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# MAMMALS

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## 41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2013

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Only 79 Christmas Mammal Counts were conducted this winter - the fewest since 1995. A paltry 2147 mammals were seen or heard this CMC, about two-thirds of last year's 3382 and the fewest since 1993. Much of this was due to the decline in the number of White-tailed Deer, which dropped by half from last year's 1421 to 733. Mule Deer fared much better dipping only slightly from 669 to 601. As with the birds, the average number of species per count fell from 4.4 in 2012 to 4.0 this year. No new species were added; the all-time total remains at 49.

Like the Eurasian Collared-Dove, the Eastern Fox Squirrel continues to expand its range. After appearing on the Qu'Appelle Dam count 2 years ago, it showed up 30 km to the northwest on Gardiner Dam count on December 16. This suggests it will show up in Outlook in another two years. Franklin's Ground Squirrel at Saskatoon was only the second on the count; the previous record of this species that normally hibernates, was one seen at Asquith December 23 1975.

*For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of CMCs 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', more clearly identifiable chewing or digging 'd', dens or lodges 'L' (including Muskrat push-ups) 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 member of a species group (i.e. mouse species, deer species), it is counted as a species only if no other species in this group has been definitely recorded. The columns at the end of the table, give totals for each species.

Table 1-1. 41st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2013.

CBC number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
SPECIES	Archerwill, 16 Dec 2013	Avonlea, 3 Jan 2014	Balgonie, 4 Jan 2014	Bangor, 20 Dec 2013	Biggar, 27 Dec 2013	Birch Hills, 30 Dec 2013	Borden - Radisson, 17 Dec 2013	Broadview, 26 Dec 2013	Cater, 4 Jan 2014	Chatsworth S.D., 4 Jan 2014	Clark's Crossing, 14 Dec 2013	Coronach 22 Dec 2013	Craven, 14 Dec 2013	Creighton, 21 Dec 2013	Crooked Lake, 26 Dec 2013	Crooked River, 31 Dec 2013	Cypress Hills P.P., 30 Dec 2013	Denholm, 25 Dec 2013	Eastend, 17 Dec 2013	Edenwold, 28 Dec 2013
Shrew species																				
Eastern Cottontail																				
Nuttall's Cottontail																		t		
Snowshoe Hare	1				t	t	t	t	t		t		1	t					1	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t	7	t		t	t				t					t	1		
Franklin's Ground Squirrel																				
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																				
Eastern Grey Squirrel													2							
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1	6					5					11							3
American Red Squirrel	1			2		1	1	2	1	2	2		1	5	4	4	6	2		
Northern Flying-Squirrel	1																	1		
American Beaver								L							L					
Deer Mouse								t											t	
Muskrat					L			L							L				1	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																		3		
Meadow Vole																				
Vole species					t			t				t		t	t					
House Mouse																				
Mouse species												t								
American Porcupine						t	2	d	1						t					
Coyote	1		t	3	1	t	1	t		4	2	1	2	1	1		4	4	3	
Gray Wolf																				
Red Fox	1		1	1			t	t		1		t		4	t			1		
Raccoon															1					
Fisher																				
Ermine								t												
Long-tailed Weasel			t	1				t						t		c	t			
Least Weasel																				
Weasel species	t					t						t								
American Mink	1							t							1				1	
American Badger											1				1			d		
Striped Skunk							s													
River Otter														t						
Mountain Lion																				t
Canada Lynx														t						
Mule Deer					6		7				1	7	9		5		2	t	45	
White-tailed Deer	7		1	5	1	1	1	t	c	12	22	4	25		t	1	58	t	13	
Deer species																				
Moose	2			t				t	c					t		1	t	c	t	
Elk	c																			
Pronghorn																				
Totals seen/heard on count day	15	1	8	19	8	2	12	7	2	19	28	12	51	10	13	6	70	13	63	3
Total species seen/heard	8	1	3	6	3	2	5	2	2	4	5	3	7	3	6	3	4	7	5	1
Total species recorded by tracks	1	0	3	1	3	4	3	11	1	0	1	4	0	6	4	0	4	2	3	0
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Total species count period and day	10	1	6	7	7	6	9	16	5	4	6	7	7	9	12	4	8	11	8	1

Table 1-2. 41st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2013.

