

**TABLE 6. New (in bold and italics) and tying high counts for individual species 2023.**

LOCATION	2023 COUNT	SPECIES	PREVIOUS HIGH	LOCATION, YEAR
Gardiner Dam	2425	<i>Cackling Goose</i>	1800	Gardiner Dam (2021)
Gardiner Dam	2	<i>Ross's Goose</i>	1	Regina (30 Dec. 1962, 26 Dec. 1974), Coronach (20 Dec. 2015)
Gardiner Dam	44	<i>Redhead</i>	27	Gardiner Dam (19 Dec. 2011)
Gardiner Dam	56	<i>Greater Scaup</i>	23	Gardiner Dam (19 Dec. 2016)
Qu'Appelle Dam	1	Long-tailed Duck	1	6 counts north to E.B.Campbell Dam
Clarks Crossing	28	<i>Bufflehead</i>	17	Coronach (23 Dec. 1998)
Gardiner Dam	1	Horned Grebe	1	6 counts north to Saskatoon
Maple Creek	2	Eared Grebe	2	Regina (30 Dec. 1962)
Gardiner Dam	1	<i>Baird's Sandpiper</i>	<b>New</b>	
Qu'Appelle Valley Dam	1	<i>Black-legged Kittiwake</i>	<b>New</b>	
Saskatoon	6	<i>Sharp-shinned Hawk</i>	4	Saskatoon (26 Dec. 2010)
Regina	1	Red-headed Woodpecker	1	White Bear Lake (19 Dec. 1991)
Saltcoats	1	Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	8 counts north to Crooked River and Nipawin
Regina	2	American Kestrel	2	Indian Head (5 Jan. 2002)
Regina	6	Northern Shrike	6	9 counts north to Saskatoon
Regina	1	<i>Pygmy Nuthatch</i>	<b>New</b>	
Regina	1	Swamp Sparrow	1	Harris (18 Dec. 2001)
Carlyle	1	Pine Warbler	1	Saskatoon (26 Dec. 2015)
Regina	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	4 counts north to Biggar and Saskatoon

# 51ST ANNUAL SASKATCHEWAN CHRISTMAS MAMMAL COUNT - 2023

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Of the 83 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) conducted last winter, almost all, 81, were accompanied by a Mammal Count — an increase of two over last year. Only 2,884 mammals were counted, however, compared to the previous winter's 4,937. Variety was down, as well, with only 29 species heard or seen on count day compared to last year's 34.

Most of the decline in numbers was due to a decrease in deer. White-tailed Deer dropped from 1,880 in 2022-23 to 610 individuals this past winter; Mule Deer from 1,379 to 586 animals. These changes are probably mainly due to a lack of snow, which did not force animals in to towns and farmsteads in search of food. Also, deer would be much less conspicuous on a snowless background.

Due to the unusually warm weather, Richardson's Ground-Squirrels were much in evidence. Twenty-five were seen on seven counts. None are recorded on most annual counts.

White-tailed Jackrabbits continue to

prosper in Regina with a new provincial high of 218 animals. Unfortunately only 74 hares were seen in the rest of the province.

A Wolverine was seen during the count period (24 December) near the E.B. Campbell Dam. This is an astonishing record as the only other Christmas Mammal Count (CMC) record was on Nisbet Forest West Count on 26 December 2022!

Most unwanted were Wild Boar tracks seen during the count period at Archerwill (the animal was actually seen in November). The only previous record was of tracks seen on the Pike Lake count on 5 January 2019.

Indian Head had the most species seen or heard with 13, Odessa was the runner-up with 12 species.

No new species were added this past winter. The all-time provincial total of species seen or heard remains at 52, plus three species found dead and three others recorded only on the basis of tracks.

