

## NATURE SASKATCHEWAN MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our member survey last fall. A total of 154 members responded either through electronic means or by paper. Responses were varied but some common themes did emerge, such as the desire for the society to engage more in environmental advocacy publicly.

At the same time that the member survey took place, a perceptions and awareness survey was launched to those who are engaged with Nature Saskatchewan on some level (social media, newsletter, etc.) but are not paid members. This survey received 498 responses.

The recurring theme in both surveys was that people engage with Nature Saskatchewan because they appreciate nature and want to be part of something they believe in. They feel that Nature Saskatchewan plays an important role in conserving Saskatchewan's natural landscapes and wanted to support the work of the society. We gained some insight into different types of activities members would like offered and many respondents indicated that they appreciated the move to some online programming due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main goal of both surveys was to learn more about the people who are connecting with us so that we can ensure we are fulfilling our expected role as an organization. Due to the number of responses and detail that was submitted, we are not able to publish full results in *Blue Jay*. However, the results of both surveys can be found online at [www.naturesask.ca/useful-resources/documents-of-interest](http://www.naturesask.ca/useful-resources/documents-of-interest).

# 48TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2020

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As with the Christmas Bird Count, the number of Mammal Counts conducted rose considerably from 72 in 2019-20 to 81 this past winter; furthermore, hours spent in the field increased from 1,161 to 1,813. This resulted in a substantial increase in the number of mammals seen or heard from 3,191 to 4,512.

As is usual, White-tailed Deer (1,628 individuals) and Mule Deer (1,398 animals) were by far the most commonly encountered mammals.

In most years, the third most commonly recorded mammal is the Coyote; this year it was the Eastern Fox Squirrel, which continued its expansion north and east to Watrous and Roscommon S.D. near Kelvington.

Even taking into account the increased effort, Moose numbers were still up markedly with 91 on 27 counts compared to only 31 on 13 counts the previous winter.

Three counts — Indian Head, Odessa and Roscommon S.D. — tied for the most species seen or heard with 11.

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 three others recorded only on the basis of tracks).

For information on participants, weather, coverage and location of the 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.



Red Fox. Photo credit: May Haga.

**TABLE 1. 48th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2020.**

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 28 DEC 2020	AVONLEA 28 DEC 2020	BALGONIE 2 JAN 2021	BIGGAR 16 DEC 2020	BORDEN - RADISSON 28 DEC 2020	BROADVIEW 28 DEC 2020	CANDLE LAKE 4 JAN 2021	CHATSWORTH 4 JAN 2021	CHRISTOPHER LAKE 31 DEC 2020	CLARK'S CROSSING 2 JAN 2021	GRAVEN 19 DEC 2020	CROOKED LAKE 16 DEC 2020	CROOKED RIVER 30 DEC 2020	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 27 DEC 2020	DAVIDSON-CRAIK 28 DEC 2020	DENHOLM 25 DEC 2020	DORINTOSH 2 JAN 2021	DUNDURN 23 DEC 2020	E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 1 JAN 2021	EASTEND 17 DEC 2020	EBENEZER 26 DEC 2020	
Short-tailed Shrew																						
Shrew species												t										
Eastern Cottontail																						
Nuttall's Cottontail														1							2	
Snowshoe Hare	c		2	t	t	t						t				1	t	t	t		2	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			5	t		t				5	4					c		t			2	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																					c	
Eastern Grey Squirrel																						
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1	25			2					7	2			1							
American Red Squirrel	c				5	c	19	2	1		9	2	2	7			t		3			
Northern Pocket Gopher																						
American Beaver						L						L					L					
Deer Mouse			t									t									t	
Muskrat						L										L	L					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																1						
Meadow Vole																						
Vole species			t	t		t				t	t	t										
House Mouse																						
Mouse species	c		t								c											
American Porcupine	c									1							t	t				1
Coyote			3	6	5	t	1	1			5	1		8	1	1	t				11	1
Gray Wolf																	t					
Red Fox	c			4	1	1			1	3		t				4	t					2
Raccoon																						
American Marten																				c		
Fisher						t																
Ermine			t									t				c						
Long-tailed Weasel						t								1								
Least Weasel																						
Weasel species	c																c	t				
American Mink										1												
American Badger										1						d						
Striped Skunk					s																	
River Otter						c						t					t			t		
Canada Lynx																	t					
Mule Deer		26	8	105		4				15	14	15		30		19		7			171	
White-tailed Deer	c	2	28	10	25	12	18	31		14	23	1	2	230		14	38	4	4		50	8
Deer species											t											
Moose	c		1	6		t										c	t	2	t		7	5
Elk	c												2									
Pronghorn																						59
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	0	29	72	131	36	19	38	34	2	40	62	21	6	277	2	40	38	13	7	302	19	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	0	3	7	5	4	4	3	3	2	7	6	5	3	6	2	6	1	3	2	7	6	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	3	3	1	7	0	0	0	1	1	7	0	0	0	0	9	4	3	1	0	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	3	10	8	6	15	3	3	2	8	7	13	3	6	2	11	14	7	5	9	6	

