

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1987

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A total of 70 counts were received this year, up 4 from last year's record number and we now have more than 85% of the areas submitting bird counts also counting mammals on the same day. The number of species reported by these counts is 37, equalling last years high total.

There was only one new species for the overall Christmas Mammal Count list, the Eastern Cottontail found by Al Smith on the Estevan count; a set of tracks were also found on the Bromhead count. These records are within the species' expected distribution of the Souris River drainage area.

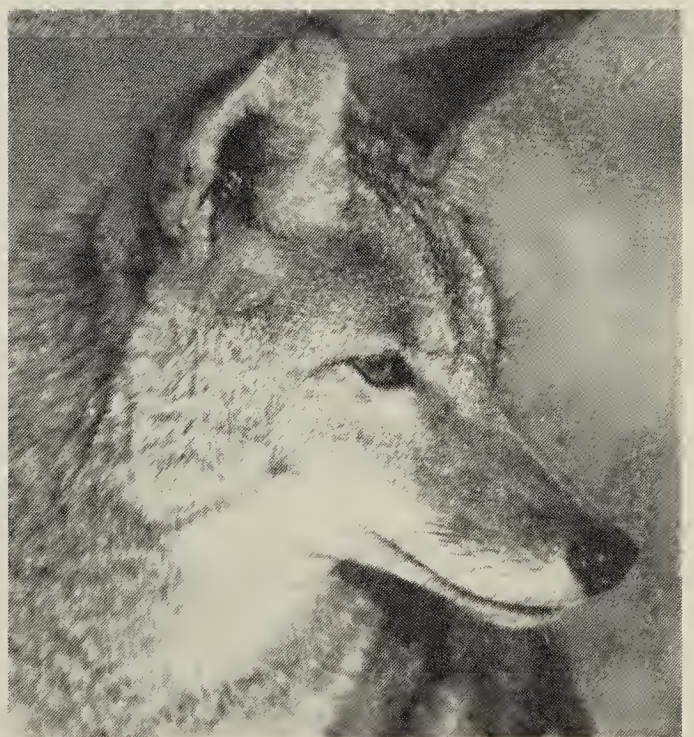
The most frequently occurring species was the White-tailed Deer, found on 85% of the counts followed by Coyote on 70%, Red Fox on 65% and Snowshoe Hare on 60% of the total counts conducted this year. These figures represent population increases for White-tailed Deer and Red Fox, while Coyote populations appear to be stable and Snowshoe Hare are down. This latter is particularly interesting considering that the hare populations are supposed to be increasing at the present time in relation to their 10 year cycle. The mild weather conditions and the lack of snow cover at some locations may be responsible for this seemingly conflicting population response.

Lynx were again unreported even though several counts were in the boreal forest. The lynx has now been absent for more than five years on these counts and even though the hare populations are recovering the lynx populations are not following suit. Will they recover in the next few years as the hares peak or is there some other factor at play which is limiting their populations?

There were significant increases in the reports of the ground squirrels and badger reports both undoubtedly due to the unseasonable mild weather and lack of snow in the south.

For weather, coverage and participants please refer to the Christmas bird counts found elsewhere in this issue. The numbers associated with the count name in the table refer to the numbers used on the locality map also with the bird counts. 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 in parentheses
- D fresh diggings seen
- d freshly dead animals found
- S odour detected
- H heard with number in parentheses