CBC number	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	30	32	33	34	36	37	38	39	40
	Endeavour, 1 Jan 2014	Estevan, 1 Jan 2014	Estuary North, 1 Jan 2014	Fenton, 2 Jan 2014	Floral, 24 Dec 2013	Fort Qu'Appelle, 22 Dec 2013	Gardiner Dam, 16 Dec 2013	Good Spirit Lake, 4 Jan 2014	Grasslands N.P. 17 Dec 2013	Grenfell, 29 Dec 2013	Harris, 20 Dec 2013	Hazlet, 26 Dec 2013	Indian Head, 27 Dec 2013	Kenaston, 14 Dec 2013	Kenosee Lake, 2 Jan 2014	Ketchen, 26 Dec 2013	Kilwinning, 27 Dec 2013
SPECIES																	
Shrew species																	
Eastern Cottontail		5															
Nuttall's Cottontail					1		2					1					
Snowshoe Hare	t			t		3		2		t	t		t		t	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		1			t		t		2	1				t			
Franklin's Ground Squirrel																	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																	
Eastern Grey Squirrel																	
Eastern Fox Squirrel		6				1	1			4			7				
American Red Squirrel	2			1		10		2		1			22		4		4
Northern Flying-Squirrel																	
American Beaver								L		L				L	L	L	
Deer Mouse							t										
Muskrat				L	L		L				L	t	1				
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole						c											
Meadow Vole	4											1					
Vole species		t					t				t						
House Mouse						1		t									
Mouse species								t	1			t					
American Porcupine	2					c	2		1	1			2	2		1	
Coyote	t	2	3	t		4	4	2	8	1	1	t	3	t	t	4	1
Gray Wolf																	
Red Fox		1			t	1				1	1		4		t		
Raccoon						c									t		
Fisher																	
Ermine	1							1		t							
Long-tailed Weasel														t			
Least Weasel	1																
Weasel species											t						
American Mink		T											1				
American Badger												d					
Striped Skunk					1												
River Otter																	
Mountain Lion																	
Canada Lynx																	
Mule Deer		24	28		5		13		234		18		6	6			
White-tailed Deer	4		27	t		25	17	11	11	4	3		3	4	6	7	t
Deer species												t					
Moose	1							t					3	2	m	c	
Elk																	
Pronghorn									t		40						
Totals seen/heard on count day	15	39	58	1	7	45	39	18	257	12	64	2	52	14	10	12	5
Total species seen/heard	7	6	3	1	3	7	6	5	6	6	6	2	10	4	2	3	2
Total species recorded by tracks	2	2	0	3	2	0	3	2	1	2	3	4	1	4	3	1	1
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	0
Species recorded count period	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total species count period and day	9	8	3	5	6	10	10	8	7	9	10	6	11	9	7	6	3

Table 1-3. 41st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2013.

