

30th AND 31st ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNTS - 2002 AND 2003

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

Introduction

I would like to apologize to readers for the delay in presenting the results of the 30th and 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Counts (CMCs) for 2002 and 2003. It is a testament to the hard work of the previous compiler, the late Wayne Harris, that for 13 years he was able to compile the results of both the Christmas Bird and Mammal Counts and present them in timely fashion for publication in *Blue Jay*.

In order to partially redress this delay in what has become, in its own right, an important activity of members of Nature Saskatchewan, I have not only compiled the results of these last two counts, but I have summarized the results of the last 31 years of mammal counts. Readers should note that some changes have been made in the presentation of the mammal counts from previous years. This was done to harmonize them with the bird counts, and to simplify the task of tabulating an increasingly large number of counts. The number of mammals actually seen (or, more rarely, heard) on count day is recorded separately from those detected by other means or recorded during the count period but not on count day. Thus mammals detected on count day on the basis of tracks are indicated with the letter "t", those by other means (dead animals or clearly identifiable chewing, digging, dens or lodges) by the letter "o", those recorded during the count period but not on count day by the letter "c".

For weather, coverage and participants for the 2002 CMC, I refer readers to the March

2003 issue of *Blue Jay*, (Vol. 61, No. 1) and for the 2003 count to the March 2004 issue (Vol. 62, No. 1).

The 30th Christmas Mammal Count-2002

Counts (Table 1) were received from 89 localities, which is down from the record high of 102 set in 2001. The 33 species seen on count day tied the 1991 record. Indian Head had the most species seen or heard on count day (13), while honours for the most species present over the entire count period (15) were shared between Candle Lake and Prince Albert National Park.

The most abundant mammal was the White-tailed Deer, closely followed by its cousin the Mule Deer. The American Red Squirrel and Pronghorn placed third and fourth. The most frequently seen mammals were the White-tailed Deer seen on 60% of all counts, Coyote on 56%, American Red Squirrel on 55%, and Mule Deer on 30%. While Mule Deer were much less often seen than were white-tails, they occurred in larger numbers when they were seen.

The only new species in 2002, and the first since 1996, was a jumping mouse, either a Meadow Jumping Mouse or Western Jumping Mouse. The species was noted on the basis of its distinctive tracks on the Clark's Crossing count. Also noteworthy was the Richardson's Ground Squirrel seen on the Saskatoon count. The eight Mule Deer seen on the Porcupine Plain count were at the northeastern limit of their range. The 73 American Red Squirrels tallied on the Fort

Walsh count may have been a record high count for the species on a CMC.

The 31st Christmas Mammal Count-2003

Ninety-one counts were completed in 2003 (Table 2.), two more than in 2002. The 35 species seen on count day set a new record. Indian Head had the most species seen or heard on count day (14), while Regina recorded 16 species over the count period.

The three most abundant species were no surprise: White-tailed Deer followed by Mule Deer and American Red Squirrel. However, Elk, as the fourth most common species, was a surprise. The four species most frequently seen were the same as in 2002. White-tailed Deer were seen on 69% of all counts, American Red Squirrel on 58%, Coyote on 52%, and Mule Deer on 30%.

Two new species, Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel and Least Chipmunk, were added on this count. Although Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrels were seen during the count period in 1987 and 1991, the 2003 sighting from Craven was the first sighting on count day. Chipmunks were reported twice on count day. One was seen at Archerwill, and tracks were noted at Saskatoon. Mammal counters from Craven seemed to be going "squirrelly" as they also counted four of each of the tree squirrels, the Grey, Fox and American Red.

Summary of Christmas Mammal Counts 1973-2003

Wayne Harris began compiling the information on mammals counted incidentally on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) beginning in 1973 (Table 3). At that time, eleven mammal species were reported from eight of 46 CBCs published in *Blue Jay*.¹ Interest rapidly grew; by the end of the decade, over 70% of CBCs had a CMC as

well. By the mid-1990s, the figure had risen to over 90%. To date, 1,972 mammal counts have been conducted in almost 300 localities.

According to Wapple, 79 species of wild mammals have been recorded in Saskatchewan.² The Christmas Mammal Count has provided evidence for the occurrence of 55 species (feral horses and cats are excluded). Of these, 49 species have actually been seen on count day. One other species, the American Water Shrew, has been seen during the count period, three others have been recorded on the basis of dead animals, and two others have been recorded only on the basis of tracks.

Although the data from the CMCs have not yet been subjected to a statistical analysis, a cursory examination of data from the last 32 years suggests that there have been major changes in the province's mammal population over this period. Among the more obvious and interesting are:

1. The arrival and spread of the Fox Squirrel.
2. Increasing appearance of ground squirrels, Black-tailed Prairie Dogs and Least Chipmunks. These species should be hibernating during the count period. Their appearance on CMCs may be an indication of a warming climate.
3. The increase in the populations of all the ungulates, and the spread of Moose and Elk onto the plains.

Thanks to the foresight of Wayne Harris, we now have information with which to conduct more detailed analysis of the population trends and distributional changes of Saskatchewan mammals.

