

# SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1990

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A total of 65 counts were received this year, down 3 from last year, reporting 39 species, a record high number. Of interest in this year's report was the first count report of a Big Brown Bat. This occurrence, similar to last year's Little Brown Bat, was from Fort Qu'Appelle where Ron Hooper reported finding a freshly dead specimen at a local church. Also Feral Cat is in the list for the first time courtesy of "the scruffiest animal you ever saw" on the Birch Hills count. A Bobcat at Weyburn and a dead Pine Martin at Squaw Rapids were only the second records for the count though these species are regular but rare within the province. A hybrid Mule Deer X White-tailed Deer at White Bear provided the first report for the count (see *Blue Jay* 47(4):228 for a detailed description from the same area).

Pronghorn Antelope were reported well to the north of their normal winter range at Scott and at Douglas Provincial Park, while the 270 at White Bear is an exceptional count for the north side of the South Saskatchewan River. At the other end of the range where large numbers are normal, Govenlock and Grasslands National Park, none were reported. Have they shifted northward for this winter? The count of 372 Mule Deer at the south end of the Frenchman River Valley on the Grasslands National Park count is the highest number ever reported from one area.

The most frequently reported species was the White-tailed Deer followed by Coyote, Red Fox and White-tailed Jack-rabbit. Snowshoe Hares dropped in frequency considerably; are they declining or was the cold weather a factor with

people doing less walking and therefore finding fewer?

For weather, coverage and participants 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 numbers in parentheses
- + seen during count period but not on count day
- L active lodges or huts seen with numbers in parentheses
- D fresh diggings seen
- d freshly dead animals found
- S odour detected
- H heard with numbers in parentheses



*Long-tailed Weasel*

*F.A. Switzer*

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE										
	1. ABERNETHY 29 Dec. 1990	2. ASSINIBOIA 02 Jan. 1991	3. BANGOR 02 Jan. 1991	4. BETHUNE 02 Jan. 1991	5. BIGGAR 30 Dec. 1990	6. BIG MUDDY LAKE 02 Jan. 1991	7. BIG MUDDY VALLEY 29 Dec. 1990	8. BIG RIVER 02 Jan. 1991	9. BIRCH HILLS 30 Dec. 1990	11. BROMHEAD 30 Dec. 1990	
MASKED SHREW											
SHREW SPECIES											
BIG BROWN BAT											
EASTERN COTTONTAIL											
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL						3					
SNOWSHOE HARE	*		4		2			*(10)			
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		2	2	2	*(10)	1	5	*(3)	*(7)		
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL											
GREY SQUIRREL											
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL								2			
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL											
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER											
BEAVER			*(1)								
DEER MOUSE			5								
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE											
MUSKRAT											
MEADOW VOLE											
VOLE SPECIES											
MOUSE SPECIES					*(5)	1		*(3)	*(2)		
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE					1	1	2				
COYOTE		2	5	2	1	6	2	*(4)	*(1)		
WOLF											
RED FOX		2	1	1	*(2)	4	1	*(2)			
RACCOON											
FISHER											
PINE MARTIN											
ERMINE											
LONG-TAILED WEASEL								*(1)			
LEAST WEASEL											
WEASEL SPECIES						*(1)		*(2)			
MINK											
BADGER						1					
STRIPED SKUNK											
RIVER OTTER											
BOBCAT											
FERAL CAT								1			
MULE DEER		45			5	15	18				
WHITE-TAILED DEER	1	8	4		7	2		3	*(2)	53	
MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER											
DEER SPECIES											
MOOSE											
ELK											
PRONGHORN		55				60	35				
TOTAL SPECIES	2	6	7	3	8	11	6	1	10	4	

