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# MAMMALS

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## 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2007

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Ninety-one of the 100 submitted Christmas Bird Counts also included Christmas Mammal Counts. The total number of mammals seen or heard (4,041) and total number of species recorded (33) was about normal for the last ten years. Indian Head had the most species seen or heard, with 12. Saskatoon was the runner-up, with 10.

One new species, the American Bison was added this winter. It was recorded on both the Mayview and Grasslands National Park counts. Those seen at Mayview are descended from animals released in 1969 north of Prince Albert National Park. Since then they moved into the southwest corner of the National Park with frequent forays into the adjacent farmlands. Although bison were released into a fenced area of Grasslands National Park in

December 2005, they were not recorded until this winter. The Bison brings the total number of species seen or heard on the CMC to 50.

A new high of four Swift Foxes was established on the Govenlock I Count; previously only one animal was seen on three counts (Grasslands National Park 1995, and Govenlock in 2003 and 2005). A single Marten at Togo was only the third in the history of the count; the others were seen at Squaw Rapids in 1987 and Love in 2000.

Other rarities include Mountain Lion tracks on the Fort Walsh and McNutt counts, and Woodland Caribou tracks on the Candle Lake Count.

The presence of the first Bison on this count, as well as the high count for Swift Fox, makes me dream that



*White-tailed Jack Rabbit photographed on the Gardiner Dam CMC, December 17, 2007. Nick Saunders*

the original prairie mammalian fauna may be making a comeback. All we need is a sighting of a Black-footed Ferret!

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

### Explanation of entries in Table 1.

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 species only detected by tracks or by other means, or that are seen or heard only in the count period but not on count day, no numbers of individuals is given in Table 1. Species detected only by tracks are indicated by 't' in the table; those detected only by other means (dead animals 'm', clearly identifiable chewing or digging 'd', dens or lodges 'L' and by smell 's.') 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 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.



*Bison photographed on the Mayview CMC on December 23, 2007.*

*Don Weidl*

Table 1-1. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
	Armit, 31 Dec 2007	Avonlea, 28 Dec 2007	Bangor, 30 Dec 2007	Biggar, 27 Dec 2007	Big River, 28 Dec. 2007	Birch Hills, 18 Dec 2007	Bjorkdale, 4 Jan 2008	Broadview, 23 Dec 2007	Bromhead, 2 Jan 2008	Candle Lake, 28 Dec 2007	Christopher Lake, 4 Jan 2008	Churchbridge, 15 Dec 2007	Clark's Crossing, 15 Dec 2007	Codette Lake, 29 Dec 2007
Short-tailed Shrew														
Shrew Species						t								
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail														
Snowshoe Hare	t			t		t	c	1		t		t	t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		c	2	t				t	t				4	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel								2						
Eastern Fox Squirrel		4												
American Red Squirrel	1				1	1	c	4		6	2	3	1	3
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver														
Deer Mouse														
Muskrat				L										
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species				t		t		t						
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species		t				t								
American Porcupine						t		1						t
Coyote	t	t		5	2	5		9	1	1			4	
Wolf	1									1				
Red Fox	1			1	t	1		2		1				1
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten														
Fisher										t				
Ermine						t		t		1				t
Long-tailed Weasel			1	1		t		t						
Least Weasel														t
Weasel Species														
American Mink								t		t				
American Badger		d												
Striped Skunk														
River Otter	t									t				
Mountain Lion														
Lynx										t				t
Woodland Caribou										t				
Mule Deer		2		103				5					5	
White-tailed Deer	9	c	38	10	t	1	c	10	8	17	t	4	11	10
Deer Species	5	5										t	t	
Moose	t									t				
Elk							35							t
Pronghorn														
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	17	11	41	120	3	8	35	34	9	27	2	7	25	14
Total species seen/heard	5	2	3	5	2	4	1	8	2	6	1	2	5	3
Total species recorded by tracks	4	2	0	3	2	6	0	6	1	7	1	2	2	6
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	8	7	3	9	4	10	5	14	3	13	2	3	6	9