CBC number	41	42	43	44	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
	Kindersley North, 26 Dec 2013	Kinloch, 3 Jan 2014	Kyle, 19 Dec 2013	Lac La Plonge, 16 Dec 2013	Leader North, 26 Dec 2013	Love-Torch River, 26 Dec 2013	Luseland, 2 Jan 2014	Macdowall, 29 Dec 2013	Meadow Lake, 26 Dec 2013	Moose Jaw, 15 Dec 2013	Moose Mountain P.P., 30 Dec 2013	Morse, 30 Dec 2013	Nipawin, 28 Dec 2013	Nisbet Forest Northwest, 30 Jan 2014	Nisbet Forest West, 5 Jan 2014	Outlook, 26 Dec 2013	Pierce Lake, 15 Dec 2013	Pike Lake, 4 Jan 2014	Prince Albert, 15 Dec 2013
SPECIES																			
Shrew species																			
Eastern Cottontail																			
Nuttall's Cottontail			4																
Snowshoe Hare		1				t												t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	5		4		2	t		t			t	1						t	
Franklin's Ground Squirrel																			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel														c					
Eastern Grey Squirrel																			
Eastern Fox Squirrel										6									
American Red Squirrel				c	14			2	1		2		5		4		5	8	20
Northern Flying-Squirrel																			
American Beaver																			2
Deer Mouse																		1	t
Muskrat								L									2		L
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																			
Meadow Vole																			
Vole species						t								t					
House Mouse													m						
Mouse species			t		1	t				t				t					
American Porcupine					1	t													
Coyote	4	t	4		3	2	1	t		4		11		7		1	1		8
Gray Wolf		t				t													
Red Fox			1			3		t			t	2		t					3
Raccoon												t							
Fisher																			
Ermine																			1
Long-tailed Weasel				1		1												t	t
Least Weasel																			
Weasel species		t						t											
American Mink																			
American Badger								d											
Striped Skunk						2													
River Otter																			
Mountain Lion																			
Canada Lynx																			
Mule Deer	4		16		22		1					17				16			
White-tailed Deer		9	87		12	59	9		5	4	t	120	23	t	c		11	18	23
Deer species																			
Moose		t	2		2	t					1						2	t	
Elk		c				t													
Pronghorn			52									2							
Totals seen/heard on count day	13	10	170	1	43	81	11	2	6	14	3	153	28	7	4	17	21	27	57
Total species seen/heard	3	2	8	1	7	6	3	1	2	3	2	6	2	1	1	2	5	3	6
Total species recorded by tracks	0	4	1	0	0	8	0	4	0	1	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	3
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total species count period and day	3	7	9	2	7	14	3	7	2	4	5	7	2	6	2	2	5	7	10

Table 1-4. 41st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2013.

CBC number	61	62	63	64	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76
	Qu'Appelle, 29 Dec 2013	Qu'Appelle Dam, 15 Dec 2013	Raymore, 5 Jan 2014	Regina, 28 Dec 2013	Roscommon, 26 Dec 2013	Rouleau, 4 Jan 2014	Round Lake (P.A.) 2 Jan 2014	Round Lake (Q.V.), 16 Dec 2013	Saltcoats, 28 Dec 2013	Saskatchewan Landing P.P., 29 Dec 2013	Saskatchewan River Forks, 14 Dec 2013	Saskatoon, 26 Dec 2013	Sawyer Lake, 1 Jan 2014	Shamrock, 3 Jan 2014	Snowden, 4 Jan 2014
SPECIES															
Shrew species													1		
Eastern Cottontail															
Nuttall's Cottontail		3								1	t				
Snowshoe Hare	t		t	t	t						t	2	c		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t		2	t	3				t		2		1	
Franklin's Ground Squirrel												1			
Richardson's Ground Squirrel															
Eastern Grey Squirrel				6								2			
Eastern Fox Squirrel	5	2	1	35											
American Red Squirrel				3	t			2	1		6	12	1		5
Northern Flying-Squirrel															
American Beaver			L					L				d	L		
Deer Mouse			c								t	t			
Muskrat	L		L						L		L	1	L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole															
Meadow Vole															
Vole species	t		c						t			t	t		
House Mouse					t										
Mouse species		1			t					t			1		
American Porcupine	2	3			t	c					t				
Coyote	1	19	t	3	t			1		8	4	3	t		
Gray Wolf											t		t		
Red Fox	2			2	t				t	1	t	t			
Raccoon					2										
Fisher													t		
Ermine													t		
Long-tailed Weasel			c								t				
Least Weasel					t										
Weasel species	t				t		c	1				t			t
American Mink	c						c						c		
American Badger								d							
Striped Skunk															
River Otter													c		
Mountain Lion															
Canada Lynx															
Mule Deer		41			c					14	7				
White-tailed Deer	2	5	2		t	c			t	3	3	4	c	9	4
Deer species								t							
Moose	t	2		t	t						t		c		
Elk											t		t		
Pronghorn															
Totals seen/heard on count day	12	76	3	51	2	3	0	4	1	27	20	27	3	10	9
Total species seen/heard	5	8	2	6	1	1	0	3	1	5	4	8	3	2	2
Total species recorded by tracks	4	1	2	2	10	0	0	3	1	2	8	5	6	0	2
Total species otherwise recorded	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Species recorded count period	1	0	3	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
Total species count period and day	11	9	9	8	12	3	2	9	2	7	13	14	16	2	4

Table 1-5. 41st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count-2013.