Coyote

Wayne Lynch

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE											
	ABERNETHY-KATEPWA 29 December	ASSINIBOIA 25 December	BANGOR 28 December	BATTLEFORD 24 December	BIGGAR 30 December	BIG GULLY CREEK 03 January	BIRCH HILLS 21 December	BROADVIEW 29 December	BROMHEAD 27 December	CABRI 31 December	CARRAGANA 04 January	
MASKED SHREW												
SHREW species			2									
EASTERN COTTONTAIL									*(1)			
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL												
SNOWSHOE HARE			*(5)		2	*	*(32)	*(10)				
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT	*	9			2	*	*(2)					
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL										+		
THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL												
GREY SQUIRREL												
FOX SQUIRREL												
RED SQUIRREL	11			1		7		10				2
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL												+
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER												
BEAVER			1			L(4)						
DFER MOUSE												
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE												
MUSKRAT				1		L(7)						
MEADOW VOLE					1			*(1)	d(1)			
VOLE species												
MOUSE species							*	*(10)		*(1)		*(15)
NORWAY RAT												
HOUSE MOUSE												
PORCUPINE		1			3	1						*(2)
COYOTE						3	1	*(4)	*(1)			*(4)
WOLF												
RED FOX	*	5					*(2)		*(2)			*(1)
RACCOON		2										
FISHER												
ERMINE						1	*(4)	*(3)				
LONG-TAILED WEASEL			*(1)				*(1)	*(1)				
LEAST WEASEL												
WEASEL species	*					*(2)						
MINK						*(1)		*(1)	*(1)			
BADGER		1										
STRIPED SKUNK									*(1)			
RIVER OTTER												
MULE DEER		2				2						
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*	9	*(7)		3	7		*(12)	37	+		*(8)
DEER species												
MOOSE												
ELK												
PRONGHORN		38										
TOTAL SPECIES	5	8	5	2	5	12	7	8	8	2		7

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

CLEARWATER LAKE 27 December	CRAVEN 26 December	CROOKED LAKE P.P. 27 December	DUVAL 22 December	ENDEAVOUR 25 December	ESTEVAN 23 December	FORT QU'APPELLE 19 December	FORT WALSH 19 December	GARDINER DAM 21 December	GLAMIS-WISETON 28 December	SPECIES
		*(1)			1		1	3	+	MASKED SHREW SHREW species
1	*(5)	1				+		*(10)		EASTERN COTTONTAIL NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL SNOWSHOE HARE
			1		1	+	*(11)	4	+	WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL GREY SQUIRREL FOX SQUIRREL
		6		8		2	44			RED SQUIRREL NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER BEAVER
		*(1)	L(1)							DEER MOUSE
			1			1				GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE MUSKRAT
			2							MEADOW VOLE VOLE species
		1	L(2)			1				MOUSE species
						+	1	1	*(2)	NORWAY RAT HOUSE MOUSE
*(7)	*(18)	*(3)					*(5)	*(15)		PORCUPINE
						+				COYOTE WOLF
		1		*(2)		+	2	2		RED FOX RACCOON FISHER ERMINE
*(2)	2	*(2)	*(2)	1	1	+	6	4	*(2)	LONG-TAILED WEASEL
		*(1)	*(3)			1	1	*(5)	*(2)	LEAST WEASEL WEASEL species
		*(1)				+				MINK
		*(1)	*(1)							BADGER
			*(1)				*(1)	*(2)		STRIPED SKUNK
		*(3)				+				RIVER OTTER
			D(1)					D(1)		MULE DEER WHITE-TAILED DEER
								S(1)		DEER species
							52	4	+	MOOSE
		3	*(7)	*(4)	10	+	49	15		ELK
*				*(2)			*(1)			PRONGHORN
							87			TOTAL SPECIES
2	3	13	12	6	5	12	12	12	6	

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE										
	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 22 December	GOVENLOCK 20 December	GRAND CENTRE 26 December	HUMBOLDT 26 December	INDIAN HEAD 27 December	KAMSACK-TOGO 02 January	KEDLESTON 19 December	KELVINGTON 23 December	KENASTON 23 December	KUTAWAGAN LAKE 30 December	
MASKED SHREW											
SHREW species	*(2)	*(3)	*(3)								
EASTERN COTTONTAIL											
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	4	*(4)	*(7)								
SNOWSHOE HARE	*(36)	*(3)	3	*(3)	1	*(38)	*				
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT	*(11)	7	1	*(3)	2	2	1	1			
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL	1										
THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL	+										
GREY SQUIRREL											
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL	5	3	6								
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL	1										
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER	D(1)										
BEAVER	L(1)										
DEER MOUSE											
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE	1										
MUSKRAT	L(5)	L(3)									
MEADOW VOLE											
VOLE species											
MOLISE species	*(10)	*(2)	*(4)	*(10)	*						
NORWAY RAT	*										
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE	*(1)	2	*(1)	1	+						
COYOTE	*(3)	7	*(8)	1	3	H	*(15)	*	1		
WOLF											
RED FOX	2	*(4)	1	*(13)	*	1					
RACCOON	*(1)										
FISHER											
ERMINE											
LONG-TAILED WEASEL	*(5)	+	*								
LEAST WEASEL	+										
WEASEL species	*(4)	*(7)									
MINK	+	+									
BADGER	D(4)	*(1)									
STRIPED SKUNK	S(2)										
RIVER OTTER											
MULE DEER	17										
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(18)	36	*(2)	*(10)	1	4	3	*(15)	+	*	
DEER species											
MOOSE	4										
ELK											
PRONGHORN	162										
TOTAL SPECIES	15	11	5	8	11	4	6	9	11	5	

