

47TH SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2019

Alan R. Smith

Box 154

Avonlea, SK S0H 0C0

alanrandi@sasktel.net

There were only 72 Christmas Mammal Counts to report from this past winter, which is down from the 83 reported from each of the two previous winters. As a result, the 3,191 mammals seen or heard was down from the 3,434 recorded the last winter. As is usual, White-tailed Deer (1,012 individuals) and Mule Deer (894 animals) were by far the most commonly encountered mammals.

During harsher winters much of the province's Pronghorn population moves south of the border. This past winter, however, Pronghorn were the third most common mammal with 392 animals on seven counts.

Eastern Fox Squirrels continue their expansion along the South Saskatchewan River reaching Outlook; next stop Saskatoon?

Unusual sightings include those of the 13-lined Ground-Squirrel and Fisher. Normally in hibernation, the ground-squirrel was seen in the Pipestone Creek valley during the count period of the Broadview Count. Usually a boreal forest mammal, the Fisher was seen at Round Lake in the Qu'Appelle Valley.

With 13 species seen or heard, Odessa and Indian Head tied for the most species on a count. No new species were added this past winter so the all-time provincial total remains at 51 species seen or heard (plus three species found dead and two others recorded only on the basis of tracks).

Although certainly neither a bird or mammal, two Leopard Frogs in a spring on the Cypress Hills Provincial Park count are noteworthy. Incredibly

they have been reported on several previous counts in the Park.

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of Christmas Mammal Counts, see the Christmas Bird Count 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.



Coyote. Photo credit: Randy McCulloch.

TABLE 1. 47th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2019.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 27 DEC 2019	AVONLEA 27 DEC 2019	BALGONIE 4 JAN 2020	BIGGAR 18 DEC 2019	BIRCH HILLS 31 DEC 2019	BORDEN - RADISSON 21 DEC 2019	BROADVIEW 15 DEC 2019	CANDLE LAKE 4 JAN 2020	CATER 3 JAN 2020	CHATSWORTH 4 JAN 2020	CHURCHBRIDGE B 27 DEC 2019	CLARK'S CROSSING 14 DEC 2019	GRAVEN 14 DEC 2019	CROOKED LAKE 18 DEC 2019	CROOKED RIVER 27 DEC 2019	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 29 DEC 2019	DENHOLM 23 DEC 2019	DORINTOSH 29 DEC 2019	DUVAL 18 DEC 2019	E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 30 DEC 2019
Short-tailed Shrew																				
Shrew species												1								
Eastern Cottontail																				
Nuttall's Cottontail															t	t				t
Snowshoe Hare	1		t			t	t	t	t			t				1	t	t	t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1			1	t					1	t				c			
13-lined Ground Squirrel							c													
Eastern Grey Squirrel																				
Eastern Fox Squirrel		4	22				1						7						1	
American Red Squirrel	2				t	1	1	13		2	3	2	3	2		13		t		16
Northern Flying-Squirrel																	1			
Northern Pocket Gopher																	d			
American Beaver							L	L	L	L								L	L	
Deer Mouse					t		t										c			
Muskrat				L					L					1				L	L	
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	1			
Meadow Vole																				1
Vole species				t	t	t						t	t		1				t	t
House Mouse										1										
Mouse species	t		t		t								t		1	t			t	t
American Porcupine				2		t						1						t		
Coyote	c			3	t	9	1		1			8	6	t		1	2	t	1	
Gray Wolf										t								t		t
Red Fox			1	t	t		t	t	t				t	t			t	c	t	t
Raccoon	2																			1
Fisher																				
Ermine					1															
Long-tailed Weasel																				t
Least Weasel																	t			
Weasel species	c			t		t		t				1						t		t
American Mink							t			1				1				t		
American Badger				d													d			
Striped Skunk	1																			
River Otter							c	1											t	t
Canada Lynx																				
Mule Deer		8	26	16		11	c					7	25				7		11	
White-tailed Deer	14	13	5	16	t	15	6	25	1	8	5	29	57	t	2	39	23	48	8	10
Moose	t		t				1							t			c	t		
Elk																	c			
Pronghorn													1							
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	20	25	55	37	1	37	10	39	2	12	11	50	99	4	3	54	34	48	21	28
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	3	5	4	1	5	5	3	2	4	3	8	6	3	3	4	5	1	4	4
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	2	0	3	3	6	4	5	4	2	0	0	2	3	4	1	3	2	9	6	5
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	3	8	9	7	9	14	8	6	5	3	10	9	7	4	8	12	13	12	9

