
MAMMALS

SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 1998

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The number of mammal counts conducted this year was 87. Although fewer than last years record, it is still the second highest number ever. The number of species recorded was 39, the same as last year. The average number of species per count (7.2), which is higher than last year but still below the long-term average.

Weather was warmer than usual up to the count period and then normal temperatures prevailed. The lack of snow for most localities during the count meant that animals remained dispersed and tracks were hard to find; only those counts conducted later in the count period had good tracking snow. No new species were reported. The only species found this year which are irregularly reported were Woodland Caribou and Mountain Lion. Ironically the Woodland Caribou was at Candle Lake, the same count that last reported this species in the 1970's.

Mountain Lion tracks were found Robert Wapple and Wayne Renaud in Coal Mine Coulee on the Herschal count. Robert writes that " Fresh snow the previous night resulted in very distinct tracks. The tracks went in both directions, indicating that the lion had travelled along the creek and returned via the same route. Individual paw prints were estimated to be the size of my fist (we had no rule). Distinct claw marks were evident on some of the tracks

imprinted in the skiffs of fresh snow on the wind-polished creek ice, indicating that the lion needed some extra traction on the slippery ice. Unfortunately, we didn't try to distinguish between front and back paws. I tried to approximate the distances between print sets and found that stride distance was approximately one normal pace, which would be .5 to .75 m. No tail marks were observed in the snow between the tracks."

White-tailed Deer were the most frequently encountered species with 84% of counts recording them. Coyotes were next at 78% followed by Red Fox (54%) and Snowshoe Hare (53%). White-tailed Jackrabbit (44%) were less frequent than usual but this may be an artifact of poor tracking conditions.

For weather, coverage and participants please refer to the Christmas Bird Count found elsewhere in this issue. In the tables, a numeral alone shows that the mammals were seen, while a letter following the number means that the number was inferred by the means defined below. A letter alone means that the species was present but estimating the numbers was impossible or that no attempt was made to do so.

Symbols used in the tables are:

T = tracks

L = active lodge or hut

D = dead animal found

d = fresh diggings found

S = smell or odour

H = heard

+ = present during the count period
(December 18 to January 3) but not
found on count day.

The tables are started on following page.



Elk

Peter Suzle

Table 1-1: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY and DATE								
	ARCHERWILL December 29, 1998	ARMIT January 02, 1999	BANGOR December 31, 1998	BIGGAR December 27, 1998	BIRCH HILLS December 22, 1998	BRIGHTWATER RES. December 21, 1998	BROADVIEW December 26, 1998	BROMHEAD December 31, 1998	CANDLE LAKE December 30, 1998
MASKED SHREW									
SHREW species							2T		
EASTERN COTTONTAIL									
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL									
SNOWSHOE HARE		25T	2	6T	1+28T		28T		40T
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	2			3T				T	
GREY SQUIRREL	4								
FOX SQUIRREL							1		
RED SQUIRREL		6	1		2		4+4T		16T
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL									
BEAVER		2L							
DEER MOUSE							4T		
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE									
MUSKRAT		2L		5L					
MEADOW VOLE									
VOLE species					3T				2T
MOUSE species		10T		8T	7T				3T
NORWAY RAT								1S	
HOUSE MOUSE	T		2T						
PORCUPINE	2		2T						1T
COYOTE	2+4T	1+1D	5H	2+10T	2+6T	4	3T	1	3T
WOLF	1	13T							
RED FOX	1		1	1			1T	2	1+1T
SWIFT FOX									
BLACK BEAR									
RACCOON									
FISHER		1T							1T
ERMINE					2T		1T		
LONG-TAILED WEASEL							3T		2T
LEAST WEASEL			1T						
WEASEL species	1+1T	1T							
MINK		1T			2T		1T		1T
BADGER									
STRIPED SKUNK									
RIVER OTTER									1T
MOUNTAIN LION									
WOODLAND CARIBOU									3T
MULE DEER				38		2	2		
WHITE-TAILED DEER	2+7T	6	5	21			12+19T	51	5+39T
DEER species		10T							
MOOSE	5T	1T							4T
ELK	5T	10T							8T
PRONGHORN									
TOTAL SPECIES	11	14	8	8	7	2	12	5	15