1. HARRIS, W.C. 1974. Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Counts, 1973. *Blue Jay* 32(2):115.

2. WAPPLE, R.D. 1999. Mammals. In: Fung, K. (ed.) Atlas of Saskatchewan. University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon. Pp 139-142.

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Archerwill, 27 Dec 2002	Armit, 4 Jan 2003	Bangor, 23 Dec 2002	Biggar, 27 Dec 2002	Birch Hills, 16 Dec 2002	Brightwater, 20 Dec 2002	Broadview, 27 Dec 2002	Bromhead, 2 Jan 2003	Cabri, 27 Dec 2002	Candle Lake, 31 Dec 2002	Clark's Crossing, 14 Dec 2002	Coronach, 22 Dec 2002
Shrew species					t							
Nuttall's Cottontail												o
Snowshoe Hare	t	t		t	1		t			t	1	
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit			3					2			2	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel							3					
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	1	1	1		2		2			5	1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver												
Deer Mouse												
Muskrat												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species					t		t	t		t		
Jumping Mouse species											t	
Mouse species	t	t										
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	t					1	t			1		
Coyote	1			2	2	4	t	1		t	4	1
Wolf										t		
Red Fox	t		1					t			1	
Raccoon					t							
American Marten												
Fisher										t		
Ermine					t		t	t		t		
Long-tailed Weasel					t		t			t		
Least Weasel					t		t			t		
Weasel species	c											
American Mink										t		
American Badger												
Striped Skunk												
River Otter												
Lynx							t			1		
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer	c			6								18
White-tailed Deer	5	3	4	3	2		t	27	1	8	20	4
Deer species												
Moose	t	t					t			t		
Elk		t								t		
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	7	4	9	11	7	5	5	30	1	15	29	23
Total species seen/heard	3	2	4	3	4	2	2	3	1	4	6	3
Total species recorded by tracks	5	4	0	1	6	0	10	3	0	11	1	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	6	4	4	10	2	12	6	1	15	7	4

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Craven, 14 Dec 2002	Crooked Lake, 4 Jan 2003	Crystal Lake, 3 Jan 2003	Cypress Hills P.P., 30 Dec 2002	Duck Lake, 16 Dec 2002	Dundurn, 4 Jan 2003	Eastend, 1 Jan 2003	Emma Lake, 16 Dec 2002	Endeavour, 22 Dec 2002	Estevan, 23 Dec 2002	Estuary North, 2 Jan 2003	Fenton, 14 Dec 2002
Shrew species					t							
Nuttall's Cottontail							t				3	
Snowshoe Hare	2	t			t	t		t				t
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit	1					t						t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel	2									3		
American Red Squirrel	6	9		10	41			22	1			5
Northern Flying-Squirrel								c				
American Beaver	o	o										1
Deer Mouse	t						t		1			t
Muskrat												
Meadow Vole									2			
Vole species							t					t
Jumping Mouse species												
Mouse species						t						
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine				1	t					1	3	1
Coyote		2	1	t	1	2	2		t	2	14	3
Wolf												
Red Fox								c			1	
Raccoon								1				
American Marten												
Fisher								c				
Ermine												t
Long-tailed Weasel												t
Least Weasel												
Weasel species							t					
American Mink		2		t		t	c					
American Badger												
Striped Skunk							c					
River Otter												
Lynx												
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer	4	c				13	1				15	
White-tailed Deer	5	t		4		3		t	t	3	24	5
Deer species					t							
Moose									2			
Elk					t				t			
Moose/Elk							t					
Pronghorn											15	
Totals seen/heard on count day	20	13	1	15	42	18	3	23	6	9	75	15
Total species seen/heard	6	3	1	3	2	3	2	2	4	4	7	5
Total species recorded by tracks	1	2	0	2	5	4	5	2	3	0	0	6
Total species otherwise recorded	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	8	7	1	5	7	7	9	7	7	4	7	11

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Fort Qu'Appelle, 16 Dec 2002	Fort Walsh, 14 Dec 2002	Gardiner Dam, 16 Dec 2002	Good Spirit Lake, 1 Jan 2003	Govenlock, 15 Dec 2002	Grasslands, N.P., 2 Jan 2003	Harris, 18 Dec 2002	Indian Head, 28 Dec 2002	Kamsack, 5 Jan 2003	Kelvington, 27 Dec 2002	Kenaston, 28 Dec 2002	Kenosee Lake, 31 Dec 2002
Shrew species		1						1				
Nuttall's Cottontail		3	1		1	3					t	
Snowshoe Hare				t			1	8	17	t		
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit		1						23		t	t	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog						100						
Grey Squirrel	1							1				
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	7	73		2				38	3	2		2
Northern Flying-Squirrel									2			
American Beaver	1											o
Deer Mouse	1							16			1	
Muskrat	c											o
Meadow Vole		1			1							
Vole species				t				14				
Jumping Mouse species												
Mouse species										t		
Norway Rat										t		
House Mouse	5											
American Porcupine		2	1		2		2	2			t	
Coyote	c	8	4	6	4	16	2	42	2	t	1	
Wolf									5			
Red Fox	1			t			t	5	2	t	1	
Raccoon										t	t	
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel								5			t	
Least Weasel												
Weasel species				t								
American Mink								t				
American Badger		o			2							
Striped Skunk											t	
River Otter												
Lynx									t			
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer		41	20		23	90	35	18			2	
White-tailed Deer	2	45	20	15		164	1	47	32	4	15	23
Deer species												
Moose				t					3		t	
Elk		38							2			
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn					65	148					t	
Totals seen/heard on count day	18	213	46	23	98	521	41	220	68	6	20	25
Total species seen/heard	7	10	5	3	7	6	5	13	9	2	5	2
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	0	5	0	0	1	1	1	7	8	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Species recorded count period	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	9	11	5	8	7	6	6	14	10	9	13	4