Table 1-2. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	14	15	16	17	18	20	21	22	23	25	26	27	28	29
	Craven, 15 Dec 2007	Creighton, 29 Dec 2007	Crooked Lake, 19 Dec 2007	Crooked River, 29 Dec 2007	Cypress Hills P.P., 29 Dec 2007	Duck Lake, 19 Dec 2007	Dundurn, 31 Dec 2006	Duval, 27 Dec 2007	Eastend, 2 Jan 2008	Emma Lake, 4 Jan 2008	Endeavour, 16 Dec 2007	Estevan, 5 Jan 2008	Estuary North, 3 Jan 2008	Fenton, 15 Dec 2007
Short-tailed Shrew														
Shrew Species														t
Eastern Cottontail												1		
Nuttall's Cottontail					t			t	1					
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	t		t	t	t	t			t			1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t							t						
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel	11													
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1											10		
American Red Squirrel	1	1	5	2	7	10				7				8
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver			L		L			L				L		
Deer Mouse														
Muskrat			L											
Meadow Vole			1								t			
Vole Species		t												t
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species	t						t	t						t
American Porcupine											t	1	1	t
Coyote	2	1	3		2	1		t	4	c	1	3	3	2
Wolf		t												
Red Fox	1	t				1		1						
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten														
Fisher														
Ermine														
Long-tailed Weasel	1							t						
Least Weasel														
Weasel Species											t			
American Mink			t											
American Badger					1									
Striped Skunk									t					
River Otter		t												
Mountain Lion														
Lynx		t												
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer			3					7	65			14	54	
White-tailed Deer	66		t	2	52			13	5	3	7	4	131	2
Deer Species								t						t
Moose				2	8				1		2		4	
Elk														
Pronghorn														
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	83	2	12	6	70	12	0	21	76	10	10	33	193	13
Total species seen/heard	7	2	4	3	5	3	0	3	5	2	3	6	5	4
Total species recorded by tracks	3	6	3	0	2	1	2	7	1	0	4	0	0	4
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	8	9	3	8	4	2	10	6	3	7	7	5	6

Table 1-3. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	38	42	43	44	45	46	47
	Fort Qu'Appelle, 15 Dec 2007	Fort Walsh, 27 Dec 2007	Gardiner Dam, 17 Dec 2007	Good Spirit Lake, 18 Dec 2007	Govenlock 1, 15 Dec 2007	Govenlock 2, 28 Dec 2007	Grasslands, N.P., 19 Dec 2007	Harris, 21 Dec 2007	Imperial, 18 Dec 2007	Indian Head, 29 Dec 2007	Kelvington, 27 Dec 2007	Kenaston, 22 Dec 2007	Kenosee Lake, 27 Dec 2007	Ketchen, 26 Dec 2007
Short-tailed Shrew	c													
Shrew Species										1				
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail		2	t			2	3							
Snowshoe Hare	t			t				3		4	t		t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1	4	t	8	1		t	m	11		t		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog							1							
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Eastern Fox Squirrel										7				
American Red Squirrel	6	9	1	2						15	6		6	2
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver													L	L
Deer Mouse														
Muskrat	c		L	L								t	L	L
Meadow Vole	c		1						t					
Vole Species						3								
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species														
American Porcupine				t						3	c	t		
Coyote	2		15	t	2	3	14	t	t	21	t	t		
Wolf														
Red Fox	1			t		t			1	5		t		
Swift Fox					4	1								
Raccoon							t							
American Marten														
Fisher														
Ermine														
Long-tailed Weasel				t								t		
Least Weasel											t			
Weasel Species				t						1				
American Mink	1									2				
American Badger										L		L		
Striped Skunk									c			t	1	
River Otter														
Mountain Lion		t												
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer	6	40	29		7	25	27	62	1	24		2		
White-tailed Deer	22	12	70	16			56	19	2	111	3	15	32	1
Deer Species														
Moose				t								t	1	c
Elk		t											t	t
Pronghorn					68	118	120		c					
American Bison							58							
Totals seen/heard on count day	38	64	120	18	89	153	279	84	4	205	9	17	40	3
Total species seen/heard	6	5	6	2	5	7	7	3	3	12	2	2	4	2
Total species recorded by tracks	1	2	1	8	0	1	1	2	2	0	3	8	2	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	2
Species recorded count period	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Total species count period and day	10	7	8	11	5	8	8	5	8	13	6	11	8	6

