
MAMMALS

36TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2008

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Eighty-six of the 90 submitted Christmas Bird Counts also included Christmas Mammal Counts. Except for 2006, when 85 counts were conducted, this is the fewest since 1996 when 82 were done. The total number of mammals seen or heard (3,563), and total number of species recorded (35) were about normal for the last 10 years. Indian Head had the most species seen or heard with 13; Togo was the runner-up with 10.

No new species were added to the all-time count list. However, there were some noteworthy records. American Bison were seen for the second consecutive year at Grasslands National Park. The species was first recorded during the Christmas Mammal Count last year, with records from the park and at Mayview near Prince Albert. Single American Marten recorded during the Prince Albert National Park and Togo counts were only the fourth and fifth in the history of the count. An all-time high count for River Otters was set when 10 were seen during the Prince Albert National Park count. The Fox Squirrel continues to expand its range northward, with one recorded at Kutawagan Lake. Finally, Mountain Lion tracks at Indian Head were of note.

For information on participants, weather, coverage, and location of Christmas Mammal Counts see the Christmas Bird Count summary in this issue. Note that mammal counts were conducted at Briercrest and Hepburn,

but as no mammals were actually detected, these counts are not included in Table 1.

Explanation of entries in Table 1.

The number of mammals actually seen or heard on the count day is treated separately from those recorded by other means, or those recorded during the count period (14 December to 5 January) but not on the 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 detected only by tracks or by other means, or that were seen or heard only in the count period but not on the count day, no numbers of individuals are given in Table 1. Species detected only by tracks are indicated by 't' in the table; those detected only by other means are indicated as follows: dead animals 'm', more 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 the 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 (e.g., 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 1-1. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Archerwill, 23 Dec 2008	Armit, 31 Dec 2008	Avonlea, 28 Dec 2008	Bangor,	Biggar, 27 Dec 2008	Birch Hills, 16 Dec 2008	Broadview, 26 Dec 2008	Cabri, 24 Dec 2008	Candle Lake, 31 Dec 2008	Christopher Lake, 4 Jan 2009	Churchbridge, 3 Jan 2009	Clark's Crossing, 20 Dec 2008	Codette Lake, 1 Jan 2009	Coronach, 5 Jan 2009
Short-tailed Shrew														
Masked Shrew					1									
Shrew Species						t	t							
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail			1											
Snowshoe Hare		t			1	t	t		t	t		1	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t			3		t	t	t						
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Eastern Grey Squirrel							1							
Eastern Fox Squirrel			c											
American Red Squirrel	6	1		2	1	5	1		9	2		1	10	
Northern Flying-Squirrel										t				
American Beaver											L			
Deer Mouse														
Muskrat					L						L			
Gapper's Red-backed Vole									1					
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species					t		t							
House Mouse														
Mouse Species						t	t		t	t	t	1		
American Porcupine					3	t	t							
Coyote	1	t	2	6	5	3	5	1	1		t	2	1	1
Wolf	2	t							t					
Red Fox	1					t	1	1		t		1		
Raccoon														
American Marten									t					
Fisher														
Ermine	1	t				t	t							
Long-tailed Weasel						t	t				t		t	
Least Weasel						t			t					
Weasel Species					t									
American Mink	1													
American Badger					d									d
Striped Skunk	1			1										
River Otter									t				5	
Mountain Lion														
Lynx		t							t					
Mule Deer					43			6				3		8
White-tailed Deer	11	9	13	9	56	1	7		66	t	7	6	t	10
Deer Species								t				t		
Moose	5	t			t		t		t		c			
Elk		t							3				t	
Pronghorn								50						
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	29	10	16	21	110	9	15	58	80	2	7	15	16	19
Total species seen/heard	9	2	2	5	7	3	5	4	5	1	1	7	3	3
Total species recorded by tracks	1	7	0	0	3	9	8	2	8	5	3	1	4	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	9	3	5	12	12	13	5	13	6	7	7	7	4