Table 1-2: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

CLARK'S CROSSING December 19, 1998	COCHIN December 27, 1998	COLD L.-PIERCEL. December 26, 1998	CORONACH December 23, 1998	CRAVEN December 19, 1998	CROOKED LAKE December 21, 1998	CROOKED RIVER December 28, 1998	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. December 30, 1998	DUCK LAKE December 29, 1998	LOCALITY and DATE	SPECIES
										MASKED SHREW
										SHREW species
					T					EASTERN COTTONTAIL
										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
1+15T	30T			2T	T	2				SNOWSHOE HARE
1+2T	2T		2T	T						WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
				4						GREY SQUIRREL
	1	12		3	5	1		6		FOX SQUIRREL
										RED SQUIRREL
										NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
					2L					BEAVER
										DEER MOUSE
										GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
										MUSKRAT
										MEADOW VOLE
										VOLE species
1T	3T		2T	T						MOUSE species
										NORWAY RAT
										HOUSE MOUSE
1+1T	1T	1					2			PORCUPINE
4+1T	1+15T		2	5+2T	T					COYOTE
										WOLF
2+1T	3T	1	1T	2T	T					RED FOX
										SWIFT FOX
										BLACK BEAR
										RACCOON
										FISHER
										ERMINE
2T										LONG-TAILED WEASEL
2T										LEAST WEASEL
										WEASEL species
						2				MINK
										BADGER
				2S						STRIPED SKUNK
										RIVER OTTER
										MOUNTAIN LION
										WOODLAND CARIBOU
16	5+10T			9			24			MULE DEER
7+1T	2+50T		5	29	T	T	42	3		WHITE-TAILED DEER
4T				T						DEER species
							1			MOOSE
							150			ELK
										PRONGHORN
10	9	3	5	10	8	3	5	2		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-3: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY and DATE									
	DUVAL December 28, 1998	EASTEND December 29, 1998	EMMA LAKE January 02, 1999	ENDEAVOUR December 22, 1998	ESTEVAN December 24, 1998	ESTUARY January 03, 1999	FENTON December 21, 1998	FORT QU'APPELLE December 18, 1998	FORT WALSH December 19, 1998	GARDINER DAM December 21, 1998
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW species										
EASTERN COTTONTAIL					4+10T					
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	11					2		5T	1+3T	
SNOWSHOE HARE	2		T				11T	11		7T
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	7							1		4T
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL					3+2T					
RED SQUIRREL			8	+			3+5T	6	7	
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL				+						
BEAVER	1L								1T	
DEER MOUSE					2T		4T	+	2T	1T
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										
MUSKRAT	8L							+		
MEADOW VOLE								1		
VOLE species										
MOUSE species	3T				5T		2T			
NORWAY RAT										
HOUSE MOUSE								1		
PORCUPINE	2T	T		1T	3	2		+	1	6T
COYOTE	14T	1		1T	2T	6	6T	1	1+5T	5+2T
WOLF				+				+		
RED FOX	4T				1T				1T	
SWIFT FOX										
BLACK BEAR										
RACCOON										
FISHER										
ERMINE										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL	2T						1T	+		
LEAST WEASEL							1T		1T	
WEASEL species					1T					
MINK			1					+		
BADGER										
STRIPED SKUNK										
RIVER OTTER										
MOUNTAIN LION										
WOODLAND CARIBOU										
MULE DEER	3	3				4		+	15	116
WHITE-TAILED DEER		7	T	6	20	22	4T	+	56	212
DEER species	42T									
MOOSE				1T						
ELK				1T					1+10T	
PRONGHORN								+	18	
TOTAL SPECIES	11	4	4	8	8	5	7	15	12	8

