

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT — 1991

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Interest in mammal counts increased this year after stabilizing for the past five years. The number of counts increased to 82 from 65 last year, exceeding the previous high of 70 set in 1987. Of the record 44 species (exceeding last year's 39), 3 were never before recorded on a Christmas Mammal Count. All of these new species are from the grasslands of the southwest, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Sagebrush Vole and Swift Fox.

Hundreds of Black-tailed Prairie Dogs were seen on the Grasslands National Park count. The weather was unseasonably cold in October and November, but temperatures throughout early December were very warm with many days above freezing. This obviously prematurely ended the normal hibernation period. The Grasslands National Park and immediate vicinity is the only place in Canada where prairie dogs are found.

The first count record for the Sagebrush Vole was one found hanging on a barb wire fence (shrike kill?) on the Glentworth count. Although the population status and distribution of this species is not well defined, this is not an unexpected species for this area.

Both count areas that recorded the Swift Fox have been subject to re-introduction programs in recent years; these records are undoubtedly a result of this program. The Swift Fox was considered extirpated from the Canadian plains prior to the re-introduction.

Other species are infrequent enough to warrant mention. The Short-tailed Shrew at Squaw Rapids is only the second since the count began. Both the Lynx and the Woodland Caribou were reported for

the second year in a row after a long absence from the count reports. In the case of the Lynx this appears to be a result of a population resurgence but the caribou is from northern counts; although there are several counts from the areas where they occurred in the past they remain unreported from the southern forest.

White-tailed Deer was still the most frequently recorded species, but numbers appear to be down as do numbers for Snowshoe Hare, White-tailed Jack Rabbit and Nuttall's Cottontail. Coyote and Red Fox numbers appear to be up; the Coyote was the second most common species.

For weather, coverage and participants please refer to the Christmas Bird Count found in this issue. Numbers appearing before the count location name in the tables refer to the location of the count on the map included with the bird count; the numbers are not consecutive because not all bird counts submit information on mammals. In the tables a numeral alone indicates that the animals were actually seen, while a letter prior to the number indicates that the numbers were inferred by the means defined below. A letter alone indicates that the species was present but it was either impossible to estimate numbers or no attempt was made to do so.

T = tracks

L = active lodge or hut

D = dead animal found

d = fresh diggings found

S = odour or smell

H = heard

+ = present during the count period (Dec. 14 to Jan. 2) but not found on count day.

Table 1-1. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE										
	1. ABERNETHY 21 Dec. 1991	2. ARMIT 23 Dec. 1991	3. BANGOR 2 Jan. 1992	5. BETHUNE 15 Dec. 1991	6. BIGGAR 19 Dec. 1991	7. BIG MUDDY LAKE 30 Dec. 1991	8. BIG RIVER 28 Dec. 1991	9. BIRCH HILLS 21 Dec. 1991	10. BORDEN 1 Jan. 1992	11. BRIGHTWATER 22 Dec. 1991	
MASKED SHREW		T1									
SHORT-TAILED SHREW											
SHREW species											
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL						T3					
SNOWSHOE HARE		T50	6		T2			T40	T		
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	7		+		T9			T1	1		
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG											
13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL											
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL											
GREY SQUIRREL											
FOX SQUIRREL											
RED SQUIRREL	1	1	+					11			
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL											
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER											
BEAVER		D1	+					T1			
DEER MOUSE		T6									
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE											
MUSKRAT	2										
MEADOW VOLE		2									
SAGEBRUSH VOLE											
VOLE species					T10						
MOUSE species				+		1		T18			
HOUSE MOUSE											
PORCUPINE		1			1			T2			
COYOTE	+	T1	4		2	3		T8	T		
WOLF		T6									
RED FOX		D1			T2	T2		T6	T	1	
SWIFT FOX											
RACCOON											
FISHER		D1									
ERMINE											
LONG-TAILED WEASEL			1					T2		1	
LEAST WEASEL								T3			
WEASEL species		T1		+		T1		T1	T		
MINK	+	T2						T1			
BADGER	+					d1					
STRIPED SKUNK		T1							S1	D1	
RIVER OTTER											
FERAL CAT											
BOBCAT											
LYNX		T4									
WOODLAND CARIBOU											
MULE DEER					5	1					
WHITE-TAILED DEER	5	2	14		4	9		T3	3		
DEER species											
MOOSE		3						+			
ELK		T1									
PRONGHORN						39					
TOTAL SPECIES	7	18	7	2	8	9	1	12	7	3	