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Ketchen North, 26 Dec 2002	Kilwinning, 17 Dec 2002	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2002	Kinistino, 18 Dec 2002	Kinloch, 17 Dec 2002	Kutawagan Lake, 27 Dec 2002	La Ronge North, 14 Dec 2002	La Ronge South, 21 Dec 2003	Last Mountain L., 29 Dec 2002	Leader North, 29 Dec 2002	Love, 27 Dec 2002	Luseland, 30 Dec 2002
Shrew species												
Nuttall's Cottontail									6			t
Snowshoe Hare			t		t		t	t				
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit						t			t	2		t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	1	7		1	4		6	1			6	
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver					o			o				
Deer Mouse												c
Muskrat												
Meadow Vole												
Vole species						t						
Jumping Mouse species												
Mouse species				t			t					
Norway Rat												
House Mouse										1		
American Porcupine					t					3		t
Coyote	1		3	2	t	t	1	t	t		t	1
Wolf								t				
Red Fox							t	t	t		t	t
Raccoon												
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine					t							
Long-tailed Weasel	c											t
Least Weasel												c
Weasel species							t					
American Mink												
American Badger												
Striped Skunk												
River Otter												
Lynx					t			t				
Woodland Caribou								t				
Mule Deer			4		t	9				20		10
White-tailed Deer				5	1					10	14	c
Deer species							t		t			
Moose					t							t
Elk					t							
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	2	7	7	8	5	9	7	1	0	42	20	11
Total species seen/heard	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	1	0	6	2	2
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	1	1	8	3	5	6	4	0	2	6
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total species count period and day	3	1	3	4	11	4	7	8	4	6	4	11

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	MacDowall, 2 Jan 2003	Matador, 2 Jan 2003	Mayview, 3 Jan 2003	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2002	Missinipe, 4 Jan 2002	Moose Mountain, 31 Dec 2002	Nipawin, 26 Dec 2002	Nisbet Forest West, 1 Jan 2003	Paddockwood S, 3 Jan 2003	Pike Lake, 4 Jan 2003	Porcupine Plain, 26 Dec 2002	Preeceville, 1 Jan 2003
Shrew species												
Nuttall's Cottontail		t										
Snowshoe Hare	t			t	t		t		1		t	
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit	t	t							t			t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel						1						
American Red Squirrel	6		2	1	t	3	2	3		11		1
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver				o								
Deer Mouse										t		
Muskrat				o	t							
Meadow Vole			2						3			
Vole species	t											
Jumping Mouse species												
Mouse species				t								
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	t	2								1		
Coyote	t	10	2	t	t			1	5	15	t	20
Wolf				t	t							
Red Fox	t			t				1		t		1
Raccoon												
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine	t			c						1		
Long-tailed Weasel	t											
Least Weasel												
Weasel species					t						t	
American Mink												
American Badger												
Striped Skunk										t		1
River Otter				t								
Lynx					t							
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer		155								5	8	
White-tailed Deer	t	42		t				t		12	t	25
Deer species					t				10	1		
Moose	t											t
Elk		24									t	
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn		32										
Totals seen/heard on count day	6	265	6	1	0	4	2	5	19	46	8	48
Total species seen/heard	1	6	3	1	0	2	1	3	4	6	1	5
Total species recorded by tracks	10	2	0	7	8	0	1	1	1	3	5	2
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	11	8	3	11	8	2	2	4	5	9	6	7

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Prince Albert, 15 Dec 2002	Prince Albert N.P., 13 Dec 2002	Qu'Appelle Dam, 15 Dec 2002	Raymore, 26 Dec 2002	Regina, 26 Dec 2002	Rouleau, 28 Dec 2002	Round Lake, 28 Dec 2002	Sk. Landing P.P., 17 Dec 2002	Sk. River Forks, 18 Dec 2002	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2002	Shamrock, 27 Dec 2002	Skull Creek, 26 Dec 2002
Shrew species												
Nuttall's Cottontail			1					4				6
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	3	t	t		t		t	2		
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit	t				25	t	t	1		8		2
Richardson's Ground Squirrel										1		
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel					2							
Fox Squirrel					6							
American Red Squirrel	5	35					4		12	3		2
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver	1			o			o	1				
Deer Mouse				t	t					2		
Muskrat			1					1				
Meadow Vole					t							
Vole species										t		
Jumping Mouse species										t		
Mouse species	t	3									t	
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	t	t								2		3
Coyote	t	t	2	5	1		c	2	t	9	3	5
Wolf	t	13										
Red Fox		2		t	1	c				t	1	1
Raccoon												t
American Marten		t										
Fisher		t										
Ermine				t	t							
Long-tailed Weasel					t							2
Least Weasel												
Weasel species											t	
American Mink		t					1	1		2		2
American Badger												2
Striped Skunk												
River Otter		3										
Lynx	t	t										
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer			20					39			25	70
White-tailed Deer	1	12	6	5	1		11	17	t	25	8	50
Deer species						t						
Moose		t										
Elk		50		t			1					
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn						8		12				
Totals seen/heard on count day	7	118	33	10	36	8	17	78	12	54	37	145
Total species seen/heard	3	7	6	2	6	1	4	9	1	9	4	11
Total species recorded by tracks	7	8	0	5	5	2	2	0	3	3	2	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	15	6	8	11	4	8	9	4	12	6	12