Table 1-4: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

GOOD SPIRIT LAKE January 03, 1998	GOVENLOCK December 20, 1998	GRASSLANDS N.P. December 21, 1998	GRAYSON December 26, 1998	HARRIS December 23, 1998	HEPBURN December 30, 1998	HERSCHAL December 29, 1998	HOLBEIN December 27, 1998	HORSESHOE BEND January 01, 1998	INDIAN HEAD December 27, 1998	LOCALITY and DATE	SPECIES
											MASKED SHREW
											SHREW species
											EASTERN COTTONTAIL
	2+4T	1T				2T					NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
10T				6T					2		SNOWSHOE HARE
8T		4T	1T	1T							WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
											GREY SQUIRREL
											FOX SQUIRREL
4					1			4	11		RED SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
								6T			BEAVER
											DEER MOUSE
											GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
											MUSKRAT
			2						+		MEADOW VOLE
				8T							VOLE species
						1T	2				MOUSE species
											NORWAY RAT
								1			HOUSE MOUSE
1						1			2		PORCUPINE
9T	2+1T	7+4T	1	2		5+9T		6	7		COYOTE
											WOLF
2T				4T		4T		3	1		RED FOX
	2T										SWIFT FOX
											BLACK BEAR
											RACCOON
											FISHER
											ERMINE
											LONG-TAILED WEASEL
		1T						1			LEAST WEASEL
2T						1T					WEASEL species
											MINK
											BADGER
											STRIPED SKUNK
											RIVER OTTER
						1T					MOUNTAIN LION
											WOODLAND CARIBOU
	76	26		48		4					MULE DEER
76T	18		17	16		11			3		WHITE-TAILED DEER
		32+15T									DEER species
3T						2T					MOOSE
											ELK
	165	234				27					PRONGHORN
9	6	7	4	7	1	11	1	7	6		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-5: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY and DATE									
	KAMSACK December 26, 1998	KELVINGTON December 31, 1998	KENASTON December 21, 1998	KENOSEE LAKE December 20, 1998	KINISTINO December 29, 1998	KINLOCH January 03, 1999	KUTAWAGAN LAKE December 27, 1998	LAST MTN. L. WMA December 26, 1998	LEADER (N) December 26, 1998	LEADER (S) December 26, 1998
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW species										
EASTERN COTTONTAIL				1T						
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL			T					2		
SNOWSHOE HARE	T	21T		1T		30T				
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT		3T	5T				2T	4T	2	
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL										
RED SQUIRREL				5	1	4				
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL	2									
BEAVER				5L		3L				
DEER MOUSE			T					1T	1	
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										
MUSKRAT				1L						
MEADOW VOLE			T							
VOLE species										
MOUSE species		5T			5T				4	
NORWAY RAT		T								
HOUSE MOUSE									1	
PORCUPINE	1			2			1		1	
COYOTE	H	4T	T	1T		6T	1	2T	4	2
WOLF						1T				
RED FOX	2		T	1		1T				1
SWIFT FOX										
BLACK BEAR	1					1L				
RACCOON	3									
FISHER										
ERMINE										
LONG-TAILED WEASEL		2T	1T							
LEAST WEASEL										
WEASEL species						3T				
MINK						1T		1T		
BADGER										
STRIPED SKUNK										
RIVER OTTER										
MOUNTAIN LION										
WOODLAND CARIBOU										
MULE DEER							4		12	26
WHITE-TAILED DEER	86	3+40T	2	38		6	3	22	20	12
DEER species										
MOOSE	8						2T			
ELK	18						15T			
PRONGHORN										
TOTAL SPECIES	10	7	8	9	2	12	5	5	8	4