Table 1-2. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30
	Craven, 20 Dec 2008	Creighton, 2 Jan 2009	Crooked Lake, 23 Dec 2008	Crooked River, 27 Dec 2008	Cypress Hills P.P., 28 Dec 2008	Dorintosh, 5 Jan 2009	Duck Lake, 22 Dec 2008	Duval, 28 Dec 2008	Eastend, 4 Jan 2009	Endeavour, 16 Dec 2008	Estevan, 4 Jan 2009	Estuary North, 4 Jan 2009	Fenton, 15 Dec 2008	Fort Qu'Appelle, 18 Dec 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														
Masked Shrew														
Shrew Species		t								1				
Eastern Cottontail											2			
Nuttall's Cottontail					t				7					
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	t	1		t		t		t			t	1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit					t			t	10		t			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Eastern Grey Squirrel	3													
Eastern Fox Squirrel	1										3			c
American Red Squirrel	3	2	1	1	1	t	1	2					1	2
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
American Beaver			L					L						
Deer Mouse														c
Muskrat			L				L				L		t	
Gapper's Red-backed Vole														
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species		t									t			
House Mouse														c
Mouse Species								t					t	
American Porcupine					c		1	2	2	1				c
Coyote		t	t	1	c	m		t	3	t	1	1	1	3
Wolf		t												
Red Fox	t	t	t					4	t	t	1		t	c
Raccoon														
American Marten		t												
Fisher														
Ermine								t						t
Long-tailed Weasel								t	1					
Least Weasel														t
Weasel Species		t			t									
American Mink			1											c
American Badger			d											
Striped Skunk														
River Otter		t				c								
Mountain Lion														
Lynx		t												
Mule Deer	9				40				246	2	7	8		c
White-tailed Deer	20	t	t		15	28	8	23	155	10	6	34	t	5
Deer Species														
Moose		t		m	t	c		t	6	3				
Elk														
Pronghorn									2					
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	36	2	2	3	56	28	10	31	432	17	20	43	2	11
Total species seen/heard	5	1	2	3	3	1	3	4	9	5	6	3	2	4
Total species recorded by tracks	2	12	4	0	4	2	0	7	1	3	2	0	7	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Total species count period and day	7	13	9	4	9	6	4	12	10	8	9	3	9	11

Table 1-3. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	31	32	33	35	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
	Gardiner Dam, 15 Dec 2008	Good Spirit Lake, 27 Dec 2008	Grasslands, N.P., 24 Dec 2008	Harris, 22 Dec 2008	Imperial, 25 Dec 2008	Indian Head, 27 Dec 2008	Kelvington, 27 Dec 2008	Kenaston, 30 Dec 2008	Kenosee Lake, 29 Dec 2008	Ketchen, 26 Dec 2008	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2008	Kinistino, 31 Dec 2008	Kinloch, 29 Dec 2008	Kutawagan Lake, 27 Dec 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														
Masked Shrew														
Shrew Species						1								
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail	3		7											
Snowshoe Hare	t	t				11					t		t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t	t		t	t	5		t						t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Eastern Fox Squirrel						6								1
American Red Squirrel		3				12	2		3	1			1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
American Beaver		L				1		L	L	L			L	
Deer Mouse														
Muskrat		L						t	L	L			L	
Gapper's Red-backed Vole						2								
Meadow Vole				1										t
Vole Species	t													
House Mouse														
Mouse Species		t										t		
American Porcupine		t		3		t		t						
Coyote	5	1	4	10	t	14	t	1			1	1	t	2
Wolf														t
Red Fox	t	t		t		2		t				1	t	
Raccoon	1							t						
American Marten														
Fisher														
Ermine		t						t		1				
Long-tailed Weasel						1								
Least Weasel								t						
Weasel Species		t											t	
American Mink		t											t	
American Badger						1								
Striped Skunk	s													
River Otter														
Mountain Lion						t								
Lynx														
Mule Deer	14		164	75		18	6	t			13			13
White-tailed Deer	47	7	38	17	18	42	6	14	9	3	2	4	8	4
Deer Species														
Moose		t					c	t	1				t	
Elk		t								t		2	132	
Pronghorn											60			
American Bison			28											
Totals seen/heard on count day	70	11	241	106	18	116	14	15	13	5	76	8	141	20
Total species seen/heard	5	3	5	5	1	13	3	2	3	3	4	4	3	4
Total species recorded by tracks	4	9	0	2	2	2	1	9	0	1	1	1	8	2
Total species otherwise recorded	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	2	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	14	5	7	3	15	5	12	5	6	5	5	13	6