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 three, four and five 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. 51st Saskatchewan Christmas Mammal Count - 2023.**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ARCHERWILL 22 DEC 2023</b>	<b>ASSINIBOIA 4 JAN 2024</b>	<b>AVONLEA 22 DEC 2023</b>	<b>BALGONIE 30 DEC 2023</b>	<b>BIGGAR 16 DEC 2023</b>	<b>BORDEN - RADISSON 18 DEC 2023</b>	<b>BROADVIEW 20 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CANDLE LAKE 30 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CARLYLE 19 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CLARK'S CROSSING 16 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CORONACH 2 JAN 2023</b>	<b>CRAVEN 16 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CROOKED LAKE 14 DEC 2023</b>	<b>CROOKED RIVER 4 JAN 2024</b>	<b>CYPRESS HILLS P.P. 28 DEC 2023</b>	<b>DENHOLM 25 DEC 2023</b>	<b>DORINTOSH 21 DEC 2023</b>	<b>DUNDURN 21 DEC 2023</b>	<b>E. B. CAMPBELL DAM 2 JAN 2024</b>	<b>EBENEZER DEC 21 2023</b>	<b>ESTEVAN 3 JAN 2024</b>	<b>ESTUARY NORTH 22 DEC 2023</b>
Shrew species																	t					
Eastern Cottontail																						7
Nuttall's Cottontail															2							7
Snowshoe Hare	c			16			t	t					t			2	t		t			
White-tailed Jack Rabbit										4		1	t			c		1				4
Richardson's Ground Squirrel															1	c						1
Eastern Grey Squirrel				1																		
Eastern Fox Squirrel			c	10			4		5			10	c									8
American Red Squirrel	10				1	8	4	18				6	7		5	2	c		5			
Northern Flying-Squirrel																1						
Northern Pocket Gopher																d						
American Beaver	t						D	D					D									
Deer Mouse								t					t			c	t					
Muskrat	t						D						4									
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																c						
Meadow Vole					1					1												
Vole species	t																t					
House Mouse																						
Mouse species								t									t					
American Porcupine																				1		
Coyote	1			2	1	1	2	t		12	3		3		2	c	t		c	2		3
Gray Wolf								t	t								t		c			
Red Fox	c						1	t					c		D	2	t		c	2		
Raccoon																						
American Marten	t																					
Fisher	t																					
Ermine										1						c						
Long-tailed Weasel								t														
Weasel species	t									2							t					
American Mink													1						1			
Wolverine																			c			
American Badger																d						
Striped Skunk					s																	
River Otter													1				D		1			
Canada Lynx								t														
Wild Boar	t																					
Mule Deer	c	8	42	12	36	2	c			3	10	14	6			14		7			13	
White-tailed Deer	5		12	6			2	20		6		5	10		12	7	c	2	4		10	
Deer species																				5		
Moose	c					1	2	t							t	2			2			3
Elk	t																					
Pronghorn															15							7
<b>TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY</b>	16	8	54	47	39	12	15	38	5	29	13	36	32	0	37	30	0	10	11	12	38	25
<b>TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD</b>	3	1	2	6	4	4	6	2	1	6	2	5	7	0	6	7	0	3	4	5	4	6
<b>TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS</b>	8	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	9	0	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
<b>SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD</b>	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	6	2	0	4	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY</b>	15	1	3	6	5	4	13	10	1	6	2	5	13	0	8	15	12	3	9	5	4	6

SPECIES	FENTON 14 DEC 2023	FLORAL 4 JAN 2024	FORT QU'APPELLE 15 DEC 2023	GARDINER DAM 14 DEC 2023	GOOD SPIRIT LAKE 5 JAN 2024	GREENWATER 31 JAN 2024	GRENFELL 29 DEC 2023	HARRIS 15 DEC 2023	INDIAN HEAD 23 DEC 2023	KENASTON 14 DEC 2023	KENOSEE LAKE 29 DEC 2023	KETCHEN NORTH 26 DEC 2023	KINLOCH 30 DEC 2023	KYLE 21 DEC 2023	LA RONGE 26 DEC 2023	L'AMINWA 21 JAN 2024	LOVE-TORCH RIVER 26 DEC 2023	LUSELAND 30 DEC 2023	MAPLE CREEK 20 DEC 2023	MEADOW LAKE 26 DEC 2023	MELFORT 30 DEC 2023	MOOSEJAW 17 DEC 2023		
Shrew species																						2		
Eastern Cottontail																								
Nuttall's Cottontail				1	t				1		t			1					1				c	
Snowshoe Hare			1			1			1		t		2		t		t				2			
White-tailed Jack Rabbit				2			t		1	t				c									2	
Richardson's Ground Squirrel			c	2										4					2					
Eastern Grey Squirrel																								
Eastern Fox Squirrel					2				5							2							20	
American Red Squirrel	6		24			3	6		22		5	8	8		2		30			1	6			
Northern Flying-Squirrel						5	4						3											
Northern Pocket Gopher																	t							
American Beaver	D		c		D						D		D									2	m	
Deer Mouse			c						1								t							
Muskrat									1		D		D											
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole			c																					
Meadow Vole								1																
Vole species																	t							
House Mouse																								
Mouse species														t										
American Porcupine				1	t									c			1							
Coyote	t	t	2	5	1		3	1	6	2		2	t	8			5	4		2			1	
Gray Wolf													t				t							
Red Fox	t		1		1			1	4			c				1	t				t			
Raccoon																	1							
American Marten						1																		
Fisher												c												
Ermine												c												
Long-tailed Weasel			c						2	1														
Weasel species																	2							
American Mink				1					1															
Wolverine																								
American Badger																							d	
Striped Skunk					m								t	s									c	
River Otter																3					t			
Canada Lynx																								
Wild Boar																								
Mule Deer		16	13	4				34	32		7			c				5	14				14	
White-tailed Deer	4	2	1	44	1	10	t		9		6	2	2	1			30	c	22		3		14	
Deer species																								
Moose			c		t		t		5		t	c	3	t				9						
Elk											t	t	19				t							
Pronghorn								31						40					32					
<b>TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY</b>	10	18	42	60	5	20	13	68	90	3	18	12	37	54	5	3	69	18	71	3	15	51		
<b>TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD</b>	2	2	6	8	4	5	3	5	13	2	3	3	6	5	2	2	6	3	5	2	5	5		
<b>TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS</b>	2	1	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	1	3	1	3	2	1	0	7	0	0	0	2	0		
<b>TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED</b>	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2		
<b>SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD</b>	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2		
<b>TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY</b>	5	3	12	8	9	5	6	5	13	3	8	8	11	11	3	2	13	4	5	2	7	9		