SPECIES	ESTEVAN 1 29 DEC 2020	ESTEVAN 2 3 JAN 2021	ESTUARY NORTH 30 DEC 2020	ETTERS BEACH-LIBERTY 21 DEC 2020	FENTON 24 DEC 2019	FLORAL 4 JAN 2021	FORT OU'APPELLE 16 DEC 2020	GARDINER DAM 14 DEC 2020	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 28 DEC 2020	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2021	GRENFELL 1 JAN 2021	HARRIS 15 DEC 2020	INDIAN HEAD 27 DEC 2020	KENASTON 16 DEC 2020	KENOSSE LAKE 19 DEC 2020	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2020	KINLOCH 3 JAN 2021	KYLE 17 DEC 2020	LA RONGE 26 DEC 2020	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2020	LUSELAND 26 DEC 2020	MACDOWALL 21 DEC 2020	
Short-tailed Shrew													1										
Shrew species										t													
Eastern Cottontail		5																					
Nuttall's Cottontail			10					2										4					
Snowshoe Hare							c		3	1	2		t		t				1	1			
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			1			t		t	1		t	t	5	t			t			t	c		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																							
Eastern Grey Squirrel																							
Eastern Fox Squirrel		1						2			2		3										
American Red Squirrel								11	1	14	2		11		3		1		3	19		1	
Northern Pocket Gopher													d										
American Beaver									L						L	L	L						
Deer Mouse													4										
Muskrat									L									L					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																							
Meadow Vole																							
Vole species						t		t		2	t	t				t					t		
House Mouse																							
Mouse species									t													t	
American Porcupine						1	c	1	t				1			t	1		1				
Coyote	2		6	1	t	3	4	5	2	1	2	4	6	t	t	c	c	1		1	c		
Gray Wolf																		t			t		
Red Fox			1				1	2	t	t	1	1	2	t	t		t			1	1		
Raccoon										1				t									
American Marten																							
Fisher																		t					
Ermine							c		t									t			1		
Long-tailed Weasel													1	t									
Least Weasel																					t		
Weasel species						t																	
American Mink																							
American Badger			1																d				
Striped Skunk										t											s		
River Otter																		t		1	t		
Canada Lynx																							
Mule Deer	1	8	2	60			c	19				104	21	t			14	40				23	
White-tailed Deer			96	30	4	12	19	26	11	21	8	41	3	c	t	2	9	17		53	5		
Deer species																							
Moose			5	2					2	c	5	4	2	2	3	t	t	t			c	2	
Elk									t	t						t	t			t			
Pronghorn																		t			c		
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	3	14	122	93	4	16	37	55	20	40	22	154	59	3	6	2	24	63	5	77	29	3	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	3	8	4	1	3	5	6	6	6	7	5	11	2	2	1	3	5	3	7	3	2	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	2	5	4	2	2	1	6	4	3	9	2	0	6	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	2	3	8	4	2	6	9	8	13	11	9	7	13	9	7	6	15	8	3	14	7	2	

SPECIES	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2020	MELFORT 27 DEC 2020	MOOSE JAW 21 DEC 2020	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 4 JAN 2021	MORSE 29 DEC 2020	NICOLLE FLATS 16 DEC. 2019	NIPAWIN 26 DEC 2020	NISBET FOREST NORTHWEST 26 DEC 2020	NISBET FOREST WEST 1 JAN 2021	ODESSA 26 DEC 2020	OUTLOOK 28 DEC 2020	PIKE LAKE 2 JAN 2021	PLUNKETT-VISCOUNT 31 DEC 2020	PRINCE ALBERT 20 DEC 2020	PRINCE ALBERT N. P.	QU'APPELLE 31 DEC 2020	QU'APPELLE DAM 20 DEC 2020	REGINA 27 DEC 2020	ROSCOMMON S.D. 31 DEC 2020	ROULEAU 28 DEC 2020	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 14 DEC 2020
Short-tailed Shrew																					
Shrew species								t													
Eastern Cottontail																					
Nuttall's Cottontail						t											5				
Snowshoe Hare						t				2		1		t	t	t		t	t		t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			c		9	t				2		t		1				70	1	1	t
Richardson's Ground Squirrel								t													
Eastern Grey Squirrel																			2		
Eastern Fox Squirrel			37			7				2						11		172	2	1	
American Red Squirrel	1			2			15		11			6		16	8				1		3
Northern Pocket Gopher																c					
American Beaver						L								L	L				d		
Deer Mouse						t										c			t		
Muskrat														L				1			
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																c					
Meadow Vole						t															
Vole species						t		t				1		t	t			1	t		
House Mouse																c				1	
Mouse species						t								t	t				t	t	
American Porcupine					2	1				2	1			t		2	4	t	1		
Coyote	1	1	2		5	6		t		4		t		t	t	1	3	1	4	c	
Gray Wolf																					
Red Fox						1				2		1	1	t	1	2	1	t	t		t
Raccoon									c	4										t	
American Marten																t					
Fisher														t	t						
Ermine						t								1		c			1		
Long-tailed Weasel						t				1						c		t			
Least Weasel						t										c		t			
Weasel species															t						
American Mink						1								t					t		
American Badger																				d	
Striped Skunk														1							
River Otter																t					
Canada Lynx														t	t						
Mule Deer			28		55	72	5			20	5	10	13	1		1	87	7	10		5
White-tailed Deer	15		2	4	104	16	15	t	2	15	2	48	73	3	t	13	12	6	15	13	1
Deer species																					
Moose		2				1				2		1	8	t		4			9		5
Elk													t		t				80		
Pronghorn			37		21												1				
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	17	3	106	6	196	105	35	0	13	56	8	68	95	23	9	34	114	259	125	15	3
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	2	5	2	6	8	3	0	2	11	3	7	4	6	2	7	8	7	11	3	4
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	5	0	0	0	2	1	10	11	1	0	7	5	0	3
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	3	2	6	2	6	17	3	5	3	11	3	9	5	18	14	15	8	15	17	4	7

