
MAMMALS

33RD ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT-2005.

ALAN R. SMITH, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X4

Ninety-two of the 98 compilers submitting Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) also sent in mammal counts. The 34 species of mammals seen or heard on count day was second only to the 35 seen or heard in 2003, while the 4360 individuals is the most since overall totals were first tabulated in 2002.

As usual, the most abundant mammal was the White-tailed Deer, followed by the Mule Deer. For the first time in at least four years, the Pronghorn outnumbered the American Red Squirrel and took third place. The most frequently-seen mammals have involved the same four species since 2002. This year, White-tailed Deer were noted on 70% of all counts, American Red Squirrels on 59%, Coyotes on 58%, and Mule Deer on only 30%.

Estuary had the most species seen in a day at 10, (followed by Skull Creek and Swift Current, each with 9) while Fort Walsh had the most individuals with 431. Although all-time high counts for each species have yet to be tabulated, some of this year's counts must be contenders. These include 37 Eastern Grey Squirrels from Swift Current, 71 Meadow Voles from Somme, and 9 moose from Kindersley North.

No new species were recorded, but the Bison due to be released into the wild in Grasslands National Park may qualify next year. Rarities included a Swift Fox seen on the Govenlock count and tracks of Mountain Lion noted in the Cypress Hills on both the Fort Walsh and

Cypress Hills Provincial Park counts.

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of Christmas Mammal Counts, see the CBC summary in this issue.

The number of mammals actually seen or heard on count day is treated separately from those recorded by other means, or those recorded during count period (14 December to 5 January) but not on count day. Numbers of individuals seen or heard are given in Table 1 and are tallied in the first line of totals at the bottom of the table. The number of species they represent is given in the second line.

For animals detected by tracks, by other means, or that are seen or heard in the count period but not on count day, we tabulate only the species *additional* to those actually seen or heard on count day with no number of individuals given. Species detected only by tracks are indicated by 't' in the table; those detected only by other means (dead animals or clearly identifiable chewing, digging, dens or lodges) by 'o.' Species detected by any means during the count period, but not on count day, are indicated by 'c' in the table. These additional species are tallied in lines 3, 4 and 5 at the bottom of the table. If a mammal is reported only as a member of a species group (i.e. mouse species, deer species), it is counted as a species only if no other species in this group has been definitely recorded. The columns at the end of the table give totals for each species.

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Archerwill, 19 Dec 2005	Armit, 4 Jan 2006	Bangor, 27 Dec 2005	Biggar, 27 Dec 2005	Birch Hills, 19 Dec 2005	Brightwater, 23 Dec 2005	Broadview, 22 Dec 2005	Bromhead, 4 Jan 2006	Cabri, 24 Dec 2005	Candle Lake, 29 Dec 2005	Christopher Lake, 15 Dec 2005	Churchbridge, 4 Jan 2006	Clark's Crossing, 17 Dec 2005	Codette Lake, 31 Dec 2005
Shrew Species					t		t			t				
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail												t		
Snowshoe Hare	t	t		t	t		t			t	1	3		1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	4			t				t				t	2	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel							t							
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel							5					1		
Fox Squirrel							4							
American Red Squirrel	1	1	1		2		4			20	2	5	1	10
Northern Flying-Squirrel	c													
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver					o		o			o		o		1
Deer Mouse													t	
Muskrat														
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole												2		
Vole Species					t			t		t				1
Mouse Species						t	t					t		
Norway Rat												t		
House Mouse														
American Porcupine	t				t		1					o		t
Coyote	t	t	1	4	1	3	1	5		t		3	7	t
Wolf	t	2	1							t				
Red Fox	1							1		t	1		2	
Swift Fox														
Raccoon	2						t							
American Marten														
Fisher										t				
Ermine					t		t			t		t		t
Long-tailed Weasel		t			t		t			t				t
Least Weasel					t									t
Weasel Species	c			t				t						
American Mink					t									
American Badger														
Striped Skunk	c													
River Otter										t				
Mountain Lion														
Bobcat												t		
Lynx										t				t
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer	c			7										
White-tailed Deer	4	11	28	3			t	10		9	t	7	22	57
Deer Species					5	t								
Moose	1	5		t			t	2				t		
Eik	40													t
Pronghorn									40					
Totals seen/heard on count day	53	19	31	14	8	3	15	18	40	29	4	21	34	70
Total species seen/heard	7	4	4	3	3	1	5	4	1	2	3	6	5	5
Total species recorded by tracks	4	3	0	4	8	2	9	3	0	11	1	6	1	7
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Species recorded count period	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	15	7	4	7	12	3	15	7	1	14	4	14	6	12