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

12. CANDLE LAKE 02 Jan. 1991	13. CARRAGANA 02 Jan. 1991	14. CROOKED L. (A) 23 Dec. 1990	15. CROOKED L. (B) 02 Jan. 1991	18. DOUGLAS P.P. 01 Jan. 1991	19. DUVAL 29 Dec. 1990	20. EASTEND 02 Jan. 1991	21. EDAM 25 Dec. 1990	23. ESTEVAN 22 Dec. 1990	24. FIFE LAKE 30 Dec. 1990	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
											MASKED SHREW
											SHREW SPECIES
											BIG BROWN BAT
								2			EASTERN COTTONTAIL
				2	*(3)				1		NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
		*(9)	*	3	*(13)						SNOWSHOE HARE
		*(2)			1			*(9)	1		WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
											RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
											GREY SQUIRREL
								2			FOX SQUIRREL
12	1	2									RED SQUIRREL
	1										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
											BEAVER
											DEER MOUSE
											GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
											MUSKRAT
											MEADOW VOLE
											VOLE SPECIES
		*(5)			*(4)			*(3)			MOUSE SPECIES
	3										HOUSE MOUSE
1	1						1	1			PORCUPINE
1		1		3	*(5)	6	1	*(1)	3		COYOTE
											WOLF
	1			1	*(2)	3		2	1		RED FOX
											RACCOON
											FISHER
											PINE MARTIN
											ERMINE
					*(1)						LONG-TAILED WEASEL
1					*(1)						LEAST WEASEL
					*(1)		+	*	*		WEASEL SPECIES
											MINK
											BADGER
											STRIPED SKUNK
											RIVER OTTER
											BOBCAT
											FERAL CAT
				13		26			16		MULE DEER
19	3	*(2)	*	6	8	42	17	6	30		WHITE-TAILED DEER
											MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER SPECIES
*(1)	1										MOOSE
2											ELK
				4		16			6		PRONGHORN
7	7	6	2	7	9	5	4	8	7		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE									
	25. FT. QU'APPELLE 15 Dec. 1990	26. FT. WALSH 15 Dec. 1990	27. GARDINER DAM 17 Dec. 1990	28. GOOD SPIRIT L. 01 Jan. 1991	29. GOVENLOCK 16 Dec. 1990	30. GRAND CENTRE 26 Dec. 1990	31. GRASSLANDS N.P. 30 Dec. 1990	32. HUDSON BAY 02 Jan. 1991	33. HUMBOLDT 26 Dec. 1990	
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW SPECIES										
BIG BROWN BAT	+									
EASTERN COTTONTAIL										
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL		8	4		5	25				
SNOWSHOE HARE		*(12)	*(5)	*(13)		*(4)				+
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	1		2	*(3)	37		*(1)			*(2)
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL										
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL	8	34		1		5				
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL				1						
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER		1								
BEAVER		L(2)	2				L(1)			
DEER MOUSE		*(1)								
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										
MUSKRAT										
MEADOW VOLE										
VOLE SPECIES		*(1)		*(1)						
MOUSE SPECIES		*(15)	*(3)				*(3)			
HOUSE MOUSE	+									
PORCUPINE		5	*(1)	1			5			
COYOTE	2	15	3	1	11	*(1)	16			3
WOLF										
RED FOX	3	1	*(1)		2	1				1
RACCOON										
FISHER										
PINE MARTIN										
ERMINE										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL									+	
LEAST WEASEL				*(1)						
WEASEL SPECIES										
MINK										
BADGER										
STRIPED SKUNK			S(1)		S(1)					
RIVER OTTER										
BOBCAT										
FERAL CAT										
MULE DEER	+	31	24		113		372			
WHITE-TAILED DEER	+	59	21	2	11	*(9)	46			+
MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER										
DEER SPECIES		8					4			
MOOSE										
ELK		*(10)								
PRONGHORN										
TOTAL SPECIES	8	14	11	9	7	5	8	1		5