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

LA RONGE 28 December	LAST MOUNTAIN L. W.M.U. 26 December	LEADER 26 December	LEASK 25 December	LIVELONG 27 December	LOON LAKE 27 December	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 29 December	LUSELAND 27 December	MAIDSTONE BRIDGE 02 January	MARSDEN 26 December	SPECIES
										MASKED SHREW
										SHREW species
										EASTERN COTTONTAIL
										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
*(12)				+		1	2	*		SNOWSHOE HARE
	2	1		*(2)		*(1)				WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT
										RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL
										THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL
										GREY SQUIRREL
										FOX SQUIRREL
2				1		11		2		RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
								L(3)		BEAVER
										DEER MOUSE
2	L(7)							L(6)	2	GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
							*(6)			MUSKRAT
										MEADOW VOLE
										VOLE species
		15		+		*(3)	*(8)	*		MOUSE species
										NORWAY RAT
										HOUSE MOUSE
	2			+			*(1)	1		PORCUPINE
	2	1		1		H(3)	*(7)	*		COYOTE
										WOLF
*(2)	1			3	1	*(5)	1			RED FOX
										RACCOON
										FISHER
*(4)				+						ERMINE
				*(5)						LONG-TAILED WEASEL
			1	+			*(3)			LEAST WEASEL
	*					*(1)		*		WEASEL species
						*(2)				MINK
										BADGER
							*(1)			STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
		10		+	24		9			MULE DEER
	7	7	*(1)	3	10	5	*(8)	4	2	WHITE-TAILED DEER
										DEER species
					14					MOOSE
						4				ELK
		6					1			PRONGHORN
5	7	6	2	12	4	10	10	9	2	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE										
	MELVILLE 26 December	MOOSE JAW 26 December	NAICAM 19 December	PIKE LAKE 02 January	PINE CREE R. PARK 25 December	PREECEVILLE 26 December	PRINCE ALBERT EAST 03 January	PRINCE ALBERT CITY 29 December	PRINCE ALBERT N.P. 20 December	QU'APPELLE DAM 31 December	
MASKED SHREW											
SHREW species											
EASTERN COTTONTAIL											
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	1										
SNOWSHOE HARE	+	*(16)	*(5)	2	*	3	*(5)	2			
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT	*(28)	1	1								
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL											
THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL											
GREY SQUIRREL											
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL	1	H(1)	+	12	16						
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL											
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER											
BEAVER	*(1)	*(1)									
DEER MOUSE											
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE											
MUSKRAT	*(1)	*(2)	1								
MEADOW VOLE	*(2)										
VOLE species	*(6)										
MOUSE species	*	*(1)	*(25)	*(10)	*(6)	1					
NORWAY RAT											
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE	*(1)	*(1)	1	1							
COYOTE	*(7)	*(1)	1	+	1						
WOLF	4										
RED FOX	2	*(7)	*(1)	*(1)	+	1	*(3)				
RACCOON	*(1)										
FISHER	*(2)										
ERMINE											
LONG-TAILED WEASEL											
LEAST WEASEL	*(1)	*(3)									
WEASEL species	*(1)	*(2)	*(3)	*(3)	*(2)						
MINK	*(2)	*(2)	*(1)								
BADGER											
STRIPED SKUNK	S(1)										
RIVER OTTER	*(2)										
MULE DEER	36	*(2)	2								
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(2)	13	*(2)	3	8	*(2)	+	3			
DEER species	*(5)										
MOOSE	1										
ELK	61										
PRONGHORN	+										
TOTAL SPECIES	4	11	6	8	11	3	5	1	15	10	