SPECIES	MOOSE MOUNTAIN P.P. 3 JAN 2024	MORSE 14 DEC 2023	NICOLLEFLATS 18 DEC 2023	NIPAWIN 27 DEC 2023	NISBET FOREST NORTHWEST 26 DEC 2023	NISBET FOREST WEST 31 DEC 2023	ODESSA 28 DEC 2023	OUTLOOK 24 DEC 2023	PIKE LAKE 30 DEC 2023	PRINCE ALBERT 17 DEC 2023	QU'APPELLE 27 DEC 2023	QU'APPELLE DAM 17 DEC 2023	REDBERRY LAKE 30 DEC 2023	REGINA 27 DEC 2023	ROSCOMMON S.D. 4 JAN 2023	ROSETOWN 2 JAN 2024	ROSTHERN 4 JAN 2023	ROUND LAKE (Q.V.) 19 DEC 2023	SALT COATS 18 DEC 2023	SASKATCHEWAN LANDING P.P. 20 DEC 2023	SASKATCHEWAN RIVER FORKS 20 DEC 2023	
Shrew species						m				t												
Eastern Cottontail																						
Nuttall's Cottontail																						
Snowshoe Hare				t			2			t		1	2		t		t					t
White-tailed Jack Rabbit		3			t		6			t		3		218	t					1		
Richardson's Ground Squirrel		10			t						c											
Eastern Grey Squirrel							4							1								
Eastern Fox Squirrel			6								7	2		93	2		3		1			
American Red Squirrel	4			16		13	2		21	25			3		10							11
Northern Flying-Squirrel																						
Northern Pocket Gopher															d							
American Beaver			1							D							D					
Deer Mouse										t							t					
Muskrat			4					1		D												
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole										c					m							
Meadow Vole										t												
Vole species					t												m					
House Mouse															m							
Mouse species				t	t					t										t	t	
American Porcupine						1	2		d			1		t						1		
Coyote		10	3	5	t	c	4		1	3	3	2	7	7		1	5			3		t
Gray Wolf																						c
Red Fox		1		t	t		2			1				t	t	1	c					t
Raccoon							6								t							
American Marten																						
Fisher										t												
Ermine										t												
Long-tailed Weasel							1						1									
Weasel species				t																		
American Mink											c				m							
Wolverine																						
American Badger		d													d							
Striped Skunk															t							
River Otter										c												
Canada Lynx																						
Wild Boar																						
Mule Deer		44	34				10	4	10			14	23	10	9	29		2				4
White-tailed Deer		22		11	t	c	6		t	9	6		87	4	19		7	38	7			
Deer species																					t	
Moose			1				2		3	c	c		11		3				1	t		
Elk				t								4										c
Pronghorn		81																			8	
<b>TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY</b>	4	171	49	32	0	14	47	5	35	38	16	27	134	333	43	31	15	40	9	13	15	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD</b>	1	7	6	3	0	2	12	2	4	4	3	7	7	6	5	3	3	2	3	4	2	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS</b>	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	1	6	0	2	0	0	3	4	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED</b>	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	
<b>SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD</b>	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY</b>	1	8	6	8	7	5	12	2	6	17	6	7	7	7	16	3	8	2	3	7	8	