Table 1-6: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

LIVELONG December 30, 1998	LOVE-TORCH R. December 26, 1998	LUSELAND December 26, 1998	MACDOWALL December 25, 1998	MEADOW LAKE December 27, 1998	MELFORT December 28, 1998	MELVILLE December 26, 1998	MOOSE JAW December 26, 1998	MOOSE MOUNTAIN December 30, 1998	NIPAWIN December 29, 1998	LOCALITY and DATE	SPECIES
			2T								MASKED SHREW
											SHREW species
											EASTERN COTTONTAIL
											NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
			4T	25T							SNOWSHOE HARE
1		1	1T				7				WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
											GREY SQUIRREL
							11				FOX SQUIRREL
	4		2	2H				6	1		RED SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
											BEAVER
											DEER MOUSE
											GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
											MUSKRAT
											MEADOW VOLE
											VOLE species
				12T		1T					MOUSE species
											NORWAY RAT
											HOUSE MOUSE
			1T					1			PORCUPINE
2		2	1+3T	1T	1			3			COYOTE
											WOLF
+			2T			1T		1			RED FOX
											SWIFT FOX
											BLACK BEAR
			1T								RACCOON
											FISHER
											ERMINE
+											LONG-TAILED WEASEL
											LEAST WEASEL
			2T			1T					WEASEL species
											MINK
											BADGER
											STRIPED SKUNK
											RIVER OTTER
											MOUNTAIN LION
											WOODLAND CARIBOU
+		17							7		MULE DEER
5	15	7	20T	8+30T	2	2T	6	18			WHITE-TAILED DEER
											DEER species
		2									MOOSE
											ELK
											PRONGHORN
6	2	5	10	5	2	4	3	5	2		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-7: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY and DATE									
	NISBET FOREST January 01, 1999	PIKE LAKE January 02, 1998	PORCUPINE PLAIN December 28, 1998	PREECEVILLE December 27, 1998	PRINCE ALBERT December 20, 1998	PRINCE ALBERT N.P. December 20, 1998	QU'APPELLE V. DAM December 20, 1998	RAYMORE December 25, 1998	REGINA December 26, 1998	ROCKGLEN January 02, 1999
MASKED SHREW										
SHREW species						1T				
EASTERN COTTONTAIL										
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL										3
SNOWSHOE HARE	2	2T		T	11T	1+25T	10T	7	T	+
WHITE-TAILED		2T		T				2	19	+
GREY SQUIRREL										
FOX SQUIRREL									2	
RED SQUIRREL	4	7	1	3	3T	11+23T			11	
NORTHERN FLYING										
BEAVER				L		1L			2T	
DEER MOUSE					1T			2+5T	22T	
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED								1		
MUSKRAT				L						
MEADOW VOLE								1	T	
VOLE species		1T				1T				
MOUSE species		1T			6T					
NORWAY RAT										
HOUSE MOUSE										
PORCUPINE	1	1	2T	T					1T	+
COYOTE	3T	4		T	1+9T		1	2	16T	+
WOLF										
RED FOX	1T	1T			1	3+10T			1	
SWIFT FOX										
BLACK BEAR										
RACCOON										
FISHER				T		1T				
ERMINE						6T				
LONG-TAILED WEASEL					1T					
LEAST WEASEL	2T	1T			1T				2T	+
WEASEL species				T					2T	
MINK									6T	+
BADGER										1
STRIPED SKUNK					1S					
RIVER OTTER										
MOUNTAIN LION										
WOODLAND CARIBOU										
MULE DEER							6		4	11
WHITE-TAILED DEER	20T	18+15	20T	7	8+23T	5	8	1+11T	31	30
DEER species		35T				42T				
MOOSE						4T				
ELK			10T			33+23T				
PRONGHORN										
TOTAL SPECIES	7	10	4	10	10	12	4	7	14	10