Table 1-2. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

13. BROMHEAD 2 Jan. 1992	14. CANDLE LAKE 2 Jan. 1992	15. CHOICELAND 2 Jan. 1992	16. CLARK'S CROSSING 29 Dec. 1991	17. CONQUEST 26 Dec. 1991	18. CRAVEN 20 Dec. 1991	19. CROOKED L. (A) 27 Dec. 1991	20. CROOKED L. (B) 30 Dec. 1991	22. DALMENY 20 Dec. 1991	24. DUVAL 28 Dec. 1991	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
		1									MASKED SHREW
											SHORT-TAILED SHREW
											SHREW species
											NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
	T	3	T		1	T9		1	T5		SNOWSHOE HARE
T10		1			2	T1					WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
											BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
											13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL
											RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
											GREY SQUIRREL
											FOX SQUIRREL
	22	11				8	1				RED SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
T1											BEAVER
		T1									DEER MOUSE
											GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
						1					MUSKRAT
											MEADOW VOLE
											SAGEBRUSH VOLE
											VOLE species
						T10			T8		MOUSE species
											HOUSE MOUSE
	1	1			1						PORCUPINE
T1		3		1		T1			T17		COYOTE
											WOLF
T1	1	T1	T		T1	3		1	T6		RED FOX
											SWIFT FOX
						T1					RACCOON
											FISHER
						T2					ERMINE
						T2			T1		LONG-TAILED WEASEL
											LEAST WEASEL
		T7							T2		WEASEL species
		T1				T2					MINK
d1											BADGER
									S1		STRIPED SKUNK
											RIVER OTTER
											FERAL CAT
											BOBCAT
											LYNX
											WOODLAND CARIBOU
10	13	17	10		12	T5			2		MULE DEER
			9								WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
		1									MOOSE
		T2									ELK
											PRONGHORN
6	5	13	4	1	5	12	1	2	7		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	25. EDAM 29 Dec. 1991	26. ENDEAVOUR 25 Dec. 1991	27. FENTON 26 Dec. 1991	28. FT. QU'APPELLE 17 Dec. 1991	29. FORT WALSH 14 Dec. 1991	30. GARDINER DAM 16 Dec. 1991	31. GLENTWORTH 19 Dec. 1991	32. GOOD SPIRIT L. 22 Dec. 1991	33. GOVENLOCK 15 Dec. 1991
MASKED SHREW										
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										
SHREW species										
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL						6	1	7		2
SNOWSHOE HARE					1	T2	T6		T10	
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT			1		+	T15	T10	13	T1	T20
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG										
13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL										
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL								2		
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL			4	2		29			5	
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL									1	
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER										
BEAVER							L1			
DEER MOUSE						T1		T3		
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE									3	
MUSKRAT					2					
MEADOW VOLE										
SAGEBRUSH VOLE								D1		
VOLE species						T16	T15			
MOUSE species						T13	T5			T7
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE			T1	1		3	D1	1	1	
COYOTE			1	+	+	9	3	19	T2	8
WOLF										
RED FOX		1			1	1	T1	2		T1
SWIFT FOX								T3		T1
RACCOON										
FISHER										
ERMINE			T1		+					
LONG-TAILED WEASEL								T2		
LEAST WEASEL										
WEASEL species						T4	T1		T4	T1
MINK					+		T1			
BADGER						d1		d2		
STRIPED SKUNK										
RIVER OTTER										
FERAL CAT										
BOBCAT						T1				
LYNX										
WOODLAND CARIBOU										
MULE DEER						31	5	17		102
WHITE-TAILED DEER		8	1		+	34	21	3	4	1
DEER species			T			T17				
MOOSE			T							
ELK			T			T2				
PRONGHORN						46		117		396
TOTAL SPECIES		2	8	3	8	16	13	9	14	10