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Snowden, 31 Dec 2002	Somme, 4 Jan 2003	Spalding, 5 Jan 2003	Spinney Hill, 23 Dec 2002	Squaw Rapids, 5 Jan 2003	Stockholm, 26 Dec 2002	Swift Current, Dec 2002	Tisdale, 25 Dec 2002	Togo, 2 Jan 2003	Turtle Lake, 4 Jan 2003	Turtleford, 29 Dec 2002	Waseca, 27 Dec 2002
Shrew species			t									
Nuttall's Cottontail							5					
Snowshoe Hare	t		t	t	2			t	1		1	t
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit		3				1	1					
Richardson's Ground Squirrel											c	
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog												
Grey Squirrel			1				9					
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	21	6		6	10				3	2	3	4
Northern Flying-Squirrel									4			
American Beaver								o				
Deer Mouse	t	c										
Muskrat												
Meadow Vole											1	1
Vole species			t		t							
Jumping Mouse species												
Mouse species												
Norway Rat												
House Mouse			t									
American Porcupine				1							t	
Coyote	t	4	t	2	12		2		1		2	1
Wolf					1							
Red Fox			t			1	1	t				t
Raccoon											t	
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine						c						
Long-tailed Weasel	1	1										
Least Weasel	1				t							
Weasel species												t
American Mink		c					2					
American Badger							o				o	
Striped Skunk									1		o	
River Otter					2							
Lynx												
Woodland Caribou												
Mule Deer				10			69	1			t	
White-tailed Deer	8	45	t	4	4	2	30	4			t	1
Deer species												
Moose					3							
Elk		2			t							
Moose/Elk												
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	31	61	1	23	34	4	119	5	10	2	7	7
Total species seen/heard	4	6	1	5	7	3	8	2	5	1	4	4
Total species recorded by tracks	3	0	7	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	4	3
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
Species recorded count period	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	7	8	8	6	10	4	9	5	5	1	11	7

Table 1. 30th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2002.

Species	Watson, 1 Jan 2003	Weyburn, 28 Dec 2002	White Bear, 27 Dec 2002	Whitewood, 29 Dec 2002	Yorkton, 28 Dec 2002	Totals seen/heard on count day	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded by tracks	# Counts otherwise recorded	# Counts count period	# of Counts count period & day
Shrew species						2	2	3	0	0	5
Nuttall's Cottontail			c			33	10	4	1	1	16
Snowshoe Hare				3		43	13	32	0	0	45
White-Tailed Jack Rabbit	t	2	3	1		81	17	15	0	0	32
Richardson's Ground Squirrel						1	1	0	0	1	2
Black-Tailed Prairie Dog						100	1	0	0	0	1
Grey Squirrel						17	6	0	0	0	6
Fox Squirrel		1		1		14	6	0	0	0	6
American Red Squirrel					1	406	51	1	0	0	52
Northern Flying-Squirrel						6	2	0	0	1	3
American Beaver				o		4	4	0	10	0	14
Deer Mouse				t		21	5	8	0	2	15
Muskrat				o		2	2	1	3	1	7
Meadow Vole						11	7	1	0	0	8
Vole species						14	1	12	0	0	13
Jumping Mouse species						0	0	1	0	0	1
Mouse species						3	1	10	0	0	11
Norway Rat						0	0	1	0	0	1
House Mouse						6	2	1	0	0	3
American Porcupine						29	17	10	0	0	27
Coyote	t	2	3	2		246	52	20	0	2	74
Wolf						19	3	5	0	0	8
Red Fox	t		1	t		22	16	20	0	2	38
Raccoon	t					1	1	6	0	0	7
American Marten						0	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher						0	0	2	0	1	3
Ermine				t		1	1	10	0	2	13
Long-tailed Weasel						9	4	8	0	1	13
Least Weasel						1	1	4	0	1	6
Weasel species						0	0	7	0	0	7
American Mink						10	6	5	0	2	13
American Badger				c		4	2	0	3	1	6
Striped Skunk						2	2	2	1	1	6
River Otter						5	2	1	0	0	3
Lynx						1	1	7	0	0	8
Woodland Caribou						0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer	t		64			795	28	3	0	1	32
White-tailed Deer		95	6	7	2	942	56	11	0	1	68
Deer species						11	2	5	0	0	7
Moose				t		8	3	12	0	0	15
Elk						117	6	8	0	0	14
Moose/Elk						0	0	1	0	0	1
Pronghorn						280	6	0	0	0	6
Totals seen/heard on count day	0	100	77	14	3	3267					
Total species seen/heard	0	4	5	5	2		33				
Total species recorded by tracks	5	0	0	4	0			30			
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	2	0				5		
Species recorded count period	0	0	1	1	0					16	
Total species count period and day	5	4	6	12	2						38