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Coronach, 29 Dec 2005	Craven, 17 Dec 2005	Crooked Lake, 3 Jan 2006	Crooked River, 31 Dec 2005	Cypress Hills P.P., 30 Dec 2005	Dorintosh, 29 Dec 2005	Duck Lake, 19 Dec 2005	Dundurn, 2 Jan 2006	Eastend, 2 Jan 2006	Ellisboro, 27 Dec 2005	Emma Lake, 27 Dec 2005	Endeavour	Esterhazy-Hazelcliffe, 2 Jan 2006	Estevan, 24 Dec 2005
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														t
Nuttall's Cottontail					3				4					
Snowshoe Hare		t	t				t	t		t		t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t						t	t					
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Fox Squirrel														2
American Red Squirrel		1	4	3	11	2	3			4	12	c	1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel											1			
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver			o			o								
Deer Mouse							t		t					
Muskrat			1			o								o
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species														
Mouse Species		t		c		t		t				t		
Norway Rat														
House Mouse														
American Porcupine													t	2
Coyote		5	2		2	t	t	t	7	2			t	4
Wolf														
Red Fox		t			2								t	
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten														
Fisher						t								
Ermine														
Long-tailed Weasel														
Least Weasel					1								c	
Weasel Species														
American Mink														
American Badger	o													
Striped Skunk														
River Otter						t								
Mountain Lion					t									
Bobcat														
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer		16			3			11	113					6
White-tailed Deer	9	50		c	28	t	3	4	1	1	1	8	6	15
Deer Species			t											
Moose									7			c		
Elk														
Pronghorn														
Totals seen/heard on count day	9	72	7	3	50	2	6	15	132	7	14	8	7	29
Total species seen/heard	1	4	3	1	7	1	2	2	5	3	3	1	2	5
Total species recorded by tracks	0	4	2	0	1	5	3	4	2	1	0	5	0	1
Total species otherwise recorded	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total species count period and day	2	8	6	3	8	8	5	6	7	4	3	9	2	7

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	39	42	43	44	45	46
	Estuary North, 5 Jan 2006	Fenton, 17 Dec 2005	Fort Qu'Appelle, 17 Dec 2005	Fort Walsh, 17 Dec 2005	Gardiner Dam, 19 Dec 2005	Good Spirit Lake, 31 Dec 2005	Govenlock, 18 Dec 2005	Grasslands, N.P., 5 Jan 2006	Harris, 2 Jan 2006	Kelvington, 30 Dec 2005	Kenaston, 26 Dec 2005	Kenosee Lake, 30 Dec 2005	Ketchen, 26 Dec 2005	Kilwinning, 19 Dec 2005
Shrew Species						t								
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail	1			11	6		4				t			
Snowshoe Hare		t			t	t			t	t		t	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	4	t		t	6	t	1		t		t			t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog								54						
Eastern Grey Squirrel			c											
Fox Squirrel														
American Red Squirrel		2	6	22		2				t		3	c	5
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver						o					o	o		
Deer Mouse			c								t			
Muskrat			1			o					o			
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole			c	2	1									
Vole Species						t	t		t					
Mouse Species		t								t				
Norway Rat														
House Mouse			3											
American Porcupine	1	t		4		t	1			t				
Coyote	11	5	1	16	8	1	4	2	10	t	1			
Wolf														
Red Fox	1	2	c			t	t		t	c	t		1	1
Swift Fox							1							
Raccoon										c	t			
American Marten														
Fisher														
Ermine		t		t	1									
Long-tailed Weasel	1		c								t			
Least Weasel														
Weasel Species						t				t				
American Mink			1			t								
American Badger							o							
Striped Skunk											o			1
River Otter														
Mountain Lion				t										
Bobcat														
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer	38		c	170	201		81	44	174		8			
White-tailed Deer	53		1	204	51	16	18	63	5	t	12	3	t	12
Deer Species		t												
Moose	2					c				c	t		t	
Elk				2		3							t	
Pronghorn	15						183							
Totals seen/heard on count day	127	9	13	431	274	22	293	163	189	0	21	6	1	19
Total species seen/heard	10	3	6	8	7	4	8	4	3	0	3	2	1	4
Total species recorded by tracks	0	6	0	3	1	8	2	0	4	7	7	1	4	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	10	9	12	11	8	15	11	4	7	10	13	4	6	5