SPECIES	EASTEND 4 JAN 2020	EBENEZER 26 DEC 2019	ESTEVAN 2 JAN 2020	ESTUARY NORTH 1 JAN 2020	FENTON 25 DEC 2019	FLORAL 29 DEC 2019	FORT QU'APPELLE 17 DEC 2019	GARDINER DAM 16 DEC 2019	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 3 JAN 2020	GRENFELL 4 JAN 2020	HARRIS 19 DEC 2019	HAZLET 24 DEC 2019	INDIAN HEAD 27 DEC 2019	KENASTON 17 DEC 2019	KENOSEE LAKE 24 DEC 2019	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2019	KINLOCH 29 DEC 2019	KYLE 21 DEC 2019	LA RONGE 29 DEC 2019	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2019
Short-tailed Shrew																				
Shrew species																				
Eastern Cottontail			4												c					
Nuttall's Cottontail	2			5				t				t						2		
Snowshoe Hare		t			t	t	1	t	t	t			2		c		1		t	t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			t	6		t		1	t	t		t		t						t
13-lined Ground Squirrel																				
Eastern Grey Squirrel																				
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1	2				1			6			8							
American Red Squirrel		2	1		2		7		t	3			1		5		3		2	9
Northern Flying-Squirrel		1																		
Northern Pocket Gopher															d					
American Beaver		L					c		L	L				L	L	L				
Deer Mouse										t										t
Muskrat						L		L									L			
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																				
Meadow Vole																				
Vole species			t			t		t			t		2		t			1		1
House Mouse																				
Mouse species									t			t					t	t		t
American Porcupine							1				1		2	t	t		t			t
Coyote	1	4	1	1		5	6	1	t	2	2	t	12	c	1	t	2	4	c	t
Gray Wolf																				t
Red Fox	1						1	t		t			10	t						t
Raccoon											t	m								
Fisher																				
Ermine													2							t
Long-tailed Weasel												t		t						
Least Weasel											t									
Weasel species								t	t						c		t			t
American Mink																				c
American Badger			d										d	d	d					
Striped Skunk													1	d						t
River Otter													3				t		2	
Canada Lynx																				
Mule Deer	30		9	18		2	2	7		4	52	1	25	c				53		
White-tailed Deer	24	3	9	63	t	8	8	49	19	2	4	8	45	1	8	7	33	7		24
Moose	1	1							t	t			2	2	t	t	3	c		t
Elk																t	c			t
Pronghorn	120											33						c		
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	179	12	26	93	2	15	27	58	19	17	59	42	115	3	14	7	42	67	4	34
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	7	6	6	5	1	3	8	4	1	5	4	3	13	2	3	1	5	5	2	3
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	2	0	2	3	0	5	7	5	3	5	0	4	3	3	4	1	1	12
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	2	3	1	2	0	0	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	2	2	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	7	8	9	5	3	7	9	10	9	11	7	10	13	10	12	5	12	8	5	15

SPECIES	LUSELAND 26 DEC 2019	MELFORT 28 DEC 2019	MOOSE JAW 21 DEC 2019	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 5 JAN 2020	MORSE 23 DEC 2019	NICOLLE FLATS 19 DEC. 2019	NIPAWIN 28 DEC 2019	NISBET FOREST WEST 20 DEC 2019	ODESSA 24 DEC 2019	OUTLOOK 29 DEC 2019	PIKE LAKE 4 JAN 2020	PONTEIX 23 DEC 2019	PRINCE ALBERT 22 DEC 2019	QU'APPELLE 28 DEC 2019	QU'APPELLE DAM 15 DEC 2019	REGINA 28 DEC 2019	ROSCOMMON S.D. 1 JAN 2020	ROULEAU 13 DEC 2019	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 16 DEC 2019	SALCOATS 21 DEC 2019		
Short-tailed Shrew														c								
Shrew species																						
Eastern Cottontail																						
Nuttall's Cottontail						1								t								
Snowshoe Hare					t	1		2		t		t	c		t	t						
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			c		3	t		8		1		1	t	1	38	t	1					
13-lined Ground Squirrel																						
Eastern Grey Squirrel								2								4						
Eastern Fox Squirrel			19			10		4	c				7	1	89	1						1
American Red Squirrel				2			9	5		15		16	c				3		1			6
Northern Flying-Squirrel																						
Northern Pocket Gopher														c								
American Beaver						L					c		L	L		L						
Deer Mouse						t								c								
Muskrat													L			3						
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole														c								
Meadow Vole						t										t						
Vole species							t				t		t		t	t	t					
House Mouse																						
Mouse species						t	t				t	t	t			t	t					
American Porcupine					1	1	t	2					d	t	2		t					
Coyote	4	2	4		9	3	t	1	4		2	1	t	2	5	4	t				1	
Gray Wolf														t								
Red Fox	1				1		t	1	1				t	4	1	t	1				t	
Raccoon								6						m			t					
Fisher																					1	
Ermine													1	c								
Long-tailed Weasel														c		t						
Least Weasel							t															
Weasel species						t										t						
American Mink			c					1					t			t						
American Badger					d			1				d					d	d	d			
Striped Skunk							t						1				1					
River Otter																						
Canada Lynx														t								
Mule Deer	1	20	27		59	87		20	1	12	20	1	2	101	13	8				8	6	
White-tailed Deer					53	19	15	t	16		10	60	3	15	17	c		1	2			
Moose	1							3		t			t	c			3					
Elk																	1					
Pronghorn			8		63																	
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	7	22	58	2	189	121	25	6	70	2	40	81	23	30	128	151	18	2	13	13		
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	4	2	4	1	7	6	3	2	13	2	5	3	6	5	7	6	7	2	5	3		
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	1	0	0	4	1	9	2	2	5	6	0	1	0		
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	0		
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	0	0		
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	4	2	6	1	8	12	10	3	13	3	10	5	18	18	9	13	14	3	7	3		

