(3)	*
SNOWSHOE HARE			*(2)	*(6)	3	4	*(1)	1	2
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	*(14)								
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL									
FOX SQUIRREL						*(1)			
RED SQUIRREL			22		1	10		2	38
GRAY SQUIRREL									
N. FLYING SQUIRREL								1	.
BEAVER							*(2)	1	1
DEER MOUSE					1				
MEADOW VOLE					2				
RED-BACKED VOLE									
VOLE species			*(10)						
MOUSE species	*(10)		*(10)				*(1)	*	*(15)
MUSKRAT			*(3)	*(1)				6	1
NORWAY RAT									
HOUSE MOUSE									
PORCUPINE	3			1	1		\$		1
ELK			*(20)						*(6)
MULE DEER	24			2					
WHITE-TAILED DEER		1		1	3	*(1)	*(4)	3	10
DEER species			*(12)						
MOOSE			*(1)						*(12)
PRONGHORN									
TOTAL SPECIES	6	2	16	10	13	8	8	15	18

Table 1-6. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SKULL CREEK December 26	ST. WALBURG December 26	TISDALE December 28	SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS January 03	SASKATOON December 26	SCOTT January 04	SPIRITWOOD December 28	TOMPKINS January 02	WALDHEIM December 26	LOCALITY & DATE
									<b>SPECIES</b>
									SHORT-TAILED SHREW
									MASKED SHREW
									SHREW species
									RACCOON
									PYGMY SHREW
* (1)		* (1)	* (1)						RED FOX
* (3)	* (3)	* (1)					2		COYOTE
									GRAY WOLF
									PINE MARTEN
									FISHER
		* (1)							ERMINE
									LEAST WEASEL
1									LONG-TAILED WEASEL
									WEASEL species
* (2)				1					MINK
									RIVER OTTER
		D (1)							STRIPED SKUNK
					1				BADGER
3		1	* (1)	1	* (5)		1		WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
	10	4	* (3)	4	* (5)		2	* (20)	SNOWSHOE HARE
6									NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
									RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL
									FOX SQUIRREL
	2		* (2)	4		2		1	RED SQUIRREL
									GRAY SQUIRREL
									N. FLYING SQUIRREL
1								L (2)	BEAVER
									DEER MOUSE
*				2					MEADOW VOLE
									RED-BACKED VOLE
	3		* (2)		* (3)				VOLE species
					D (1)				MOUSE species
									MUSKRAT
									NORWAY RAT
									HOUSE MOUSE
* (1)				1			1		PORCUPINE
	12								ELK
10							43		MULE DEER
15	5	* (7)	* (1)	9			7	3	WHITE-TAILED DEER
				3					DEER species
	1								MOOSE
							68		PRONGHORN
11	6	6	8	8	5	1	7	4	TOTAL SPECIES



Table 1-7. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE								TOTAL COUNTS PER SPECIES/GROUP
	WARMAN December 26	WAUCHOPE December 26	WEYBURN December 20	WHITE BEAR December 26	WHITEBEECH December 26	WOLSELEY SOUTH December 28	WOOD MOUNTAIN December 23	YORKTON December 29	
SHORT-TAILED SHREW									1
MASKED SHREW									1
PYGMY SHREW									1
SHREW species			*(2)						10
RACCOON			*(1)						3
RED FOX	+	1	*(4)		+			*(1)	39
COYOTE	*(1)	1		5					44
GRAY WOLF									2
PINE MARTEN									1
FISHER									1
ERMINE	1				+				8
LEAST WEASEL			*(4)						7
LONG-TAILED WEASEL					+				13
WEASEL species		*(5)	*(5)					*(1)	20
MINK			+					*(1)	21
RIVER OTTER									2
STRIPED SKUNK			+		+			*(1)	16
BADGER									7
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	1		2	3				*(10)	40
SNOWSHOE HARE	2	*(4)	1		*(100)	1		1	47
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL				+					8
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL			1						1
FOX SQUIRREL			*(5)						2
RED SQUIRREL					+				30
GRAY SQUIRREL									1
N. FLYING SQUIRREL									2
BEAVER					L(2)				14
DEER MOUSE	+	*(7)							5
MEADOW VOLE		1	1	1					10
RED-BACKED VOLE									2
VOLE species									2
MOUSE species			*(15)		+			*(10)	33
MUSKRAT									17
NORWAY RAT	15								2
HOUSE MOUSE									1
PORCUPINE							1	*(1)	28
ELK									7
MULE DEER			*(4)	128					17
WHITE-TAILED DEER	+	22	*(2)	3	*(20)		2	*(5)	54
DEER species									4
MOOSE					*(1)				11
PRONGHORN									3
TOTAL SPECIES	8	7	14	6	10	1	2	9	