

49TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2021

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Of the 78 Christmas Bird Counts conducted last winter, 73 were accompanied by a Mammal Count — a decrease from last year's 81. The drop was at least partly responsible for a decline in the number of mammals seen or heard, from 4,512 to 3,664.

White-tailed Deer, with 1,589 individuals, and Mule Deer, with 778 animals, were by far the most commonly encountered mammals. Another ungulate, the Pronghorn, with 534 animals, took third place, a position usually held by the Coyote.

In fact, the Coyote, with only 108 animals, fell to fifth place behind the White-tailed Jackrabbit and Eastern Fox Squirrel. Almost half (77) of the 159 jackrabbits were, however, on the Regina count.

The ever-expanding Eastern Fox Squirrel numbered 141 animals. One wonders how the 36 Eastern Gray Squirrels in Swift Current will fare if and when the "competition" arrives from the east?

On the other end of the spectrum, rarities included a "should be hibernating" Least Chipmunk on 16 December at Fort Qu'Appelle, and a Cougar in Cypress Hills Provincial Park on 30 December.

Odessa had the most species seen or heard with 13, and the runner-up was Craven 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.



White-tailed Jackrabbit. Photo credit: Randy McCulloch.

TABLE 1. 49th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2021.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 30 DEC 2021	AVONLEA 2 JAN 2022	BALGONIE 2 JAN 2022	BIGGAR 16 DEC 2021	BORDEN - RADISSON 2 JAN 2022	BROADVIEW 1 JAN 2022	BROOKSBY 3 JAN 2022	CANDLE LAKE 2 JAN 2022	CHATSWORTH 4 JAN 2022	CLARK'S CROSSING 18 DEC 2021	CRAVEN 18 DEC 2021	CROOKED LAKE 14 DEC 2021	CROOKED RIVER 29 DEC 2021	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 30 DEC 2021	DAVIDSON-CRAIK 2 JAN 2022	DENHOLM 3 JAN 2022	DUNDURN 30 DEC 2021	E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 3 JAN 2022	EASTEND 19 DEC 2021
Shrew species																			
Nuttall's Cottontail														3					1
Snowshoe Hare	c			t	t			t			5	t				1	2	t	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit			7	t		t				2	1					c	1	c	
Least Chipmunk																			
Eastern Grey Squirrel																			
Eastern Fox Squirrel		2	18			3					10	t	1						
American Red Squirrel	1				5					t	10	4		4		1		1	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																1			
American Beaver						L						L							
Deer Mouse						t						t							
Muskrat												1							
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																1			
Meadow Vole																			
Vole species				t						t		t					t		
House Mouse																			
Mouse species										t	1								t
American Porcupine	c		2		t	1					1			1		1	t	c	
Coyote	c		2	t	1	t				1	8	t					1	4	
Gray Wolf																			c
Red Fox	t		1	1		2	1	t		1	1	2		t		1		2	
Raccoon												2							
American Marten																			t
Fisher																			t
Ermine																			
Long-tailed Weasel					1														
Least Weasel																			1
Weasel species	c									t									
American Mink						t													
American Badger																	d		
Striped Skunk																			s
River Otter												t							
Mountain Lion														1					
Canada Lynx								t											
Woodland Caribou																			
Mule Deer		9	21	55	10	12	2			15	24	c		27	12	17	4		47
White-tailed Deer	27	5	41	13	26	32	5	36	12	35	21	c	8	80	16	24	3	42	58
Deer species					2														
Moose	c		4	5		3					1	t	c		4	2	t	t	3
Elk	c																		t
Pronghorn														14					c
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	28	16	96	74	45	53	8	36	12	54	83	9	9	130	32	49	11	49	110
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	3	8	4	5	6	3	1	1	5	11	4	2	7	3	9	5	4	5
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	1	0	0	4	2	4	0	3	0	3	0	7	0	1	0	0	3	6	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	3	1
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	3	8	8	7	11	3	4	1	8	11	14	3	8	3	10	9	14	6

