

50TH ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2022

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Of the 83 Christmas Bird Counts conducted last winter, 79 were accompanied by a Mammal Count — an increase of six over last year. This uptick in effort was probably partly responsible for a large increase in the number of mammals seen or heard from 3,664 to 4,937.

White-tailed Deer, with 1,880 individuals, and Mule Deer, with 1,379 animals, were by far the most commonly encountered mammals.

Next came several species that numbered between 200 and 300 animals: Eastern Fox Squirrel (229), Coyote (256), Pronghorn (259), White-tailed Jackrabbit (260), and American Red Squirrel (290). Over half of the Jackrabbits and Fox Squirrels were, however, seen on the Regina count.

On the other end of the spectrum, an extreme rarity was a Wolverine on the Nisbet Forest West Count on 26 December.

Regina had the most species seen or heard with 11, Odessa and Roscommon S.D. were the runners-up each with 10 species.

One new species, the aforementioned Wolverine, was added this past winter bringing the all-time provincial total to 52 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 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.



Moose. Photo credit: Randy McCulloch.

TABLE 1. 50th Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2022.

SPECIES	ARCHERWILL 14 DEC 2022	AVONLEA 16 DEC 2022	BALGONIE 2 JAN 2023	BIGGAR 16 DEC 2022	BORDEN - RADISSON 30 DEC 2022	BROADVIEW 28 DEC 2022	CANDLE LAKE 5 JAN 2023	CHATSWORTH 4 JAN 2023	CLARK'S CROSSING 17 DEC 2022	CORONACH 2 JAN 2023	CRAVEN 17 DEC 2022	CROOKED LAKE 27 DEC 2022	CROOKED RIVER 3 JAN 2023	CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 30 DEC 2022	DENHOLM 5 JAN 2023	DUNDURN 19 DEC 2022	E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 2 JAN 2023	EASTEND 2 JAN 2023	ESTEVAN 31 DEC 2022	ESTUARY NORTH 30 DEC 2022	FENTON 15 DEC 2022	
Shrew species																						
Eastern Cottontail																				6		
Nuttall's Cottontail														1				4		12		
Snowshoe Hare			10	t	t	t	t				2				t		t					
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t		12	t	1				3		t				1	t				1		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																						
Eastern Grey Squirrel																						
Eastern Fox Squirrel		2	16			3				4	4	3							4			
American Red Squirrel	2				4	t	7	2			4	7	1	18			6					4
Northern Flying-Squirrel															1							
Northern Pocket Gopher																						
American Beaver							L															
Deer Mouse						t										1						
Muskrat																						
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole															1							
Meadow Vole																						
Vole species				t														t				
Norway Rat																						
House Mouse																						
Mouse species	t		t		t						t							t				
American Porcupine	1				1				2		2			c	1			2	2	t		
Coyote	1	1	2	6	2	1	t	3	1	1	10	1		4		2	t	11	20	3	t	
Gray Wolf																		t				
Red Fox	t		3	1		2	t		3	1	5	t		t	t		t	1			t	
Raccoon	3													c								
American Marten							t															
Fisher																	1					
Ermine															c							
Long-tailed Weasel												t										
Least Weasel																						
Weasel species	t																	t				
American Mink						t												t				
Wolverine																						
American Badger																		1				
Striped Skunk																						
River Otter						t						1						t				
Canada Lynx							t															
Mule Deer		62	1	102	1	1			6	66	28	9		8		8		148	88	1	6	
White-tailed Deer	4	41	107	15	6	23	26	27	20		84	70	4	17	10	3	6	96	68	70	8	
Deer species		27				t						t										
Moose	4		1	4	1	1			m			2			t	3	t	2		1		
Elk	t																t					
Pronghorn										c								40	21			
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	15	133	152	128	16	31	33	32	35	72	139	93	5	52	14	17	13	305	209	88	18	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	6	4	8	5	7	6	2	3	6	4	8	7	2	6	5	5	3	9	7	6	3	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	5	0	1	3	2	6	5	0	0	0	2	3	0	1	3	1	10	0	0	1	2	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	11	4	9	8	9	12	7	3	7	5	10	9	2	9	9	6	13	9	7	7	5	