Table 1-6. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

RAYMORE 24 December	REGINA 26 December	ROUND LAKE 02 January	SASKATOON 26 December	SCOTT 02 January	SKULL CREEK 26 December	SNOWDEN 27 December	SPINNEY HILL 31 December	SPRING VALLEY 28 December	SQUAW RAPIDS 17 December	SPECIES
1										MASKED SHREW SHREW species
					6					EASTERN COTTONTAIL NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
3	1	*(12)	11	*(1)		*(15)			*	SNOWSHOE HARE
4	16	*(2)	2		2	1		*	1	WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL GREY SQUIRREL FOX SQUIRREL
H(2)	12	*(6)	2	1		3			17	RED SQUIRREL NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
L(1)						L(2)			L(3)	BEAVER DEER MOUSE
4	*(14)									GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE MUSKRAT
2			1						L(1)	MEADOW VOLE VOLE species
L(6)		*(1)								MOUSE species
3	*(11)									NORWAY RAT HOUSE MOUSE
	*	*	*(9)		*	*(4)		*		PORCUPINE
*										COYOTE
2	*(2)		*(3)		*(2)				1	WOLF
H(3)	1	*(16)	7		*(6)	*(9)		2	3	RED FOX RACOON FISHER ERMINE
									*(2)	LONG-TAILED WEASEL
*(4)	14	*(1)	2		1	*(1)		*(1)	*(2)	LEAST WEASEL WEASEL species
	*(2)									MINK
	1	*(1)						+		BADGER
1		*(5)	*(2)		2	*(1)				STRIPED SKUNK
		*(3)	1							RIVER OTTER MULE DEER
*(3)	*(5)		*(11)			*(2)			*(7)	WHITE-TAILED DEER DEER species
		*(1)			+			+	*(2)	MOOSE
D(1)									*(1)	ELK
S(1)	*(4)					*(1)		+		PRONGHORN
			1		+				6	
23	*	*(5)	*(35)	*(2)	+	*(17)	3		3	
						1			2	
						*(2)			*(7)	
					+					
17	13	12	12	3	11	12	1	9	15	TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-7. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY & DATE									
	TISDALE 25 December	TOMPKINS 04 January	WARMAN 26 December	WEYBURN 19 December	WHITE BEAR 26 December	WHITE BEAR LAKE 17 December	WHITBEECH 28 December	WOLSELEY 27 December	YORKTON 19 December	
MASKED SHREW	1									
SHREW species	*(4)	*(1)	7							
EASTERN COTTONTAIL	2									
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	3	1	10							
SNOWSHOE HARE	*(13)	*(16)	*(100)	*(4)	1	42				
WHITE-TAILED JACK RABBIT	*(3)	2	*(8)	3	38					
RICHARDSON'S GROUND SQUIRREL	2									
THIRTEEN-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL	1									
GREY SQUIRREL	1									
FOX SQUIRREL	2	2								
RED SQUIRREL	2	2	*(3)	31						
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL	2									
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER	1									
BEAVER	*(2)	12								
DEER MOUSE	4									
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE	3									
MUSKRAT	18									
MEADOW VOLE	1	*(6)	13							
VOLE species	1									
MOUSE species	1	*(4)	*(14)	34						
NORWAY RAT	3									
HOUSE MOUSE	2									
PORCUPINE	1	1	*(1)	30						
COYOTE	*(10)	11	*(3)	1	*(2)	*(2)	*(2)	49		
WOLF	2									
RED FOX	*(4)	+	*(10)	*(2)	*(1)	*(1)	*(2)	45		
RACCOON	*(3)	5								
FISHER	1									
ERMINE	10									
LONG-TAILED WEASEL	*(2)	*(1)	*(1)	17						
LEAST WEASEL	*(2)	10								
WEASEL species	*(1)	*(4)	22							
MINK	*(1)	16								
BADGER	*(1)	8								
STRIPED SKUNK	*(2)	*(1)	14							
RIVER OTTER	2									
MULE DEER	28	*(4)	120	19						
WHITE-TAILED DEER	*(10)	14	*(1)	4	3	*(10)	*(3)	*(6)	60	
DEER species	2									
MOOSE	7									
ELK	*(2)	6								
PRONGHORN	80	7								
TOTAL SPECIES	5	8	3	9	8	8	9	4	8	