Table 1-4. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62
	Kyle, 30 Dec 2008	La Ronge, 26 Dec 2008	Last Mountain Lake, 3 Jan 2009	Leader North, 1 Jan 2009	Love-Torch River, 21 Dec 2008	Luseland, 5 Jan 2009	MacDowall, 23 Dec 2008	Matador, 28 Dec 2008	Mayview, 30 Dec 2008	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2008	Moose Mountain, 2 Jan 2009	Morse, 30 Dec 2008	Nipawin, 2 Jan 2009	Nisbet Forest West, 28 Dec 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														t
Masked Shrew														
Shrew Species														t
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail	1			1									t	
Snowshoe Hare		t			t		t			t			10	1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	c			2	1	t						8		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Eastern Grey Squirrel														
Eastern Fox Squirrel			1											
American Red Squirrel		1			4				1	5	4		2	7
Northern Flying-Squirrel		c											2	
American Beaver		L	L											
Deer Mouse														t
Muskrat		L	L				L							
Gapper's Red-backed Vole														
Meadow Vole														
Vole Species														
House Mouse														
Mouse Species	t			2						t				
American Porcupine				1				1		1				
Coyote	5			4	1	5	3	6		1		8	2	1
Wolf										1				
Red Fox	1	c			t	c	t			t	1	2	1	
Raccoon				m										
American Marten														
Fisher														
Ermine														
Long-tailed Weasel														t
Least Weasel														t
Weasel Species					1					t				
American Mink														
American Badger													d	
Striped Skunk					2									t
River Otter		t			c									
Mountain Lion														
Lynx										1				
Mule Deer	8		36	20		1	2	135				44		
White-tailed Deer	1		44	15	23	c		6		15		106	10	c
Deer Species														
Moose	1			2	c	4				1		5	t	
Elk					c									
Pronghorn	65							23						
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	82	1	81	47	32	10	5	171	1	25	5	173	27	9
Total species seen/heard	7	1	3	8	6	3	2	5	1	7	2	6	6	3
Total species recorded by tracks	1	2	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	4	0	1	6	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	2	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total species count period and day	9	7	5	9	11	6	5	5	1	11	2	8	12	4

Table 1-5. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
	Pierce Lake, 28 Dec 2008	Pike Lake, 3 Jan 2009	Prince Albert, 14 Dec 2008	Prince Albert N.P., 19 Dec 2008	Qu'Appelle, 30 Dec 2008	Qu'Appelle Dam, 14 Dec 2008	Raymore, 25 Dec 2008	Regina, 26 Dec 2008	Rouleau, 4 Jan 2008	Round Lake, 26 Dec 2008	Saltcoats, 27 Dec 2008	Sk. Landing P.P., 21 Dec 2008	Sk. River Forks, 17 Dec 2008	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														
Masked Shrew														
Shrew Species													t	
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail						2						t		
Snowshoe Hare		t	t	t		t	t	t	t		t		t	4
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1	t					15	t		1	1		t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														
Eastern Grey Squirrel								4						
Eastern Fox Squirrel							2	12						
American Red Squirrel	2	6	6	6		1	2	2		1	4		5	9
Northern Flying-Squirrel														
American Beaver	1		L											1
Deer Mouse		1					t	t						t
Muskrat			t											
Gapper's Red-backed Vole														
Meadow Vole								t						
Vole Species				t			t						t	t
House Mouse														
Mouse Species			t									t	t	t
American Porcupine					1									2
Coyote		5	t		5	3	t	2			1	3	3	9
Wolf				1										
Red Fox				1				3						t
Raccoon														
American Marten				1										t
Fisher				t										t
Ermine							t							t
Long-tailed Weasel		t	t										t	1
Least Weasel													t	t
Weasel Species				t				t				t		t
American Mink	2		t							1				
American Badger														
Striped Skunk					s									
River Otter	4			10										
Mountain Lion														
Lynx														
Mule Deer		1				23						32	7	24
White-tailed Deer	7	18	2	1	13	15	9	23			t	6	t	110
Deer Species		t												t
Moose												c		
Elk				7						1		1	t	
Pronghorn												c		
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	16	32	8	27	19	44	13	61	0	3	6	43	15	160
Total species seen/heard	5	6	2	7	3	5	3	7	0	3	3	5	3	8
Total species recorded by tracks	0	3	7	4	0	1	5	4	2	0	2	3	10	5
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Total species count period and day	5	8	10	11	4	6	8	11	2	3	5	10	13	13