Table 1-4. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

34. GRASSLANDS N.P. 28 Dec. 1991	38. HUDSON BAY 26 Dec. 1991	39. HUMBOLDT 26 Dec. 1991	40. INDIAN HEAD 29 Dec. 1991	41. KAMSACK 14 Dec. 1991	42. KELVINGTON 14 Dec. 1991	43. KENASTON 23 Dec. 1991	44. KILWINNING 22 Dec. 1991	45. KINDERSLEY 31 Dec. 1991	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
		1								MASKED SHREW
										SHORT-TAILED SHREW
	T1									SHREW species
7										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
	2	T6	T1		T6	+				SNOWSHOE HARE
8		+	11		T1	3				WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
463										BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
										13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL
14										RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
			1	13						GREY SQUIRREL
	5		13	1	T1		5			FOX SQUIRREL
										RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
2										BEAVER
										DEER MOUSE
										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
										MUSKRAT
										MEADOW VOLE
										SAGEBRUSH VOLE
T3										VOLE species
					T2	+				MOUSE species
7		1		6	T1	+				HOUSE MOUSE
23			3	7		+				PORCUPINE
										COYOTE
1		2	8	5	D1	+	T10			WOLF
										RED FOX
										SWIFT FOX
			+	6	T1					RACCOON
										FISHER
T3			2				+			ERMINE
			1							LONG-TAILED WEASEL
	T4									LEAST WEASEL
										WEASEL species
d2										MINK
D1				1	T1					BADGER
										STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
T1										FERAL CAT
										BOBCAT
										LYNX
216			7					7		WOODLAND CARIBOU
19	4	T25	22	51	T34	+	T20			MULE DEER
			T13							WHITE-TAILED DEER
	T1			2						DEER species
										MOOSE
144								1		ELK
16	6	6	11	9	9	8	3	2		PRONGHORN
										TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	47. KUTAWAGAN L. 27 Dec. 1991	48. LA RONGE 26 Dec. 1991	49. LAST MT. L. W.M.U. 26 Dec. 1991	50. LEADER 20 Dec. 1991	52. LOVE-TORCH R. 31 Dec. 1991	53. LUSELAND 27 Dec. 1991	55. MATADOR 27 Dec. 1991	57. MELFORT 14 Dec. 1991	58. MELVILLE 25 Dec. 1991
MASKED SHREW										
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										
SHREW species										
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL										
SNOWSHOE HARE		T	T9	T2		5				
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		2		17	2	1	3	1		+
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG										
13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL							+			
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL										
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL			4			7			2	
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL						1				
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER				d1						
BEAVER										
DEER MOUSE						2				
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										
MUSKRAT			1							
MEADOW VOLE										
SAGEBRUSH VOLE										
VOLE species			T6			1				
MOUSE species		T			12					+
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE		1		2			2	2		
COYOTE		T	T2	3	4	+	3	1		3
WOLF										
RED FOX		T	T4	1	1	13	1		2	
SWIFT FOX										
RACCOON										
FISHER										
ERMINE			T3	T1						
LONG-TAILED WEASEL						1				
LEAST WEASEL										
WEASEL species		T							1	+
MINK			T2	T1						
BADGER										
STRIPED SKUNK		S1		S2						1
RIVER OTTER			T1							
FERAL CAT										
BOBCAT										
LYNX										
WOODLAND CARIBOU										
MULE DEER		9			13		+	250		
WHITE-TAILED DEER		T	T2	9	16	24	+	23		1
DEER species										
MOOSE			T2			T1				
ELK										
PRONGHORN					12			35		
TOTAL SPECIES		10	11	10	7	11	7	6	3	6