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Archerwill, 4 Jan 2004	Armit, 3 Jan 2004	Bangor, 27 Dec 2003	Biggar, 27 Dec 2003	Big River, 2 Jan 2004	Birch Hills, 21 Dec 2003	Brightwater, 30 Dec 2003	Broadview, 23 Dec 2003	Bromhead, 14 Dec 2003	Calder, 28 Dec 2003	Candle Lake, 28 Dec 2003	Clark's Crossing, 20 Dec 2003
Shrew Species						t		t				
Nuttall's Cottontail												
Snowshoe Hare						2		t		t	t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1		2				1	t	t			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk	1											
Grey Squirrel								1				
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	11	2	1		t	1		4			24	
Northern Flying-Squirrel	1											
American Beaver												
Deer Mouse												t
Muskrat				o		t						
Meadow Vole							1					
Vole Species						t					t	
Mouse Species	t							t				
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	1			1		t					t	3
Coyote	1	7	1	t	t	1	1	t	1	t	t	3
Wolf		t									t	
Red Fox	1				t	t		t	t			
Swift Fox												
Black Bear												
Raccoon	t							t				
American Marten												
Fisher											t	
Ermine						t				t		
Long-tailed Weasel						2		t			t	
Least Weasel						t						
Weasel Species	t											
American Mink	t					t		t			t	
American Badger												
Striped Skunk								t				
River Otter												t
Lynx												
Mule Deer				11			5					
White-tailed Deer	10	7	37	5	t			10	89	t	14	9
Deer Species						t						
Moose	4	t		1				2		t	t	
Elk	70	t									t	
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	101	16	41	18	0	6	8	17	90	0	38	15
Total species seen/heard	10	3	4	4	0	4	4	4	2	0	2	3
Total species recorded by tracks	4	3	0	1	4	9	0	10	2	5	11	2
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	14	6	4	6	4	13	4	14	4	5	13	5

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Codette Lake, 2 Jan 2004	Craven, 14 Dec 2003	Crooked Lake, 4 Jan 2003	Crooked River, 3 Jan 2004	Crystal Lake, 3 Jan 2004	Cypress Hills P.P., 2 Jan 2004	Duck Lake, 23 Dec 2003	Dundurn, 4 Jan 2004	Duval, 28 Dec 2003	Emma Lake, 19 Dec 2003	Endeavour, 20 Dec 2003	Esterhazy-Hazelcliffe, 27 Dec 2003
Shrew Species	t						t					
Nuttall's Cottontail						1						
Snowshoe Hare	t		t				t	t	t	t		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t						t	t			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
13-lined Ground Squirrel		1										
Least Chipmunk												
Grey Squirrel		4										
Fox Squirrel		4										
American Red Squirrel	6	4	4	1		4	10			14		1
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver		o	o						o			
Deer Mouse		1					t	t				
Muskrat									o			
Meadow Vole			5									
Vole Species	t		t									
Mouse Species									t			
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine		4	2						o			o
Coyote	2	1	t		1		4	3	t		1	
Wolf	t											
Red Fox	t	2		1					t			
Swift Fox												
Black Bear												
Raccoon												
American Marten												
Fisher	t											
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel	t								t	c		
Least Weasel								t	t			
Weasel Species												
American Mink												
American Badger												
Striped Skunk			2						o			
River Otter												
Lynx	t											
Mule Deer		18				14		2	3			
White-tailed Deer	7	19	5	t		27		6	t	t	6	14
Deer Species							t					
Moose	t					2					2	
Elk	t											
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	15	58	18	2	1	48	14	11	3	14	9	15
Total species seen/heard	3	10	5	2	1	5	2	3	1	1	3	2
Total species recorded by tracks	10	1	3	1	0	0	4	4	8	2	0	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total species count period and day	13	12	9	3	1	5	6	7	13	4	3	4