Table 1-6. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

Map number	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
	Sawyer Lake, 31 Dec 2008	Skull Creek, 27 Dec 2008	Snowden, 5 Jan 2009	Somme, 2 Jan 2009	Squaw Rapids, 1 Jan 2009	Stenen, 1 Jan 2009	Swift Current, 27 Dec 2008	Togo, 4 Jan 2009	Viceroy-Bengough, 21 Dec 2008	Weyburn, 27 Dec 2008	White Bear, 5 Jan 2009	Whitewood, 28 Dec 2008	Wingard-Fort Carlton, 3 Jan 2009	Yorkton, 19 Dec 2008
Short-tailed Shrew														
Masked Shrew														
Shrew Species														
Eastern Cottontail														
Nuttall's Cottontail		4					1							
Snowshoe Hare	c			c	t		t	1			t	2	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		2		c			t		1			t	1	t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel											t	c		
Eastern Grey Squirrel							10							3
Eastern Fox Squirrel										3				
American Red Squirrel	c		4	c	8	6		5				9	5	6
Northern Flying-Squirrel								1						
American Beaver					L							L	L	L
Deer Mouse							t							
Muskrat												L	L	L
Gapper's Red-backed Vole														
Meadow Vole				c			t							
Vole Species	t				t				t					
House Mouse														
Mouse Species	t										t			
American Porcupine	t	2	c					1						t
Coyote	c	2		2	3		1	6	c	2	2	2	3	
Wolf	t			3				2						
Red Fox	c	1		1		1		3	c		4	1	t	
Raccoon		t												
American Marten								1						
Fisher	t													
Ermine					t									
Long-tailed Weasel		1										1		
Least Weasel					t									
Weasel Species	t		c		t		t						t	
American Mink					m									
American Badger		d					d					d		
Striped Skunk														
River Otter					1									
Mountain Lion														
Lynx														
Mule Deer		30					23		29		14		7	
White-tailed Deer	t	150	14	27	6	4	20	7	9	6		2	9	t
Deer Species					t		t							
Moose	c			1							1	5		
Elk	t			c	t			40				t		
Pronghorn														
American Bison														
Totals seen/heard on count day	0	192	18	31	21	11	55	67	39	11	21	22	25	9
Total species seen/heard	0	8	2	4	5	3	5	10	3	3	4	7	5	2
Total species recorded by tracks	7	1	0	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	3	2	4	2
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	2
Species recorded count period	5	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Total species count period and day	12	10	4	9	12	3	11	10	6	3	7	13	11	6

Table 1-7. 36th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2008.

	# 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	1	0	0	1
Masked Shrew	1	1	0	0	0	1
Shrew Species	2	2	5	0	0	7
Eastern Cottontail	2	1	0	0	0	1
Nuttall's Cottontail	27	9	3	0	0	12
Snowshoe Hare	33	10	35	0	2	47
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	51	13	19	0	2	34
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	0	0	1	0	1	2
Eastern Grey Squirrel	21	5	0	0	0	5
Eastern Fox Squirrel	29	8	0	0	2	10
American Red Squirrel	179	49	1	0	2	52
Northern Flying-Squirrel	3	2	1	0	1	4
American Beaver	3	3	0	15	0	18
Deer Mouse	1	1	5	0	1	7
Muskrat	0	0	3	15	0	18
Gapper's Red-backed Vole	3	2	0	0	0	2
Meadow Vole	1	1	3	0	1	5
Vole Species	0	0	12	0	0	12
House Mouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Mouse Species	3	2	17	0	0	19
American Porcupine	21	13	7	0	3	23
Coyote	166	52	11	1	3	67
Wolf	7	4	5	0	0	9
Red Fox	31	19	18	0	5	42
Raccoon	1	1	2	1	0	4
American Marten	2	2	3	0	0	5
Fisher	0	0	3	0	0	3
Ermine	1	1	10	0	0	11
Long-tailed Weasel	5	5	9	0	0	14
Least Weasel	0	0	8	0	0	8
Weasel Species	1	1	14	0	1	16
American Mink	4	3	3	1	1	8
American Badger	1	1	0	7	0	8
Striped Skunk	3	2	1	2	0	5
River Otter	20	4	3	0	2	9
Mountain Lion	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lynx	1	1	3	0	0	4
Mule Deer	1111	34	1	0	1	36
White-tailed Deer	1385	63	9	0	2	74
Deer Species	0	0	6	0	0	6
Moose	30	11	11	1	6	29
Elk	186	7	8	0	2	17
Pronghorn	200	5	0	0	1	6
American Bison	28	1	0	0	0	1
Totals seen/heard on count day	3563					
Total species seen/heard		35				
Total species recorded by tracks			34			
Total species otherwise recorded				8		
Species recorded count period					20	
Total species count period and day						44