SPECIES	ESTEVAN 4 JAN 2022	ESTUARY NORTH 2 JAN 2022	FENTON 3 JAN 2022	FLORAL 21 DEC 2021	FORT QU'APPELLE 19 DEC 2021	GARDINER DAM 14 DEC 2021	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 2 JAN 2022	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2022	HARRIS 15 DEC 2021	INDIAN HEAD 29 DEC 2021	KENOSEE LAKE 19 DEC 2021	KETCHEN 26 DEC 2021	KYLE 22 DEC 2021	LA RONGE 27 DEC 2021	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2021	LUSELAND 2 JAN 2022	MACDOWALL 2 JAN 2022	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2021	MELFORT 23 DEC 2021	MOOSE JAW 19 DEC 2021	
Shrew species																					
Nuttall's Cottontail		14				1							t								1
Snowshoe Hare				t	c		t	3			t			t	t						
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				t		t	t		t	4			1		t	1					1
Least Chipmunk						c															
Eastern Grey Squirrel																					
Eastern Fox Squirrel						1															19
American Red Squirrel			1		6			2		3	1			2	1		3		2		
Northern Flying-Squirrel																					
American Beaver											L										
Deer Mouse																					
Muskrat																					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																					
Meadow Vole						1	t														
Vole species				t					t												
House Mouse													t								
Mouse species																					
American Porcupine	5						1			3					1						
Coyote	3	t	t		2	11	t		1	13	c		2	1	3	2	1				2
Gray Wolf																					
Red Fox			4							3	1		c	t	t	1					2
Raccoon									t												
American Marten																					
Fisher																					
Ermine							t														
Long-tailed Weasel					1										t						
Least Weasel		t													t						
Weasel species						t															
American Mink					c																
American Badger		1											d								
Striped Skunk				1																	
River Otter														4							
Mountain Lion																					
Canada Lynx																					
Woodland Caribou																					
Mule Deer	6	20	5		2	13			30	11			5			30	3				41
White-tailed Deer	3	53	4	14	34	37	16	12	33	46	11	3	15		34	3	4	5	14		10
Deer species																					
Moose		5			1		3	c					3		t	c					
Elk																					
Pronghorn		200											128								95
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	9	301	14	15	46	64	20	17	64	83	13	3	154	7	39	37	11	5	16		171
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	2	8	4	2	6	6	3	3	3	7	3	1	6	3	4	5	4	1	2		8
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	1	1	4	0	2	5	0	3	0	1	0	2	2	6	0	0	0	0		0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0		0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	2	9	5	6	9	8	8	4	6	7	6	1	10	5	10	6	4	1	2		8

SPECIES	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 2 JAN 2022	MORSE 15 DEC 2021	NEILBURG-MARSDEN 18 DEC 2021	NIPAWIN 30 DEC 2021	NISBET FOREST NORTHWEST 26 DEC 2021	NISBET FOREST WEST 2 JAN 2022	ODESSA 20 DEC 2021	OUTLOOK 2 JAN 2022	PIKE LAKE 3 JAN 2022	PRINCE ALBERT 19 DEC 2021	QU'APPELLE 2 JAN 2022	QU'APPELLE DAM 19 DEC 2021	REGINA 26 DEC 2021	ROSCOMMON S.D. 2 JAN 2022	ROSETOWN 18 DEC 2021	ROSTHERN 18 DEC 2021	ROULEAU 2 JAN 2022	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 22 DEC 2021	SALT COATS 18 DEC 2021
Shrew species										c									
Nuttall's Cottontail												1							
Snowshoe Hare			t	t		t	2		t	t	t	t	1	1					t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		5					6		1		t	1	77	1			9		
Least Chipmunk																			
Eastern Grey Squirrel							4						2						
Eastern Fox Squirrel							2	1			13	1	50	3					1
American Red Squirrel			3	2		1			2	7		t		7		2		2	1
Northern Flying-Squirrel																c			
American Beaver										L	L								L
Deer Mouse											t		1						
Muskrat																	L		
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																			
Meadow Vole																			
Vole species								t			t	t	t	t					
House Mouse							4												
Mouse species										t				t	t				
American Porcupine	1						2					3		4					
Coyote	1	7	t	t			4		2	t	2	3	5	4	3	1	3	2	
Gray Wolf																			
Red Fox			t	1		1	2	1	t	t	1	t	t	1	t	c	2		
Raccoon							2							c					
American Marten																			
Fisher																			
Ermine										t									
Long-tailed Weasel					c		1				t			t					
Least Weasel										t									
Weasel species				t									t	t					
American Mink														t					
American Badger																			
Striped Skunk																			
River Otter										t						c			
Mountain Lion																			
Canada Lynx										t									
Woodland Caribou																			
Mule Deer		32					25	3	t		3	34	37		21	26		5	
White-tailed Deer		66	12	15	c	3	40	2	21	12	27	10	26	31	5	3	2	163	6
Deer species																			
Moose	1					t	4	1	3		c	3		4			1	2	1
Elk														c					
Pronghorn		69																	
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	3	179	15	18	0	5	98	8	29	19	46	56	199	56	29	32	17	174	9
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	5	2	3	0	3	13	5	5	2	5	8	8	9	3	4	5	5	4
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	0	0	3	3	0	2	0	0	4	8	5	4	3	4	2	0	0	1	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	3	5	5	6	2	5	13	5	9	12	12	12	11	15	5	7	6	7	4