Table 1-6. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

59. MOOSE JAW 26 Dec. 1991	60. NAICAM 27 Dec. 1991	62. NIPAWIN 27 Dec. 1991	63. PIKE LAKE 21 Dec. 1991	65. PREECEVILLE 26 Dec. 1991	66. PRINCE ALBERT (A) 21 Dec. 1991	67. PRINCE ALBERT (B) 22 Dec. 1991	68. PRINCE ALBERT N.P. 15 Dec. 1991	69. QU'APPELLE V. DAM 14 Dec. 1991	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
										MASKED SHREW
										SHORT-TAILED SHREW
										SHREW species
								2		NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
T9	T		1	+			T70	T		SNOWSHOE HARE
T15										WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
										BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
										13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL
										RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
										GREY SQUIRREL
	H1	2		1	2	2	11			FOX SQUIRREL
										RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
T2										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
										BEAVER
										DEER MOUSE
										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
										MUSKRAT
										MEADOW VOLE
										SAGEBRUSH VOLE
T6	T		T1				T1			VOLE species
			T3				T1			MOUSE species
	T2					1				HOUSE MOUSE
T5		1	T2			+				PORCUPINE
		2					T10			COYOTE
1			1			+	4			WOLF
										RED FOX
										SWIFT FOX
T1							T1			RACCOON
										FISHER
T1			1							ERMINE
T1										LONG-TAILED WEASEL
	T1		T2							LEAST WEASEL
T3							T1			WEASEL species
T1										MINK
T1										BADGER
										STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
										FERAL CAT
										BOBCAT
										LYNX
			T1					13		WOODLAND CARIBOU
T35			5	3			7	20		MULE DEER
			T14				T15	3		WHITE-TAILED DEER
		5					T5			DEER species
							20			MOOSE
										ELK
										PRONGHORN
13	5	4	8	3	1	4	11	5		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-7. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	70. RAYMORE 25 Dec. 1991	71. READ LAKE 19 Dec. 1991	72. REGINA 26 Dec. 1991	73. ROUND LAKE 1 Jan. 1992	74. SASKATOON 26 Dec. 1991	75. SCOTT 29 Dec. 1991	76. SIMPSON 26 Dec. 1991	77. SKULL CREEK 27 Dec. 1991	79. SPALDING 27 Dec. 1991
MASKED SHREW		1								
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										
SHREW species		T3								
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL									8	
SNOWSHOE HARE		4	T1		T21	1			1	3
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		9		5	T5	T	T4			
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG										
13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL										
RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL									3	
GREY SQUIRREL										2
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL		H1	T6		2				1	
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER										
BEAVER					2					
DEER MOUSE		2								3
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE		3								
MUSKRAT					3					
MEADOW VOLE		4								1
SAGEBRUSH VOLE										
VOLE species							T30			
MOUSE species					T17	T2				
HOUSE MOUSE		7								
PORCUPINE		3			T3				1	+
COYOTE		9			1	4	T2	T	2	2
WOLF										
RED FOX		2	T2	17	1	1	1	T		1
SWIFT FOX										
RACCOON										T
FISHER			+							
ERMINE		1								
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		T2			T6	2			1	
LEAST WEASEL					T1	1				
WEASEL species					T3					T
MINK					1					
BADGER		d1								
STRIPED SKUNK		S1								
RIVER OTTER										
FERAL CAT		2								
BOBCAT										
LYNX										
WOODLAND CARIBOU			+							
MULE DEER					T2			2	2	+
WHITE-TAILED DEER		43			T50	2	T3	5	24	T
DEER species		T20				T5				
MOOSE			T1		T1				1	
ELK										
PRONGHORN									18	
TOTAL SPECIES		17	6	2	15	8	5	4	11	11