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Estevan, 26 Dec 2003	Estuary North, 19 Dec 2003	Fenton, 20 Dec 2003	Fort Qu'Appelle, 15 Dec 2003	Fort Walsh, 20 Dec 2003	Gardiner Dam, 22 Dec 2003	Good Spirit Lake, 16 Dec 2003	Govenlock, 21 Dec 2003	Grasslands, N.P., 22 Dec 2003	Harris, 31 Dec 2003	Holbien, 30 Dec 2003	Hudson Bay, 2 Jan 2004
Shrew Species			t									
Nuttall's Cottontail		4			1	1		6	1			
Snowshoe Hare			t	1	t		t			t		
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		6	t			3	t	t		t		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel								1				
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel	1											
American Red Squirrel			4	7	13		10				1	3
Northern Flying-Squirrel							2					
American Beaver				c	1							
Deer Mouse			t	1								
Muskrat				1								
Meadow Vole			t									
Vole Species					t		t			t		
Mouse Species												
Norway Rat												
House Mouse				1								
American Porcupine			t	c	4	t	t	1	1	1		
Coyote	1	6	3	1	5	4	t	18	8	1		
Wolf												
Red Fox			1	c			t					
Swift Fox								1				
Black Bear												
Raccoon	1		2	c								
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine			t									
Long-tailed Weasel				c								
Least Weasel			t	c								
Weasel Species							t					
American Mink				1			t					
American Badger		t	1		o			o				
Striped Skunk												
River Otter												
Lynx												
Mule Deer	9	53			102	92		210	131	124		
White-tailed Deer	11	27		2	49	56	24		17	20		20
Deer Species			t						58			
Moose					t		1					
Elk					t							37
Pronghorn								64				
Totals seen/heard on count day	23	96	11	15	175	156	37	301	216	146	1	60
Total species seen/heard	5	5	5	8	7	5	4	7	5	4	1	3
Total species recorded by tracks	0	1	9	0	4	1	8	1	0	3	0	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	5	6	14	14	12	6	12	9	5	7	1	3

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Indian Head, 26 Dec 2003	Kelvington, 2 Jan 2004	Kenaston, 19 Dec 2003	Kenosee Lake, 3 Jan 2004	Ketchen North, 26 Dec 2003	Kindersley North, 29 Dec 2003	Kinistino, 5 Jan 2004	Kinloch, 15 Dec 2003	Kutawagan Lake, 29 Dec 2003	La Ronge North, 14 Dec 2003	La Ronge South 26 Dec 2003	Last Mountain Lake, 1 Jan 2004
Shrew Species	4							t				
Nuttall's Cottontail												
Snowshoe Hare	3	t		t	t		t	3		c	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	28	t	1									t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel	60	2		4	1		1	4		4	2	t
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver	1			o				o				o
Deer Mouse	2						t					t
Muskrat												o
Meadow Vole												
Vole Species								t				t
Mouse Species		t										
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	4	t	1				2					
Coyote	46	t	2	1			2	t	t		t	t
Wolf								t			t	
Red Fox	20	t	t								t	
Swift Fox												
Black Bear												
Raccoon	3	t	t									
American Marten												
Fisher												
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel			t									
Least Weasel								t				
Weasel Species	t						1					
American Mink	5		t									
American Badger		o	t				o					
Striped Skunk	4		t									
River Otter												t
Lynx												t
Mule Deer	18		t			6						
White-tailed Deer	202	3	3	26	t			5		3		31
Deer Species									t			
Moose			t	2				t				
Elk				21	t			t				
Pronghorn			t									
Totals seen/heard on count day	400	5	7	54	1	6	6	12	0	7	2	31
Total species seen/heard	14	2	4	5	1	1	4	3	0	2	1	1
Total species recorded by tracks	1	7	9	1	3	0	2	7	2	0	6	5
Total species otherwise recorded	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total species count period and day	15	10	13	7	4	2	6	11	2	3	9	6

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Leader North, 29 Dec 2003	Love, 28 Dec 2003	Luseland, 26 Dec 2003	MacDowall, 25 Dec 2003	Mayview, 26 Dec 2003	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2003	Moose Mountain, 4 Jan 2004	Nipawin, 27 Dec 2003	Nisbet Forest NW, 14 Dec 2003	Nisbet Forest West, 1 Jan 2003	Pike Lake, 4 Jan 2004	Preeceville, 1 Jan 2004
Shrew Species								1				
Nuttall's Cottontail												
Snowshoe Hare				t		t		1	1	c	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1	2	1	t					t	c	t	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel									t			
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk												
Grey Squirrel												
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel		14		7	1	3	5	4		6	3	
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver						o						
Deer Mouse												
Muskrat						o						
Meadow Vole												
Vole Species				t		t						
Mouse Species	2								t		t	
Norway Rat												
House Mouse												
American Porcupine	1	t		t					t		1	
Coyote	4	2	4	t		t	1	3	t	c	o	20
Wolf		t				t						
Red Fox		t	1	t				1			t	1
Swift Fox												
Black Bear									t			
Raccoon												
American Marten												
Fisher		c										
Ermine				t		1						
Long-tailed Weasel				t				2				
Least Weasel	t											
Weasel Species												
American Mink												
American Badger				o								
Striped Skunk												
River Otter												
Lynx				t								
Mule Deer	9		22								11	
White-tailed Deer	18	21	4	6	6	6	3	6	t	2	14	33
Deer Species											9	
Moose		2	4	t								
Elk		t						1				
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	35	41	36	13	7	10	9	19	1	8	38	54
Total species seen/heard	6	5	6	2	2	3	3	8	1	2	4	3
Total species recorded by tracks	1	4	0	10	0	4	0	0	7	0	4	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Total species count period and day	7	10	6	13	2	9	3	8	8	5	9	3