Table 1-8: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

ROUND LAKE December 19, 1998	SK. LANDING P.P. December 22, 1998	SK. RIVER FORKS December 23, 1998	SASKATOON December 26, 1998	SHAMROCK December 22, 1998	SKULL CREEK December 26, 1998	SNOWDEN December 30, 1998	SPALDING December 27, 1998	SPRUCE HOME December 27, 1998	SQUAW RAPIDS January 02, 1999	LOCALITY and DATE	SPECIES
	1T										MASKED SHREW
		1T						T	1T		SHREW species
											EASTERN COTTONTAIL
	2+11T										NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL
12T		8T	4+20T	5T		20T	T		7T		SNOWSHOE HARE
2T	2T	1T	3		1						1T WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT
											GREY SQUIRREL
											FOX SQUIRREL
7		5+4T	1+1T			8			12		RED SQUIRREL
											NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL
1L											2L BEAVER
	2T	5T	3T						1T		2T DEER MOUSE
											GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE
1											7L MUSKRAT
12T			1T			3T					8T MEADOW VOLE
	2T							T			VOLE species
		2T	4+2T			10T	T				MOUSE species
											NORWAY RAT
											HOUSE MOUSE
1	2		2+1T			+					1T PORCUPINE
4	1+3T	4T	7+6T		6		T				5T COYOTE
											2+2T WOLF
10T		1T	1+3T	2T	1		T				1 RED FOX
											SWIFT FOX
											BLACK BEAR
						2T					RACCOON
											FISHER
											2T TERMINE
		2T				1T					LONG-TAILED WEASEL
					1	+					LEAST WEASEL
	1T		2T								3T WEASEL species
2	1	1T									1T MINK
											BADGER
											STRIPED SKUNK
											1T RIVER OTTER
											MOUNTAIN LION
											WOODLAND CARIBOU
	38				22						MULE DEER
3	52	2+2T	22	8+2T	7		T		5		WHITE-TAILED DEER
			9T								DEER species
											1T MOOSE
						1			11+5T		ELK
	28										PRONGHORN
11	12	10	10	3	6	9	7	1	18		TOTAL SPECIES

Table 1-9: SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS

SPECIES	LOCALITY and DATE									TOTAL NUMBER OF COUNTS / SPECIES
	SWIFT CURRENT January 03, 1999	TOGO December 27, 1998	WATSON January 03, 1999	WELDON - 1 January 01, 1998	WELDON - 2 December 28, 1998	WEYBURN December 19, 1998	WHITE BEAR December 27, 1998	WHITEWOOD December 27, 1998	YORKTON December 28, 1998	
MASKED SHREW										1
SHREW species										6
EASTERN COTTONTAIL										3
NUTTALL'S COTTONTAIL	1+3T									12
SNOWSHOE HARE	9T			T	T		39T	1+7T		46
WHITE-TAILED JACKRABBIT	2+2T		1T			T	T			38
GREY SQUIRREL	13									3
FOX SQUIRREL						T	2			6
RED SQUIRREL				1	2		5			43
NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL										2
BEAVER							3L			12
DEER MOUSE							1L			19
GAPPER'S RED-BACKED VOLE										1
MUSKRAT							29L			9
MEADOW VOLE							2T			11
VOLE species									1	8
MOUSE species			2T		T					26
NORWAY RAT										2
HOUSE MOUSE							3T			6
PORCUPINE							+	1		37
COYOTE	5+1T	T	1	2			17	5	3T	68
WOLF										6
RED FOX	2T	T	2T				1	1	2T	47
SWIFT FOX										1
BLACK BEAR										2
RACCOON							3			4
FISHER										4
ERMINE										4
LONG-TAILED WEASEL										12
LEAST WEASEL										13
WEASEL species							1T			14
MINK										15
BADGER							1d			2
STRIPED SKUNK										2
RIVER OTTER										2
MOUNTAIN LION										1
WOODLAND CARIBOU										1
MULE DEER	40						165			30
WHITE-TAILED DEER	7	3	8T	6		T	16	12+1T		73
DEER species	14T					T				10
MOOSE										12
ELK						T	3T			14
PRONGHORN										6
TOTAL SPECIES	8	3	5	4	5	3	5	16	5	