SPECIES	FLORAL 5 JAN 2023	FORT QU'APPELLE 18 DEC 2022	GARDINER DAM 14 DEC 2022	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 4 JAN 2023	GREENWATER 3 JAN 2023	HARRIS 15 DEC 2022	INDIAN HEAD 28 DEC 2022	KENOSE LAKE 29 DEC 2022	KETCHEN NORTH 26 DEC 2022	KINLOCH 2 JAN 2023	KYLE 21 DEC 2022	LARONGE 26 DEC 2022	LMLNWA 14 DEC 2022	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2022	LUSELAND 2 JAN 2023	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2022	MELFORT 28 DEC 2022	MOOSE JAW 18 DEC 2022	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 3 JAN 2023	MORSE 14 DEC 2022	NEILBURG-MARSDEN 18 DEC 2022
Shrew species																					
Eastern Cottontail																					
Nuttall's Cottontail			2							2		t						c		c	
Snowshoe Hare	t			t	1		t	t		t		t	t	t							1
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	t		1	t		1				4		1						1		26	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																				1	
Eastern Grey Squirrel																					
Eastern Fox Squirrel			t				3	1										21			
American Red Squirrel		7		2	6		13	2	1	3		4		9		2	1		3		1
Northern Flying-Squirrel					2																
Northern Pocket Gopher																					
American Beaver		c					1	L													
Deer Mouse																					
Muskrat																					
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																					
Meadow Vole									1												
Vole species	t		t	t		t									1						
Norway Rat															c						
House Mouse																					
Mouse species						t				t				t							
American Porcupine	1	c	2	t		2				1				1	2					3	
Coyote		4	3	1	2	2	8			t	5		1	4	2			3		22	
Gray Wolf														c							
Red Fox		1		2	1		2	t	t		5	t		2				1			
Raccoon																					
American Marten																					
Fisher																					
Ermine				t						1				t							
Long-tailed Weasel							t	c						t							
Least Weasel																					
Weasel species																					
American Mink				t			1	c													
Wolverine																					
American Badger																					d
Striped Skunk	s									s				s							
River Otter												1									
Canada Lynx					c									t							
Mule Deer	13	18	26	3		49	34	5		20		116		55				9		56	
White-tailed Deer	3	20	24	24	18	59	23	5	t	6		58	19	c	6	7	45	1	60		
Deer species																					
Moose				t		3	8	1	t	t	2			t	6						
Elk				t	7			c		t				t							
Pronghorn											c										35
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	17	50	58	32	37	116	93	14	2	5	44	5	176	35	65	9	8	80	4	203	2
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	3	5	6	5	7	6	9	5	2	3	7	2	4	5	4	3	2	6	2	7	2
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	3	0	2	8	0	1	2	2	3	4	1	2	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	0
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	7	7	8	13	8	7	11	11	5	7	10	4	6	14	6	3	2	7	2	9	2

SPECIES	NICOLLE FLATS 15 DEC 2022	NIPAWIN 21 DEC 2022	NISBET FOREST NORTHWEST 26 DEC 2022	NISBET FOREST WEST 31 DEC 2022	ODESSA 26 DEC 2022	OUTLOOK 2 JAN 2023	PANGMAN 5 JAN 2023	PIKE LAKE INTL 2 JAN 2023	PRINCEALBERT 18 DEC 2022	PRINCEALBERT N.P. 21 DEC 2022	QU'APPELLE 31 DEC 2022	QU'APPELLE DAM 18 DEC 2022	REGINA 27 DEC 2022	ROSCOMMON S.D. 4 JAN 2023	ROSETOWN 16 DEC 2022	ROSTHERN 4 JAN 2023	ROULEAU 18 DEC 2022	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 30 DEC 2022	SALT COATS 18 DEC 2022	SASKATCHEWAN LANDING P.P. 20 DEC 2022	SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS 17 DEC 2022	
Shrew species			t																			
Eastern Cottontail																						
Nuttall's Cottontail	t										t	2									2	
Snowshoe Hare	t	t						t	t	t	1			6		t						t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		t			2			1	m				136	2	3		17				t	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel			c																		1	
Eastern Grey Squirrel													12									
Eastern Fox Squirrel	3				2	1					9		122	6					2			
American Red Squirrel		3		6				24	51	18				2		2	c	6	1			5
Northern Flying-Squirrel																						
Northern Pocket Gopher																						
American Beaver			L																			
Deer Mouse	t										t											
Muskrat													2									
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole											c											
Meadow Vole	t																					
Vole species		t	t							t	t		1									
Norway Rat																						
House Mouse													2									
Mouse species			t						t	t				t	t						t	
American Porcupine	4		c		1	1		2	c		2	3	2	3		2					2	t
Coyote	6		c		3	1		3	2	1	4	4	32	3	3	t	4	2	6		9	t
Gray Wolf									t	t												
Red Fox	2	t	c	3	2			1	1	t	2		1	2		t	1		6	1	1	2
Raccoon														m								
American Marten			c							1												t
Fisher																						
Ermine										t	t											
Long-tailed Weasel											t											
Least Weasel	1																					
Weasel species	t	t						t		t			t									
American Mink	t									t												
Wolverine				1																		
American Badger					2									d								
Striped Skunk					2				s					t								
River Otter									t	t												
Canada Lynx																						
Mule Deer	81				25	8	23	17	27		5	13	6	10		c	82	3		14	3	
White-tailed Deer	30	22	t	c	25		2	34	5		33	59	23	49	25	c	20	23	10	56	t	
Deer species							5	1	t	t												
Moose					2			2			c	2		6		t		1				
Elk										13						c						t
Pronghorn							30					43			56							
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	127	25	0	10	66	11	60	85	86	33	56	126	339	89	87	4	124	37	23	85	10	
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	7	2	0	3	10	4	3	8	5	4	7	7	11	10	4	2	5	6	4	7	3	
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	6	6	4	0	0	0	0	2	5	8	5	0	1	2	1	4	0	0	0	2	6	
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	12	8	9	5	10	4	3	10	12	12	13	7	12	14	5	9	6	6	4	9	9	