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2005	Kinistino (Horsehoe Bend), 3 Jan 2006	Kinloch, 19 Dec 2005	Kutawagan Lake, 26 Dec 2005	Kyle, 2 Jan 2006	La Ronge North, 2 Jan 2006	La Ronge South, 28 Dec 2005	Last Mountain Lake, 27 Dec 2005	Leader North, 31 Dec 2005	Love-Torch River, 29 Dec 2005	Luseland, 1 Jan 2006	MacDowall, 29 Dec 2005	MacNutt	Matador, 28 Dec 2005
Shrew Species								c						
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail					1				3					1
Snowshoe Hare			t				1	c		t		t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1			1	1			1	2	1	1			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														c
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Fox Squirrel														
American Red Squirrel		2	1			3	6	1		10		4	2	
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver			o					o				o		
Deer Mouse				t							2			
Muskrat			o					o				o		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species			t					1				1		1
Mouse Species					t				2			1		
Norway Rat														
House Mouse														
American Porcupine					t			1		t		t		
Coyote	1	t	t	4	1	1	t	t	5	t	1	2		4
Wolf								t						
Red Fox		1						t			t			
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten														
Fisher													o	
Ermine								c						
Long-tailed Weasel										1		1		
Least Weasel														
Weasel Species			t											
American Mink			t											
American Badger	o			o							1	o		
Striped Skunk														
River Otter								1						
Mountain Lion														
Bobcat														
Lynx												t	1	
Woodland Caribou								t						
Mule Deer	6				5			c	1		5	2		14
White-tailed Deer		o	67	3	14			4	3	27	c	5	11	5
Deer Species														
Moose	9		1					t		c	c			
Elk		t	12							1				53
Pronghorn	7				36									
Totals seen/heard on count day	24	3	81	8	58	4	8	8	16	40	10	16	14	78
Total species seen/heard	5	2	4	3	6	2	3	5	6	5	5	7	3	6
Total species recorded by tracks	0	2	5	1	2	0	5	1	0	4	0	4	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	2	0	0	1
Total species count period and day	6	5	11	5	8	2	10	10	6	10	7	14	4	7

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	70	71	72	73	74	75
	Mayview, 5 Jan 2006	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2005	Moose Jaw, 26 Dec 2005	Moose Mountain, 21 Dec 2005	Morse, 17 Dec 2005	Nipawin, 30 Dec 2005	Nisbet Forest NW, 23 Dec 2005	Nisbet Forest West, 1 Jan 2006	Pike Lake, 2 Jan 2006	Prince Albert, 18 Dec 2005	Prince Albert N.P., 15 Dec 2005	Qu'Appelle Dam, 18 Dec 2005	Raymore, 2 Jan 2006	Regina, 26 Dec 2005
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail			1		t							3		
Snowshoe Hare			1			12	t		t	t				t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				t	t				t	t				12
Richardson's Ground Squirrel							c							
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														13
Fox Squirrel			2											3
American Red Squirrel	2	4		3		3		6	8	14	2			
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher					o									
American Beaver										o				
Deer Mouse										t		1		
Muskrat					o						o			o
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole										t				t
Vole Species											t			
Mouse Species				t			t		t					
Norway Rat														
House Mouse														
American Porcupine							o	1						t
Coyote		1	4	2	21	1	8	c		5	t	13	t	5
Wolf											t			
Red Fox			1			1	c				1			
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten											t			
Fisher											t			
Ermine											t			
Long-tailed Weasel						1								
Least Weasel									t					t
Weasel Species														
American Mink														t
American Badger														
Striped Skunk									o					
River Otter											5			
Mountain Lion														
Bobcat														
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer			8		24	c						58		
White-tailed Deer		4	5	t	81		t	c	23	t	24	47	t	3
Deer Species									2					
Moose		o				c								
Elk						t					68			
Pronghorn												3		
Totals seen/heard on count day	2	9	22	5	126	18	8	7	33	19	100	125	0	36
Total species seen/heard	1	3	7	2	3	5	1	2	2	2	5	6	0	5
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	0	3	2	1	3	0	4	5	6	0	2	5
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	1	4	7	5	7	8	7	4	7	8	12	6	2	11