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Prince Albert, 14 Dec 2003	Prince Albert N.P., 5 Jan 2004	Punnichy, 28 Dec 2003	Qu'Appelle Dam, 14 Dec 2003	Raymore, 25 Dec 2003	Regina, 26 Dec 2003	Rouleau, 1 Jan 2004	Round Lake, 20 Dec 2003	Saltcoats, 27 Dec 2003	Sk. Landing P.P., 14 Dec 2003	Sk. River Forks, 29 Dec 2003	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2003
Shrew Species							t				t	
Nuttall's Cottontail										8		
Snowshoe Hare	t	t	t	t		2		t	1		t	1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t					50	t	t	t			3
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk												t
Grey Squirrel						6						
Fox Squirrel						12						
American Red Squirrel	19	22				2		8	6		8	5
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver						o		o		o		
Deer Mouse						t			1			t
Muskrat				3								
Meadow Vole						t				1		
Vole Species	t	t		t								t
Mouse Species												
Norway Rat												
House Mouse						t						
American Porcupine	1	t		1		2			1	2	t	2
Coyote	6	t	1	3		4	c	t	t	3	t	2
Wolf		t										
Red Fox		t				10	t	t	1	1		1
Swift Fox												
Black Bear												
Raccoon												1
American Marten		t										
Fisher		t										t
Ermine												
Long-tailed Weasel								1				t
Least Weasel						t						
Weasel Species		t										
American Mink						t		t				2
American Badger												
Striped Skunk												
River Otter		5										
Lynx												t
Mule Deer				54		6		5		37		12
White-tailed Deer	1	3	t	3	2	38		10	1	9	t	32
Deer Species												
Moose										1		
Elk		53								22	t	
Pronghorn										98		
Totals seen/heard on count day	27	83	1	64	2	132	0	24	11	182	8	61
Total species seen/heard	4	4	1	5	1	10	0	4	6	10	1	10
Total species recorded by tracks	3	9	2	2	0	5	3	5	2	0	10	2
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	7	13	3	7	1	16	4	10	8	11	11	12

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Shamrock, 2 Jan 2004	Snowden, 5 Jan 2004	Somme, 5 Jan 2004	Spalding, 26 Dec 2003	Spinney Hill, 26 Dec 2003	Spruce Home, SW, 22 Dec 2003	Squaw Rapids, 4 Jan 2004	Stenen, 1 Jan 2004	Stockholm, 1 Jan 2004	Swift Current, 3 Jan 2004	Tisdale, 26 Dec 2003	Togo, 4 Jan 2004
Shrew Species				t	t		t	t				
Nuttall's Cottontail										1		
Snowshoe Hare		t		t		t	t	t		9		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		3	c		t				2		t	t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel												
13-lined Ground Squirrel												
Least Chipmunk												
Grey Squirrel										3		
Fox Squirrel												
American Red Squirrel		5	1		7	6	9	4				4
Northern Flying-Squirrel												
American Beaver												
Deer Mouse		t								t		
Muskrat												
Meadow Vole			2	t								
Vole Species												
Mouse Species												
Norway Rat												
House Mouse	t							t	1			
American Porcupine		1						t		1		1
Coyote	2	t	2	t	3	2	3		1	1		t
Wolf			1				t					
Red Fox	t			t		t		t	1			
Swift Fox												
Black Bear												
Raccoon		1						t				
American Marten												
Fisher			1									
Ermine								t	1			
Long-tailed Weasel			c			t		t				
Least Weasel												
Weasel Species										1		
American Mink												
American Badger												
Striped Skunk												
River Otter												
Lynx						t						
Mule Deer	51									53		
White-tailed Deer	8	2	41	t		t	6	8	2	121	t	4
Deer Species												
Moose			3	t			1					
Elk			c				t					
Pronghorn												
Totals seen/heard on count day	61	12	51	0	10	8	19	12	8	190	0	9
Total species seen/heard	3	5	7	0	2	2	4	2	6	8	0	3
Total species recorded by tracks	2	3	0	7	2	5	4	8	0	1	2	3
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	5	8	10	7	4	7	8	10	6	9	2	6

Table 2. 31st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2003.