SPECIES	SASK LANDING P.P. 21 DEC 2021	SASK RIVER FORKS 20 DEC 2021	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2021	SHAMROCK 4 JAN 2022	SHELL LAKE 31 DEC 2021	SNOWDEN 3 JAN 2022	SOUTH LADY LAKE 19 DEC 2021	SWIFT CURRENT 14 DEC 2021	TORCH RIVER VALLEY 28 DEC 2021	TURTLEFORD 28 DEC 2021	WATROUS 18 DEC 2021	WEYBURN 18 DEC 2021	WHITE BEAR 3 JAN 2022	WHITEWOOD 29 DEC 2021	YOUNG 5 JAN 2022	# INDIVIDUALS SEEN/HEARD COUNT DAY	# COUNTS SEEN/HEARD	# COUNTS RECORDED AS TRACKS	# COUNTS RECORDED AS OTHER	# COUNTS COUNT PERIOD	# COUNTS COUNT PERIOD & COUNT DAY
Shrew species						1										1	1	0	1	1	3
Nuttall's Cottontail	t			c			2						1			24	8	2	1	1	12
Snowshoe Hare		t	t			t	t		t	t	t			1	16	8	25	2	2	37	
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t		25	5								9	1	1	159	20	9	2	2	33	
Least Chipmunk																0	0	0	1	1	2
Eastern Grey Squirrel								36								42	3	0	0	0	3
Eastern Fox Squirrel											7	8		1	141	17	1	0	0	18	
American Red Squirrel		2	3		2	4	t		5	1				6	97	32	3	0	0	35	
Northern Flying-Squirrel																1	1	0	1	1	3
American Beaver										L						0	0	0	7	0	7
Deer Mouse											L					1	1	3	0	0	4
Muskrat											L					1	1	0	2	0	3
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																1	1	0	0	0	1
Meadow Vole			t				t									1	1	3	0	0	4
Vole species										t						0	0	12	0	0	12
House Mouse			t													4	1	2	0	0	3
Mouse species	t		t			t	t		t				t			1	1	11	0	0	12
American Porcupine			1		1				t			1	d		1	30	17	3	2	2	24
Coyote	t	t	1	2				c	1	5			2	2		108	35	11	3	3	52
Gray Wolf																0	0	0	1	1	2
Red Fox	1	2	1	1			t		1	2				1		41	28	12	2	2	44
Raccoon																4	2	1	1	1	5
American Marten																0	0	1	0	0	1
Fisher									t							0	0	2	0	0	2
Ermine														t		0	0	3	0	0	3
Long-tailed Weasel														t		3	3	4	1	1	9
Least Weasel																1	1	3	0	0	4
Weasel species						t	t		t							0	0	8	1	1	10
American Mink			t					1								1	1	3	1	1	6
American Badger								d		d						1	1	0	0	0	1
Striped Skunk																1	1	0	1	0	2
River Otter			1													5	2	2	1	1	6
Mountain Lion																1	1	0	0	0	1
Canada Lynx																0	0	2	0	0	2
Woodland Caribou														t		0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer		9	9	29	2			31		26	60		1	4		778	42	1	1	1	45
White-tailed Deer	11	2	22	77	9	t		9	21		10	91		58		1589	64	1	2	2	69
Deer species																2	1	0	0	0	1
Moose	t	3	1		5		t		t	3		1		3		70	26	8	5	5	44
Elk		5					t		t					t		5	1	4	2	2	9
Pronghorn	2							26								534	7	0	1	1	9
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	14	23	64	114	19	5	0	105	28	37	77	110	5	77	1	3664					
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	6	9	5	5	2	0	6	4	5	3	5	4	9	1		29				
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	5	2	4	0	0	4	7	0	7	2	1	0	1	3	1			25			
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	0	0				5		
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					19	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	8	8	13	6	5	6	7	8	11	10	4	5	6	12	2						40