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
	Rouleau, 1 Jan 2006	Round Lake, 27 Dec 2005	Saltcoats, 4 Jan 2006	Sk. Landing P.P., 20 Dec 2005	Sk. River Forks, 28 Dec 2005	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2005	Sawyer Lake, 31 Dec 2005	Shamrock, 17 Dec 2005	Skull Creek, 28 Dec 2005.	Snowden, 30 Dec 2005	Somme, 21 Dec 2005	Spalding, 27 Dec 2005	Spinney Hill, 16 Dec 2005	Squaw Rapids, 5 Jan 2006
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail				3					6					
Snowshoe Hare		1	3		t			t		t	c			t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				1		t		t	5		2	t	1	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Fox Squirrel														
American Red Squirrel		3	5		11	7			2	9	5	1		13
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher									o					
American Beaver		c												o
Deer Mouse											c			
Muskrat														o
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														
Meadow Vole										t	71			
Vole Species					t	2								t
Mouse Species				t								o		
Norway Rat														
House Mouse												o		
American Porcupine		1		1	1						1	t	1	
Coyote		2		4	3	4		3	5		c		1	1
Wolf					t						c			t
Red Fox		t	2					1	2			t		t
Swift Fox														
Raccoon									t					
American Marten														
Fisher					t									
Ermine									2		c			t
Long-tailed Weasel			1		t	3					c			
Least Weasel														
Weasel Species										t		t		
American Mink	t													
American Badger			o			1		o	o					
Striped Skunk			o			o								
River Otter														t
Mountain Lion														
Bobcat														
Lynx					t									
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer				8		18		29	120		c			
White-tailed Deer		2	6	4		91	7	38	200	6	147	t	7	16
Deer Species					t									
Moose					1				2					
Elk					t						20			t
Pronghorn	12			79										
Totals seen/heard on count day	12	9	17	100	16	126	7	71	344	15	246	1	10	30
Total species seen/heard	1	5	5	7	4	7	1	4	9	2	6	1	4	3
Total species recorded by tracks	1	1	0	1	8	1	0	2	1	3	0	5	0	7
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	2
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	2	7	7	8	12	9	1	7	12	5	13	8	4	12

Table 1. 33rd Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2005.

Map number	90	91	92	94	95	96	97	98						
	Stenen, 2 Jan 2006	Swift Current, 31 Dec 2005	Togo, 3 Jan 2006	Turtleford, 29 Dec 2005	Weyburn, 15 Dec 2005	White Bear, 27 Dec 2005	Whitewood, 1 Jan 2006	Yorkton, 19 Dec 2005	# individuals seen/heard count day	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded as tracks	# Counts recorded as other	# Counts, count period	# Counts, count period & count day
Shrew Species				1					1	1	4	0	1	6
Eastern Cottontail									0	0	1	0	0	1
Nuttall's Cottontail		11							58	14	3	0	0	17
Snowshoe Hare			2	1			2	t	28	11	31	0	2	44
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		2			t	2		t	50	19	21	0	0	40
Richardson's Ground Squirrel		c		o					0	0	1	1	3	5
Black-tailed Prairie Dog									54	1	0	0	0	1
Eastern Grey Squirrel		37					c		56	4	0	0	2	6
Fox Squirrel					1		1		13	6	0	0	0	6
American Red Squirrel	6		7	5			6		279	54	1	0	2	57
Northern Flying-Squirrel			2						3	2	0	0	1	3
Northern Pocket Gopher				o						0	0	3	0	3
American Beaver				o			o		1	1	0	16	1	18
Deer Mouse				t					3	2	7	0	2	11
Muskrat				o				o	2	2	0	13	0	15
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole				3					3	1	0	0	0	1
Meadow Vole							t		76	4	4	0	1	9
Vole Species					t			t	6	5	12	0	0	17
Mouse Species		t							3	2	15	1	1	19
Norway Rat									0	0	1	0	0	1
House Mouse									3	1	0	1	0	2
American Porcupine			2				2	t	20	14	13	2	0	29
Coyote		4	1	2			4		219	53	16	0	2	71
Wolf									3	2	6	0	1	9
Red Fox	1				t		t		22	17	15	0	3	35
Swift Fox									1	1	0	0	0	1
Raccoon		1							3	2	3	0	1	6
American Marten									0	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher									0	0	4	1	0	5
Ermine									3	2	9	0	2	13
Long-tailed Weasel		1		1					10	8	7	0	2	17
Least Weasel			1						2	2	4	0	1	7
Weasel Species								t	0	0	8	0	1	9
American Mink		1					1		3	3	5	0	0	8
American Badger							o		2	2	0	9	0	11
Striped Skunk				o			c		1	1	0	5	2	8
River Otter									6	2	3	0	0	5
Mountain Lion									0	0	2	0	0	2
Bobcat									0	0	1	0	0	1
Lynx									1	1	4	0	0	5
Woodland Caribou									0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer		21		o		7			1198	28	0	1	5	34
White-tailed Deer	7	29	6		3		3	3	1616	64	10	1	3	78
Deer Species									7	2	4	0	0	6
Moose							c		30	9	6	1	7	23
Elk									199	8	6	0	0	14
Pronghorn									375	8	0	0	0	8
Totals seen/heard on count day	14	107	21	13	4	9	19	3	4360					
Total species seen/heard	3	9	7	6	2	2	7	1		34				
Total species recorded by tracks	0	1	0	1	3	0	2	5			29			
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	6	0	0	2	1				13		
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0					20	
Total species count period and day	3	11	7	13	5	2	14	7						43