Table 1-8. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

80. SPINNEY HILL 28 Dec. 1991	81. SPRING VALLEY 24 Dec. 1991	83. SQUAW RAPIDS 22 Dec. 1991	84. SWIFT CURRENT 29 Dec. 1991	85. TISDALE 25 Dec. 1991	86. TOMPKINS 2 Jan. 1992	87. VAL MARIE 15 Dec. 1991	89. WARMAN 1 Jan. 1992	90. WAUCHOPE 28 Dec. 1991	LOCATION & DATE	SPECIES
		D1					+			MASKED SHREW
		1								SHORT-TAILED SHREW
										SHREW species
	1					1				NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
		1	1					T4		SNOWSHOE HARE
	5	T	+			2		T1		WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
										BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG
										13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL
			1							RICHARDSON'S GR. SQUIRREL
										GREY SQUIRREL
								2		FOX SQUIRREL
2		29								RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER
		L2								BEAVER
		T7						T1		DEER MOUSE
										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
										MUSKRAT
								T1		MEADOW VOLE
										SAGEBRUSH VOLE
		T8								VOLE species
	T		1	1				1		MOUSE species
										HOUSE MOUSE
1	1	2			1			T2		PORCUPINE
1	2	9			3	3	2	1		COYOTE
		6								WOLF
	T	T3						+		RED FOX
										SWIFT FOX
										RACCOON
										FISHER
			1							ERMINE
				1						LONG-TAILED WEASEL
										LEAST WEASEL
	T	T4						T4		WEASEL species
		T1								MINK
	1					1				BADGER
	+									STRIPED SKUNK
		T1								RIVER OTTER
										FERAL CAT
										BOBCAT
		T1								LYNX
										WOODLAND CARIBOU
7	22		21		102	3				MULE DEER
14	2	4	15	6	29	61		14		WHITE-TAILED DEER
										DEER species
		T4								MOOSE
		T20								ELK
					128	63				PRONGHORN
5	11	19	7	3	5	7	2	10		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-9. SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCATION & DATE	91. WEYBURN 3 Jan. 1992	92. WHITE BEAR 29 Dec. 1991	93. WHITE BEAR L. 19 Dec. 1991	94. WHITEBEECH 27 Dec. 1991	95. WHITEWOOD 2 Jan. 1992	96. YORKTON 29 Dec. 1991	97. CARRAGANA 26 Dec. 1991	98. CHRISTOPHER L. 25 Dec. 1991	TOTAL COUNTS PER SPECIES
MASKED SHREW										6
SHORT-TAILED SHREW										1
SHREW species					+					2
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL			2							13
SNOWSHOE HARE				1	T10	+		4		44
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT			1							40
BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG										1
13-LINED GROUND SQUIRREL										1
RICHARDSON'S GR. GREY SQUIRREL								1		4
FOX SQUIRREL		+								2
RED SQUIRREL				8	1	2		3		36
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										2
NORTHERN POCKET GOPHER										1
BEAVER										9
DEER MOUSE								2		12
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										2
MUSKRAT										5
MEADOW VOLE										4
SAGEBRUSH VOLE										1
VOLE species										10
MOUSE species										23
HOUSE MOUSE								D2		2
PORCUPINE			1		T1			1		35
COYOTE			4			3		4		53
WOLF										4
RED FOX		1	1	1	+	1		2		55
SWIFT FOX										2
RACCOON										7
FISHER										2
ERMINE										6
LONG-TAILED WEASEL								1		18
LEAST WEASEL										6
WEASEL species					T1					23
MINK										13
BADGER										10
STRIPED SKUNK				1	T1					15
RIVER OTTER										2
FERAL CAT										1
BOBCAT										2
LYNX										2
WOODLAND CARIBOU										1
MULE DEER		8	205							27
WHITE-TAILED DEER		11	1	11	+	15		5		64
DEER species										8
MOOSE				1	+			2		17
ELK					+			2	2	8
PRONGHORN										15
TOTAL SPECIES		4	7	6	10	5	1	11	1	