Table 1-4. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	48	49	50	51	52	53	55	56	57	58	60	61	62	63
	Kilwinning, 18 Dec 2007	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2007	Kinistino, 4 Jan 2008	Kinloch, 20 Dec 2007	Kutawagan Lake, 24 Dec 2007	Kyle, 21 Dec 2007	Last Mountain Lake, 23 Dec 2007	Leader North, 29 Dec 2007	Love-Torch River, 23 Dec 2007	Luseland, 5 Jan 2008	MacNutt, 28 Dec 2007	Mayview, 23 Dec 2007	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2007	Moose Jaw, 5 Jan 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														
Shrew Species			m								1			
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail						3		1						
Snowshoe Hare			2	5					t					
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t			1	1	t	2		1				1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Eastern Fox Squirrel														
American Red Squirrel	3		1	3					3		6	2	1	13
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver				L										
Deer Mouse						1								
Muskrat				L	L		L							
Meadow Vole						c								
Vole Species														
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species			t					2	t					
American Porcupine			1	t		t	1		t	1	1			
Coyote	2	c	1	4	2	2	t	6	t	1				t
Wolf	1								t					
Red Fox			1		1	1	1		1					
Swift Fox														
Raccoon														
American Marten														
Fisher											1			
Ermine											1			
Long-tailed Weasel							t							
Least Weasel														
Weasel Species				t					1			1		
American Mink														
American Badger		d												
Striped Skunk														c
River Otter											t			
Mountain Lion											t			
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer		t				2	3	6		3				
White-tailed Deer			2	5	3	4	66	14	18	c	4			
Deer Species														
Moose		5		t		t		3	1	6				t
Elk				t					t			3		
Pronghorn		c				83		55		c				
American Bison												3		
Totals seen/heard on count day	6	5	8	17	7	97	71	89	24	12	14	9	1	14
Total species seen/heard	3	1	6	4	4	8	4	8	5	5	6	4	1	2
Total species recorded by tracks	0	2	1	4	0	3	2	0	6	0	2	0	2	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	3	6	8	10	5	12	7	8	11	7	8	4	4	2

Table 1-5. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
	Moose Mountain, 20 Dec 2007	Morse, 22 Dec 2007	Nipawin, 2 Jan 2008	Nisbet Forest NW, 23 Dec 2007	Nisbet Forest West, 27 Dec 2007	Pike Lake, 5 Jan 2008	Prince Albert, 16 Dec 2007	Prince Albert N.P., 20 Dec 2007	Qu'Appelle, 29 Dec 2007	Qu'Appelle Dam, 16 Dec 2007	Raymore, 25 Dec 2007	Regina, 26 Dec 2007	Rouleau, 15 Dec 2007	Round Lake, 15 Dec 2007
Short-tailed Shrew														
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail		1								2				
Snowshoe Hare			7	t	t	t	t	t			t	1		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t	1	t	t			t			1		28		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel				t								1		
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel	1											21		
Eastern Fox Squirrel											c	19		
American Red Squirrel	2		2		2	9	11	7		1	t			3
Northern Flying-Squirrel			2											
Northern Pocket Gopher		d												
American Beaver														
Deer Mouse							t						t	
Muskrat				t										
Meadow Vole						1							t	
Vole Species	m			t				t						
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species				t		t								
American Porcupine				t	1	2	2							c
Coyote		16	1	t		1	t	t		2		2		2
Wolf								1						
Red Fox	2	4	t		3		t	t				1		t
Swift Fox														
Raccoon		t												
American Marten														
Fisher								t						
Ermine														
Long-tailed Weasel			t			t	t							
Least Weasel			t											
Weasel Species					1			t				t		
American Mink														
American Badger		L					c				d			d
Striped Skunk														
River Otter			c					1						
Mountain Lion														
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer		31				4				19		18		
White-tailed Deer	1	174	8	t	t	36	t	3	36	21	2	2		8
Deer Species														t
Moose		7						t						c
Elk				m				18						
Pronghorn										39				
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	6	234	20	0	7	53	13	30	36	85	2	93	0	13
Total species seen/heard	4	7	5	0	4	6	2	5	1	7	1	9	0	3
Total species recorded by tracks	1	1	4	6	2	3	7	7	0	0	2	3	1	1
Total species otherwise recorded	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Total species count period and day	6	10	10	6	6	8	10	12	1	7	5	12	1	7

Table 1-6. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
	Saltcoats, 27 Dec 2007	Sk. Landing P.P., 30 Dec 2007	Sk. River Forks, 17 Dec 2007	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2007	Sawyer Lake, 27 Dec 2007	Shamrock, 27 Dec 2007	Skull Creek, 28 Dec 2007	Snowden, 28 Dec 2007	Somme, 2 Jan 2008	Spalding, 5 Jan 2008	Spinney Hill, 14 Dec 2007	Squaw Rapids, 1 Jan 2008	Stenen, 1 Jan 2008	Swift Current, 29 Dec 2007
Short-tailed Shrew														
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail		4				t	7							3
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	t	2	t		1	t	c			t	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t		1		1	4	c	c					1
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														1
Black-tailed Prairie Dog														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														9
Eastern Fox Squirrel														
American Red Squirrel	1		3	8	2		2	4	9	1	2	8	3	
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
Northern Pocket Gopher														
American Beaver				d										
Deer Mouse				t										
Muskrat	L			L					c					
Meadow Vole				1				1						
Vole Species					t									
Norway Rat														
Mouse Species		t												t
American Porcupine		1		2	d		2	c			1			
Coyote	1	2	3	7	2	10	6		6		2	t		5
Wolf					t				c			3		
Red Fox	1	2		1		2		c	c				1	t
Swift Fox									c					
Raccoon							t							
American Marten														
Fisher					t									
Ermine				1	t									
Long-tailed Weasel							2	1	c				1	t
Least Weasel				t	t									
Weasel Species				t										
American Mink				t										2
American Badger						d	d							1
Striped Skunk														
River Otter														
Mountain Lion														
Lynx														
Woodland Caribou														
Mule Deer		t		25		27	60							33
White-tailed Deer	1	t	2	117	t	41	200	5	32	3	5	3	8	84
Deer Species			t	t	1									
Moose					t	3		c	4			t		
Elk		4	t		t			3	c		1	1		
Pronghorn		40												
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	4	53	8	165	5	84	284	14	51	4	11	15	13	139
Total species seen/heard	4	6	3	10	3	6	9	5	4	2	5	4	4	9
Total species recorded by tracks	1	5	9	5	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	3
Total species otherwise recorded	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	6	11	11	14	13	8	11	10	12	2	5	7	5	12