SPECIES	SASKATOON 26 DEC 2023	SHAMROCK 4 JAN 2024	SHELL LAKE 4 JAN 2024	SOUTH LADY LAKE 1 JAN 2024	SPINNEY HILL 3 JAN 2024	SWIFT CURRENT 15 DEC 2023	THICKWOOD-SPIRITWOOD 3 JAN 2024	TORCH RIVER VALLEY 23 DEC 2023	TURTLEFORD 29 DEC 2023	VAL MARIE 15 DEC 2023	WATROUS 2 JAN 2023	WEVBURN 28 DEC 2023	WHITE BEAR 3 JAN 2023	WHITEWOOD 27 DEC 2023	WINGARD 2 JAN 2024	YORKTON 1 JAN 2024	# 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																	2	1	2	1	0	4
Eastern Cottontail																	7	1	0	0	0	1
Nuttall's Cottontail						3											15	6	1	0	1	8
Snowshoe Hare	1		1	t					t					1		t	33	13	16	0	1	30
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	38	1			t	1						6	t				292	16	8	0	2	26
Richardson's Ground Squirrel									D				5				25	7	1	1	3	12
Eastern Grey Squirrel						39				1				4			50	6	0	0	0	6
Eastern Fox Squirrel											7	14					201	18	0	0	2	20
American Red Squirrel	13		17	2	t		3	32	1					5	1	1	367	40	1	0	1	42
Northern Flying-Squirrel																	13	4	0	0	0	4
Northern Pocket Gopher									D								0	0	1	3	0	4
American Beaver			D	D			1	t	D								4	3	2	13	1	19
Deer Mouse												1		1			3	3	6	0	2	11
Muskrat	1			D			D		D	1							12	6	1	7	0	14
Gapper's Red-Backed Vole																	0	0	0	1	3	4
Meadow Vole																	3	3	1	0	0	4
Vole species									t								0	0	5	1	0	6
House Mouse																	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mouse species									t				t				0	0	10	0	0	10
American Porcupine		1		t	t	m											9	8	4	2	1	15
Coyote	8	7	6	t	m	2		1	5	2		7	3	4			173	47	8	1	3	59
Gray Wolf				t				2									2	1	6	0	2	9
Red Fox	2			t		1		1	t	1	t						23	16	13	1	5	35
Raccoon								t				2		3			12	4	2	0	0	6
American Marten																	1	1	1	0	0	2
Fisher																	0	0	2	0	1	3
Ermine									c								1	1	1	0	3	5
Long-tailed Weasel									c	1							6	5	1	0	2	8
Weasel species																	4	2	3	0	0	5
American Mink																	4	4	0	1	1	6
Wolverine																	0	0	0	0	1	1
American Badger		d															0	0	0	5	0	5
Striped Skunk										s							0	0	2	4	1	7
River Otter								t									5	3	2	1	1	7
Canada Lynx																	0	0	1	0	0	1
Wild Boar																	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mule Deer	3	48		t		10	3		8	4	6		5				586	41	1	0	3	45
White-tailed Deer	9	23		t	t	23	11	4		27		36	3	6			610	48	5	0	3	56
Deer species																	5	1	1	0	0	2
Moose				t	t		4	t	3			1	t	6			62	18	11	0	5	34
Elk				t	t			t									23	2	8	0	1	11
Pronghorn						2				73			42				331	10	0	0	0	10
<b>TOTALS SEEN/HEARD ON COUNT DAY</b>	75	80	24	2	0	81	22	40	17	110	13	67	58	30	1	1	2884					
<b>TOTAL SPECIES SEEN/HEARD</b>	8	5	3	1	0	8	5	5	4	8	2	7	5	8	1	1		29				
<b>TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED BY TRACKS</b>	0	0	0	9	6	0	0	5	4	0	1	0	3	0	0	1			28			
<b>TOTAL SPECIES OTHERWISE RECORDED</b>	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				14		
<b>SPECIES RECORDED COUNT PERIOD</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					24	
<b>TOTAL SPECIES COUNT PERIOD AND DAY</b>	8	6	4	12	7	9	6	10	14	9	3	7	8	8	1	2						38