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

34. INDIAN HEAD 30 Dec. 1990	35. KAMSACK 02 Jan. 1991	37. KENASTON 26 Dec. 1990	38. KINDERSLEY (A) 26 Dec. 1990	40. KUTAWAGAN L. 26 Dec. 1990	41. LA RONGE 26 Dec. 1990	42. LAST MT. L. W.M.U. 28 Dec. 1990	43. LEADER 31 Dec. 1990	45. LOVE - TORCH R. 31 Dec. 1990	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
										MASKED SHREW
										SHREW SPECIES
										BIG BROWN BAT
										EASTERN COTTONTAIL
1										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
	17	*		*(3)	*(11)	*(2)		1		SNOWSHOE HARE
1		*		4		4	2			WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
										RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
										GREY SQUIRREL
										FOX SQUIRREL
13					*(3)					RED SQUIRREL
								+		NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
										BEAVER
		*								DEER MOUSE
										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
										MUSKRAT
					*(2)					MEADOW VOLE
										VOLE SPECIES
							6			MOUSE SPECIES
										HOUSE MOUSE
		1		*(1)			3			PORCUPINE
6	2	*	+	1		2	5	1		COYOTE
										WOLF
5	10	*	+	*(1)	*(2)	1	1	*(3)		RED FOX
										RACCOON
										FISHER
										PINE MARTIN
					*(4)					ERMINE
		*								LONG-TAILED WEASEL
		*								LEAST WEASEL
								+		WEASEL SPECIES
					*(1)					MINK
				d(1)						BADGER
										STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
										BOBCAT
										FERAL CAT
			+				75			MULE DEER
25	15	*		3	*(1)	5	58	16		WHITE-TAILED DEER
										MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER
										DEER SPECIES
	*									MOOSE
	7									ELK
										PRONGHORN
6	6	9	3	7	7	5	7	6		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	46. LUSELAND 02 Jan. 1991	47. MAIDSTONE BR. 02 Jan. 1991	48. MARSDEN 26 Dec. 1990	49. MELVILLE 26 Dec. 1990	51. MOOSE JAW 26 Dec. 1990	53. PIKE LAKE 30 Dec. 1990	55. PRINCE ALBERT (A) 16 Dec. 1990	57. PRINCE ALBERT N.P. 15 Dec. 1990	58. QU'APPELLE DAM 15 Dec. 1990
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW SPECIES		+								
BIG BROWN BAT										
EASTERN COTTONTAIL										
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL						1				1
SNOWSHOE HARE			*(3)			*(2)	2	1	1	
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		4	*(4)			6				
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL										
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL						1				
RED SQUIRREL			*(1)					1	23	
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER										
BEAVER						1				
DEER MOUSE		+	*(1)	1						
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										
MUSKRAT										2
MEADOW VOLE										
VOLE SPECIES									*(15)	1
MOUSE SPECIES			*(2)				*(6)		*(5)	
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE		1					1			
COYOTE		+				*(2)	16			2
WOLF									*(18)	
RED FOX		+				2	*(1)		3	
RACCOON										
FISHER									*(3)	
PINE MARTIN										
ERMINE										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL						*(3)				
LEAST WEASEL						*(3)			*(1)	
WEASEL SPECIES			*(1)				*(2)			
MINK						*(5)		1	*(2)	
BADGER						*(1)				
STRIPED SKUNK										
RIVER OTTER									*(2)	
BOBCAT										
FERAL CAT										
MULE DEER		+	*(17)			4				10
WHITE-TAILED DEER			4		1	15	14			3
MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER										
DEER SPECIES									*(15)	
MOOSE									*(9)	
ELK									38	
PRONGHORN										
TOTAL SPECIES		7	7	1	1	13	7	3	13	6