SPECIES	SALTCOATS 19 DEC 2020	SK LANDING P.P. 16 DEC 2020	SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS 24 DEC 2020	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2020	SHAMROCK 30 DEC 2020	SHELL LAKE 16 DEC 2020	SNOWDEN 2 JAN 2021	SWIFT CURRENT 19 DEC 2020	THICKWOOD-SPIRITWOOD 21 DEC 2020	TORCH RIVER VALLEY 3 JAN 2021	VAL MARIE 20 DEC 2020	WATROUS 17 DEC 2020	WEYBURN 30 DEC 2020	WHITE BEAR 24 DEC 2020	WHITEWOOD 23 DEC 2020	WINGARD 2 JAN 2021	YOUNG 16 DEC 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																		1	1	0	0	0	1
Shrew species																		0	0	3	0	0	3
Eastern Cottontail																		5	1	0	0	0	1
Nuttall's Cottontail		3						3						1				31	9	1	0	0	10
Snowshoe Hare				t		t	t		t	t		t			t			16	10	23	2	2	37
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				38	12			2			2		6	2				169	19	13	3	3	38
Richardson's Ground Squirrel											2							2	1	1	1	1	4
Eastern Grey Squirrel								56				1			1			60	4	0	0	0	4
Eastern Fox Squirrel												2	21		8			309	20	0	0	0	20
American Red Squirrel	2		4	14		16	4		5	20					9	2		255	37	1	2	2	42
Northern Pocket Gopher																		0	0	0	1	1	2
American Beaver		L		t						L					L			0	0	1	13	0	14
Deer Mouse												c			t			4	1	6	2	2	11
Muskrat																		1	1	0	6	0	7
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																		1	1	0	1	1	3
Meadow Vole							t											0	0	2	0	0	2
Vole species		1		1					t									6	5	18	0	0	23
House Mouse				t														1	1	1	1	1	4
Mouse species			2	t			t	t	t	t				t				2	1	13	2	2	18
American Porcupine				2		m		t	1	2		m	1					26	18	7	4	2	31
Coyote		4	1	18	9		m	2	t	1	3	1	4	1				154	45	10	5	4	64
Gray Wolf										t								0	0	6	0	0	6
Red Fox		1	t	4	2				1	t				1			1	45	28	13	1	1	43
Raccoon																	1	6	3	2	1	1	7
American Marten																		0	0	1	1	1	3
Fisher																		0	0	4	0	0	4
Ermine															1			4	4	5	3	3	15
Long-tailed Weasel																		3	3	4	1	1	9
Least Weasel																		0	0	3	1	1	5
Weasel species							t											0	0	4	2	2	8
American Mink				t														2	2	3	0	0	5
American Badger		d						d						d				2	2	0	0	0	2
Striped Skunk																		1	1	1	2	0	4
River Otter																		1	1	6	1	1	9
Canada Lynx			1				1			2								4	3	3	0	0	6
Mule Deer		90		6	103			41			92	3	5	19			14	1398	44	1	1	1	47
White-tailed Deer		16	2	9	1	9	2	82	44	18	73	7	67	30	11		27	1628	67	3	2	2	74
Deer species																		0	0	1	0	0	1
Moose		t	t		1	2			3	t				c	2		3	91	27	10	5	5	47
Elk			t							t					t			82	2	10	1	1	14
Pronghorn		80												4				202	6	1	1	1	9
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	2	195	10	92	128	27	7	186	53	42	174	13	100	62	33	2	46	4512					
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	1	7	5	8	6	3	3	6	4	5	6	4	5	8	7	1	5		29				
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	3	4	0	1	4	0	4	6	0	1	0	1	3	0	0			29			
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0				7		
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0					20	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	1	10	8	12	6	5	8	7	9	11	6	6	6	11	11	1	5						36