CBC number	79	80	81	82	83	85								
SPECIES	Swift Current, 21 Dec 2013	Togo, 5 Jan 2014	Weyburn, 14 Dec 2013	White Bear, 2 Jan 2014	Whitewood, 28 Dec 2013	Yorkton, 20 Dec 2013	# individuals seen/heard count day	# Counts seen/heard	# Counts recorded as tracks	# Counts recorded as other	# Counts, count period	# Counts, count period & count day	High count	% Counts seen/heard
Shrew species							1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1.0
Eastern Cottontail							5	1	0	0	0	1	5	1.0
Nuttall's Cottontail	2			1			15	8	2	0	0	10	4	8.4
Snowshoe Hare		7			t		18	8	26	0	1	35	7	8.4
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	2		3	1	t		38	16	17	0	0	33	7	16.8
Franklin's Ground Squirrel							1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1.0
Richardson's Ground Squirrel							0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0.0
Eastern Grey Squirrel	14						24	4	0	0	0	4	14	4.2
Eastern Fox Squirrel			14		5		113	17	0	0	0	17	35	17.8
American Red Squirrel		6			2	3	196	43	1	0	1	45	22	45.1
Northern Flying-Squirrel		4					6	3	0	0	0	3	4	3.1
American Beaver					L		2	1	0	12	0	13	2	1.0
Deer Mouse							1	1	6	0	1	8	1	1.0
Muskrat					L	L	5	4	1	16	0	21	2	4.2
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole							3	1	0	0	1	2	3	1.0
Meadow Vole	1						6	3	0	0	0	3	4	3.1
Vole species					t		0	0	15	0	1	16	0	0.0
House Mouse							1	1	2	1	0	4	1	1.0
Mouse species				t	t		4	4	11	0	0	15	1	4.2
American Porcupine					c		20	12	5	1	3	21	3	12.6
Coyote	2	1	3	1	c	1	156	48	14	0	1	63	19	50.4
Gray Wolf		2					2	1	5	0	0	6	2	1.0
Red Fox	1		2		1		36	22	13	0	0	35	4	23.1
Raccoon							3	2	2	0	1	5	2	2.1
Fisher							0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.0
Ermine							3	3	3	0	0	6	1	3.1
Long-tailed Weasel							3	3	8	0	2	13	1	3.1
Least Weasel							1	1	1	0	0	2	1	1.0
Weasel species							1	1	10	0	1	12	1	1.0
American Mink							4	4	2	0	3	9	1	4.2
American Badger	1						3	3	0	4	0	7	1	3.1
Striped Skunk							3	2	0	1	0	3	2	2.1
River Otter							1	1	1	0	1	3	1	1.0
Mountain Lion							0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.0
Canada Lynx							0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0.0
Mule Deer	46	c					601	27	1	0	2	30	234	28.3
White-tailed Deer	6	26	5		t	2	733	50	11	0	4	65	120	52.5
Deer species				t			0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0.0
Moose		1			1		20	12	13	1	4	30	3	12.6
Elk		24					24	1	3	0	2	6	24	1.0
Pronghorn							94	3	1	0	0	4	52	3.1
Totals seen/heard on count day	75	71	27	3	9	6	2147							
Total species seen/heard	9	8	5	3	4	3		33						
Total species recorded by tracks	0	0	0	2	5	0			26					
Total species otherwise recorded	0	0	0	0	2	1				7				
Species recorded count period	0	1	0	0	2	0				15				
Total species count period and day	9	9	5	5	13	4					37			