SPECIES	SASK. LANDING PP. 20 DEC 2019	SASK. RIVER FORKS 24 DEC 2019	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2019	SHAMROCK 30 DEC 2019	SHELL LAKE 14 DEC 2019	SNOWDEN 4 JAN 2020	SWIFT CURRENT 14 DEC 2019	TURTLEFORD 22 DEC 2019	WEYBURN 28 DEC 2019	WHITE BEAR 3 JAN 2020	WHITEWOOD DEC 2019	WINGARD 2 JAN 2020	# 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		t											1	1	1	0	0	2
Eastern Cottontail													4	1	0	0	1	2
Nuttall's Cottontail	2						2			1	t		15	7	7	0	0	14
Snowshoe Hare		1	t		t	t		30					41	10	26	0	2	38
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	1		20	2	t		1		7	2			96	18	13	0	2	33
13-lined Ground Squirrel													0	0	0	0	1	1
Eastern Grey Squirrel							21						27	3	0	0	0	3
Eastern Fox Squirrel									16		1		202	20	0	0	1	21
American Red Squirrel		12	9		15	8		10			7	1	215	37	3	0	1	41
Northern Flying-Squirrel													2	2	0	0	0	2
Northern Pocket Gopher								d					0	0	0	3	1	4
American Beaver					L			L			L		0	0	0	19	2	21
Deer Mouse		t				1		t					1	1	7	0	2	10
Muskrat					L			L					4	2	0	10	0	12
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole					t								1	1	1	0	1	3
Meadow Vole						t					t		1	1	4	0	0	5
Vole species		t	t					t					5	4	21	0	0	25
House Mouse													1	1	0	0	0	1
Mouse species	t		t							t			1	1	22	0	0	23
American Porcupine	d		t							d	t		13	9	11	3	0	23
Coyote	2	3	4	4	t		2	8		7	1		147	43	12	0	3	58
Gray Wolf												c	0	0	5	0	1	6
Red Fox			t	2	3			6		c	1		35	15	19	0	2	36
Raccoon													9	3	2	2	0	7
Fisher													1	1	1	0	0	2
Ermine		t											4	3	2	0	1	6
Long-tailed Weasel											t		0	0	5	0	1	6
Least Weasel													0	0	3	0	0	3
Weasel species						1		t					2	2	13	0	2	17
American Mink			t										3	3	5	0	2	10
American Badger				d									1	1	0	12	0	13
Striped Skunk													4	4	2	1	0	7
River Otter													6	3	3	0	1	7
Canada Lynx													0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer	11			32	7		51	58	10	25			894	42	0	0	2	44
White-tailed Deer	8	3	32	5	12	1	23	13	31	21	1		1012	59	4	0	1	64
Moose	t	t		t				7	1		2		31	14	14	0	3	31
Elk		t						20			t		21	2	4	0	2	8
Pronghorn							77			90			392	7	0	0	1	8
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	24	19	65	45	37	11	177	152	65	146	13	1	3191					
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	5	4	4	5	4	4	7	8	5	6	6	1		30				
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	2	6	5	1	4	2	0	3	0	1	5	0			25			
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	1	0				8		
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0					24	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	8	10	9	7	10	6	7	14	5	9	13	1						37