Table 1-7. 35<sup>th</sup> Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2007.

Map number	92	93	94	95	97	98	99							
	Togo, 5 Jan 2008	Turtleford, 29 Dec 2007	Wapiti Regional Park, 31 Dec. 2007	Weyburn, 15 Dec 2007	White Bear, 16 Dec 2007	Whitewood, 29 Dec 2007	Yorkton, 21 Dec 2007	# individuals seen/heard count day	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded as tracks	# Counts recorded as other	# Counts, count period	# Counts, count period & count day	
Short-tailed Shrew								0	0	0	0	1	1	
Shrew Species								2	2	2	1	0	5	
Eastern Cottontail								1	1	0	0	0	1	
Nuttall's Cottontail								29	11	4	0	0	15	
Snowshoe Hare	3	t	t			t	25	55	12	37	0	2	51	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				6		t		80	20	16	1	3	40	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel				1				3	3	1	0	0	4	
Black-tailed Prairie Dog								1	1	0	0	0	1	
Eastern Grey Squirrel						t		44	5	1	0	0	6	
Eastern Fox Squirrel				20		1		62	7	0	0	1	8	
American Red Squirrel	5		4			4		236	56	1	0	1	58	
Northern Flying-Squirrel	2							4	2	0	0	0	2	
Northern Pocket Gopher								0	0	0	1	0	1	
American Beaver		L				L		0	0	0	10	0	10	
Deer Mouse		1				t		2	2	4	0	0	6	
Muskrat		1				L	L	1	1	2	13	2	18	
Meadow Vole						t		5	5	4	0	2	11	
Vole Species		t						3	1	10	1	0	12	
Norway Rat						t		0	0	1	0	0	1	
Mouse Species							t	2	1	13	0	0	14	
American Porcupine	1	1						23	17	10	1	3	31	
Coyote		1		2	7	6	t	209	51	16	0	2	69	
Wolf								7	5	4	0	1	10	
Red Fox		1		2	2	2		46	30	11	0	2	43	
Swift Fox								5	2	0	0	1	3	
Raccoon								0	0	3	0	0	3	
American Marten	1							1	1	0	0	0	1	
Fisher								1	1	3	0	0	4	
Ermine								3	3	4	0	0	7	
Long-tailed Weasel						c		7	6	10	0	2	18	
Least Weasel								0	0	5	0	0	5	
Weasel Species								4	4	6	0	0	10	
American Mink								5	3	4	0	0	7	
American Badger		d	L	1		d		3	3	0	12	1	16	
Striped Skunk						c		1	1	2	0	3	6	
River Otter								1	1	5	0	1	7	
Mountain Lion								0	0	2	0	0	2	
Lynx								0	0	4	0	0	4	
Woodland Caribou								0	0	1	0	0	1	
Mule Deer		15	6	11	5			749	35	2	0	0	37	
White-tailed Deer	9			16		35	2	1732	66	8	0	3	77	
Deer Species								11	3	7	0	0	10	
Moose			c			2		49	14	11	0	5	30	
Elk	5		c			t		70	8	9	1	2	20	
Pronghorn								523	7	0	0	3	10	
American Bison								61	2	0	0	0	2	
Totals seen/heard on count day	26	20	10	59	14	50	27	4041						
Total species seen/heard	7	6	2	8	3	6	2		33					
Total species recorded by tracks	0	2	1	0	0	7	2			30				
Total species otherwise recorded	0	2	1	0	0	3	1				9			
Species recorded count period	0	0	2	0	0	2	0					20		
Total species count period and day	7	10	6	8	3	18	5						41	