Table 1-6. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

59. RAYMORE 25 Dec. 1990	60. REGINA 26 Dec. 1990	61. ROUND LAKE 02 Jan. 1991	62. SASKATOON 26 Dec. 1990	63. SCOTT 01 Jan. 1991	64. SKULL CREEK 26 Dec. 1990	65. SNOWDEN 23 Dec. 1990	67. SPALDING 02 Jan. 1991	68. SPINNEY HILL 02 Jan. 1991	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
+							*(3)	1		MASKED SHREW
*(1)				*(2)						SHREW SPECIES
										BIG BROWN BAT
										EASTERN COTTONTAIL
					*					NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
*(10)		*(5)	1	*(10)		1	*	*		SNOWSHOE HARE
3	3	1	1	*(6)	*	*(3)		*(2)		WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
							*			RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
										GREY SQUIRREL
										FOX SQUIRREL
+		1			4	1		1		RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
L(1)										BEAVER
1					*			*(1)		DEER MOUSE
+										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
L(3)										MUSKRAT
+					*					MEADOW VOLE
						*(5)				VOLE SPECIES
				*(1)		*(9)				MOUSE SPECIES
4										HOUSE MOUSE
+		*(1)	1	1	2			*(1)		PORCUPINE
3		1	7	1	1	*(2)	*	*(2)		COYOTE
										WOLF
2	8	*(2)	3	1	1	+	*			RED FOX
										RACCOON
										FISHER
										PINE MARTIN
										ERMINE
		*(1)	1		*(4)	*(2)				LONG-TAILED WEASEL
		*(1)								LEAST WEASEL
*(3)		*(1)				*(3)	*	*(1)		WEASEL SPECIES
		*(1)			*(2)	*(1)				MINK
										BADGER
				S(1)						STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
										BOBCAT
										FERAL CAT
	3				14					MULE DEER
3		4	19	*(5)	52	1	*	8		WHITE-TAILED DEER
										MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER
										DEER SPECIES
					1					MOOSE
										ELK
				3	220					PRONGHORN
15	3	10	7	10	14	10	7	9		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-7. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	69. SPRING VALLEY 27 Dec. 1990	70. SQUAW RAPIDS 22 Dec. 1990	71. SWIFT CURRENT 26 Dec. 1990	74. WEYBURN 15 Dec. 1990	75. WHITE BEAR 30 Dec. 1990	76. WHITE BEAR L.. 18 Dec. 1990	77. WHITEBEECH 02 Jan. 1991	78. WHITEWOOD 15 Dec. 1990	79. YORKTON 02 Jan. 1991	TOTAL COUNTS PER SPECIES
MASKED SHREW											3
SHREW Species											3
BIG BROWN BAT											1
EASTERN COTTONTAIL											1
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL		+				1					13
SNOWSHOE HARE			*(31)		*(11)			*(5)		1	35
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		3	*(2)		*(28)	2				*(10)	39
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL		1									1
GREY SQUIRREL											1
FOX SQUIRREL					1						3
RED SQUIRREL			10				2	1			21
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL											3
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER											1
BEAVER			D(2)								7
DEER MOUSE											9
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE											1
MUSKRAT			D(1)								3
MEADOW VOLE											3
VOLE SPECIES		*									6
MOUSE SPECIES		*	*(3)		1						19
HOUSE MOUSE		5									4
PORCUPINE			1			+					24
COYOTE		2	7		1	3					48
WOLF											1
RED FOX		1	1		2	1				1	45
RACCOON		2									1
FISHER											1
PINE MARTIN			D(1)								1
ERMINE											1
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		1									10
LEAST WEASEL											7
WEASEL SPECIES			D(1)		*(1)			*(1)		*(1)	16
MINK			D(3)							*(1)	9
BADGER		2			+	1					6
STRIPED SKUNK											3
RIVER OTTER			*(1)								2
BOBCAT					1						1
FERAL CAT											1
MULE DEER		+		2		140					23
WHITE-TAILED DEER		+	1	3	4	4		*(1)	3	*	55
MULE X WHITE-TAILED DEER						1					1
DEER SPECIES											3
MOOSE			2								6
ELK			7								5
PRONGHORN						270					9
TOTAL SPECIES		13	16	2	10	9	1	4	1	6	