SPECIES	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2022	SHELL LAKE 17 DEC 2022	SNOWDEN 5 JAN 2023	SOUTH LADY LAKE 20 DEC 2022	SPINNEY HILL 4 JAN 2023	SWIFT CURRENT 15 DEC 2022	THICKWOOD-SPIRITWOOD 1 JAN 2023	TORCH RIVER VALLEY 23 DEC 2022	TURTLEFORD 28 DEC 2022	VAL MARIE 19 DEC 2022	WATROUS 2 JAN 2023	WEVBURN 2 JAN 2023	WHITE BEAR 3 JAN 2023	WHITEWOOD 28 DEC 2022	WINGARD 29 DEC 2022	YOUNG 14 DEC 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																	0	0	1	0	0	1
Eastern Cottontail																	6	1	0	0	0	1
Nuttall's Cottontail						1					t		c			t	26	8	5	0	3	16
Snowshoe Hare			t	t			t	t	t		t			t			21	6	28	0	0	34
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	23					7				1		9	4	1		2	260	24	8	1	0	33
Richardson's Ground Squirrel																	2	2	0	0	1	3
Eastern Grey Squirrel						13											25	2	0	0	0	2
Eastern Fox Squirrel											1	17		5			229	20	1	0	0	21
American Red Squirrel	11	17	3				2	11	6					11	2		290	41	1	0	1	43
Northern Flying-Squirrel																	3	2	0	0	0	2
Northern Pocket Gopher									d								0	0	0	1	0	1
American Beaver	d						L		L								1	1	0	6	1	8
Deer Mouse																	1	1	3	0	0	4
Muskrat	t																2	1	1	0	0	2
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	1	1	0	0	1	2
Meadow Vole														1			2	2	1	0	0	3
Vole species							t		1								3	3	11	0	0	14
Norway Rat																	0	0	0	0	1	1
House Mouse																	2	1	0	0	0	1
Mouse species			t					t					t				0	0	17	0	0	17
American Porcupine	2				1		t			1			3		2		54	29	5	0	4	38
Coyote	6	4		3		2	2	1	4	3	1	4	9	6		2	256	56	6	0	1	63
Gray Wolf					1			t						2			3	2	4	0	1	7
Red Fox	t	2		1				2	4		1		2				66	32	14	0	1	47
Raccoon																	3	1	0	1	1	3
American Marten																	1	1	2	0	1	4
Fisher									c								1	1	0	0	1	2
Ermine				t													1	1	5	0	1	7
Long-tailed Weasel																	0	0	4	0	1	5
Least Weasel								1									2	2	0	0	0	2
Weasel species									t	t							0	0	9	0	0	9
American Mink						t											1	1	6	0	1	8
Wolverine																	1	1	0	0	0	1
American Badger										d	d						3	2	0	4	0	6
Striped Skunk																	2	1	1	4	0	6
River Otter																	2	2	4	0	0	6
Canada Lynx																	0	0	2	0	1	3
Mule Deer				2		31			51	22	t		11	c		6	1379	47	1	0	2	50
White-tailed Deer	13	15	3	20	3	85	26	12	4	39	15	81	36	29			1880	65	3	0	3	71
Deer species																	33	3	4	0	0	7
Moose	2	2	2	t	1		5	t	6			1		3			74	27	9	1	1	38
Elk								22	c					t			42	3	7	0	3	13
Pronghorn												12	18				259	9	0	0	2	11
TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY	57	40	8	26	6	139	35	49	76	66	18	124	83	58	2	12	4937					
TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD	6	5	3	4	4	6	4	6	7	5	4	6	7	8	1	4		34				
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS	2	0	2	3	0	1	3	4	2	1	3	0	1	2	0	1			23			
TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0				6		
SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0					21	
TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY	9	5	5	7	4	7	8	10	13	7	8	6	9	11	1	5						38