Species	Torch River Valley, 4 Jan 2004	Turtleford, 29 Dec 2003	Turtle Lake, 31 Dec 2003	Weyburn, 18 Dec 2003	White Bear, 28 Dec 2003	Whitewood, 28 Dec 2003	Yorkton, 30 Dec 2003	Totals seen/heard on count day	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded by tracks	# Counts otherwise recorded	# Counts count period	# of Counts count period & day
Shrew Species								5	2	12	0	0	14
Nuttall's Cottontail					1			24	9	0	0	0	9
Snowshoe Hare	3	t				2	t	29	12	37	0	2	51
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				1	4	t	t	109	16	23	0	2	41
Richardson's Ground Squirrel								1	1	1	0	0	2
13-lined Ground Squirrel								1	1	0	0	0	1
Least Chipmunk								1	1	1	0	0	2
Grey Squirrel				5			1	20	6	0	0	0	6
Fox Squirrel						1		18	4	0	0	0	4
American Red Squirrel	5	3	2			2		364	54	2	0	0	56
Northern Flying-Squirrel								3	2	0	0	0	2
American Beaver		o				o		2	2	0	12	1	15
Deer Mouse		1						6	5	10	0	0	15
Muskrat			2			o		6	3	1	5	0	9
Meadow Vole						t		9	4	4	0	0	8
Vole Species		t						0	0	16	0	0	16
Mouse Species								2	1	6	0	0	7
Norway Rat						t		0	0	1	0	0	1
House Mouse						t		2	2	4	0	0	6
American Porcupine					c	5	t	44	24	13	2	2	41
Coyote		1		1	2		t	196	48	24	1	2	75
Wolf								1	1	9	0	0	10
Red Fox		3		1			1	47	16	20	0	1	37
Swift Fox								1	1	0	0	0	1
Black Bear								0	0	1	0	0	1
Raccoon						2		10	6	5	0	1	12
American Marten								0	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher								1	1	4	0	1	6
Ermine						t		2	2	6	0	0	8
Long-tailed Weasel								5	3	9	0	3	15
Least Weasel	1	1						2	2	7	0	1	10
Weasel Species								2	2	4	0	0	6
American Mink								8	3	8	0	0	11
American Badger						o	o	1	1	2	7	0	10
Striped Skunk		o						6	2	2	2	0	6
River Otter								5	1	2	0	0	3
Lynx								0	0	5	0	0	5
Mule Deer		t	15	49	77			1199	28	2	0	0	30
White-tailed Deer	6	t	30	35		2	3	1250	64	13	0	0	77
Deer Species								67	2	4	0	0	6
Moose	c	t	1			t		26	13	11	0	1	25
Elk	c							204	6	9	0	2	17
Pronghorn								162	2	1	0	0	3
Totals seen/heard on count day	15	9	50	92	84	14	5	3841					
Total species seen/heard	4	5	5	6	4	6	3		35				
Total species recorded by tracks	0	5	0	0	0	6	4			32			
Total species otherwise recorded	0	2	0	0	0	3	1				6		
Species recorded count period	2	0	0	0	1	0	0					12	
Total species count period and day	6	12	5	6	5	15	8						39

Table 3. Summary of Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Counts-1973-2003.

Year	Counts	Species by category*				Total	New Species
		s	t	o	c		
1973	8	8	3	0	0	11	Snowshoe Hare, White-tailed Jack Rabbit, Grey Squirrel, Am. Red Squirrel, Am. Porcupine, Coyote, Red Fox, White-tailed Deer.
1974	16	12	2	0	1	15	Am. Beaver, Deer Mouse, Meadow Vole, Mule Deer.
1975	28	14	6	0	1	21	Franklin's Gr. Squirrel, Muskrat, House Mouse, Long-tailed Weasel.
1976	33	14	8	0	1	23	Nuttall's Cottontail, Moose, Elk, Pronghorn.
1977	41	13	6	2	3	24	Least Weasel, Am. Badger.
1978	42	20	6	0	3	29	Raccoon, American Mink, Bobcat.
1979	42	23	3	0	1	27	Wolf, Striped Skunk.
1980	45	22	4	0	2	28	Richardson's Gr. Squirrel, Fox Squirrel, Ermine.
1981	37	20	4	1	2	27	
1982	49	22	3	2	1	28	Northern Flying-Squirrel.
1983	55	25	5	1	1	32	
1984	54	25	7	2	0	34	Gapper's Red-Backed Vole, Fisher.
1985	62	27	3	0	2	32	River Otter.
1986	66	30	4	0	3	37	Pygmy Shrew, Norway Rat, Am. Marten.
1987	70	28	3	1	5	37	Masked Shrew, Eastern Cottontail.
1988	68	28	1	2	5	36	Woodchuck, Woodland Caribou.
1989	68	29	0	1	3	33	(Little Brown Bat-dead, count period).
1990	65	28	5	2	3	38	Northern Pocket Gopher, (Big Brown Bat-dead, count period).
1991	82	33	4	2	3	42	Short-tailed Shrew, Black-Tailed Prairie Dog, (Sagebrush Vole-dead).
1992	69	22	8	1	5	36	(Am. Water Shrew-count period).
1993	72	27	5	2	2	36	
1994	84	32	7	0	1	40	(Mountain Lion-tracks).
1995	78	33	4	0	1	38	Swift Fox.
1996	82	29	3	1	4	37	Black Bear, Lynx.
1997	96	32	4	0	3	39	
1998	87	27	7	3	1	38	
1999	94	30	3	0	3	36	
2000	93	30	2	1	5	38	
2001	102	32	5	0	5	42	
2002	93	33	4	0	1	38	(jumping mouse species-tracks).
2003	91	35	4	0	0	39	13-lined Gr. Squirrel, L. Chipmunk.
Totals	1972	49	2	0	4	55	

s = seen, t = identified by tracks, o = identified by other methods (see introduction), c = recorded during count period but not on count day.



Swift Fox photographed on 21 December 2003 during the Christmas Mammal Count at Govenlock.

Val Harris



American Red Squirrel in winter.

Larry A. Morgotch