

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Acadia National Park  
Bar Harbor, Maine

N16

March 25, 1964

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Acadia  
Through: Chief Park Ranger, Acadia

From: District Park Ranger Stamey

Subject: Deer Management Program Report  
January through termination date

November and December - Please refer to previous reports submitted. December's report should be changed from 9 animals shot during the month to 11 animals shot.

January

39 deer were shot and one killed by car. Most of the deer came from Western Sargent, Hardwood Hill, Halfmoon Pond and Long Pond reduction areas. We did not confine ourselves to the reduction areas and deer were taken in other areas (see area breakdowns). We did, however, concentrate most of our efforts in the reduction areas.

January was a fairly mild month with only 12 inches of snow falling. Ground conditions were very good with only a few days of crusting conditions to contend with. We were fortunate in having a little snow on the ground over most of this period which made good tracking, thus enabling us to make some progress in the heretofore untouched Long Pond reduction area.

Due to the light snowfall, the deer in the Norumbego and Valley Cove reduction areas were still spread out over the area and mostly on private lands. No sign of yarding was evident during January, although some deer did seek shelter in nearby evergreen areas.

February

25 deer were shot during February, mostly from the evergreen areas such as Jordan Pond, Western Sargent and Long Pond.

Deer begin to concentrate in the evergreen areas around the middle of the month when high winds caused deep drifts of snow in the

burn area and on the exposed mountain tops. However, no yarding was evident, there being free movement throughout the evergreen areas, thus leading one to believe that the only reason they sought the evergreen areas was for shelter.

Two more trips were made into the Norumbego reduction area early in the month. Deer had not yet moved into the yarding area on the western side of the mountain, still being spread out along the Sargent Drive and Somes Sound.

The program was terminated on February 20.

Final breakdown is as follows:

<u>AREA</u>	<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>REDUCTION</u>
Valley Peak	12	0
Norumbego Mountain	20	0
Black Woods	8	1
Jordan Pond	7	8
Long Pond	10	8
West Sargent Mountain	12	39
Hardwood Hill	5	19
Halfmoon Pond	6	13
Cadillac		7
Otter Point		1
Duck Brook		2
Southwest Valley		3
Amphitheater		2
Connors Nubble		3
Sieur de Monts		2
N. Bubble		3
	<u>80</u>	<u>111</u>
*Miscellaneous Reduction		7
		<u>118</u>
		Total Shot

\*Miscellaneous Reduction - Three dog kills, one capchur gun kill and three car kills on state roads that run through the park.

#### Personnel

We were very fortunate in having experienced men available for this year's reduction. Each man that participated in the program this year had worked at least one year previously on the program.

#### Live-Trapping and Capchur Gun

Our efforts to live trap deer over the last four years has been disappointing. During this period we have live trapped only eleven animals. For some unknown reason the deer in Acadia National Park will not enter

live traps. We have consulted with experienced state trappers and they tell us that this is not uncommon, that they experience the same trouble in different parts of the state.

Three bucks were live trapped during the year, two in the Parkman Mountain trap and one in the trap at Hardwood Hill (near Aunt Betty's Pond). The two bucks at Parkman Mountain, both 8-pointers, were caught a total of seven times, one four times and the other one three times. Colored plastic streamers were attached to each ear and an expansion colored neckband was put on one animal.

A doe that was live trapped and neck banded at Jordan Pond in November, 1962 was accidentally killed by a reduction ranger during February, 1964 in the amphitheater which is about one mile distant from point of live trap. During the period between live trap and accidental killing this animal was observed and reported innumerable times. During the spring, summer and winter she lived in the amphitheater area. In the fall of the year when apples started falling to the ground, she moved to the Jordan Pond House and remained in that area until all apples were gone. Once gone, she would move back home to the amphitheater.

A six point buck that was live trapped at Hardwood Hill on November 3, 1963 was observed running with a doe on November 13 in the Conners Nubble area which is approximately 1 1/2 air miles from point of live trap. This distance of travel could possibly be explained because it was during the mating season, but the writer knows of one group of deer that traveled over 3 miles to seek shelter and food.

Several capchur gun runs were made during September, October and November. At least three animals were hit with the dart but made good their escape. One buck was killed due to an overdose of capchur-sol.

To have success with the capchur gun you must have almost perfect conditions. The winds should be calm, the animal within 70 feet, the area between the hunter and deer should be void of any brush or obstruction and the deer should stand long enough for the hunter to load the proper dart. Until we get more and tamer deer along our roads, we can expect to have poor success with the gun. At present the few deer that do frequent the roadsides won't stand long enough for a dart to be loaded.

#### Major Deer Concentration Areas in Acadia National Park

The following is based on the reduction ranger observation over the last two years (November through February):

Witch Hole Area - (everything north of State Route 233)

At present there are relatively few deer in this area. Fifteen were reduced this year. What few deer remain are concentrated on the east side of Brewer Mountain and along Breakneck Brook.

Southwest Valley

Approximately ten deer were left in this area; their range being all of the valley floor, along the Seven Bridges Road, east to Eagle Lake and west to Aunt Betty Pond.

Hardwood Hill (South of Aunt Betty Pond)

The deer that use this area are spread out along Richardson Brook, thick cover can be found here.

Western Sargent Mountain

The greatest concentration of deer in Acadia National Park is in this area. We removed 39 animals by shooting and I would venture to say that another 20 could have been reduced if we had spent more time there. The evergreen cover on Western Sargent is definitely a wintering area.

Norumbego

This year deer in the Norumbego area are spread out along the lower part of the mountain; Sargent Drive; Somes Sound and even into the suburbs of Northeast Harbor. Normally these deer could be found in late January or February high on Western Norumbego.

Cadillac

At present there are few deer on Cadillac. Most of them are in the cedar area near the road about half way up the mountain. Practically all deer on Cadillac winter here, it being the best area for shelter, footing and food.

Jordan Pond

Approximately 25 deer can be found here: about 15 on the east side of the lake and the remainder on the west side. The deer on the west side range between the lake and Jordan Ridge and even into the amphitheater. Those on the east side will cover the entire western side of Pemetic Mountain.

### Factors Affecting Hunting Success

As stated in previous reports, hunting success varies from area to area. Good hunting success prevails in the 1947 burn area and the open mountain tops. Less success prevails in the evergreen areas. This year was no exception, our greatest success was had where we had practically unlimited visibility.

The success of a hunt is determined by many factors, mainly by number of animals, personnel and weather. We had excellent weather for most of the reduction season. This enabled us to cover much more territory which accounted for an increase in kill as compared to last year when we were confined to snowshoes most of the program.

### Summary

Approximately 50 reduction days were worked to reduce 111 animals. This brings the total to 505 animals that have been removed from the park since the inception of the management program. Of this total, 480 were killed by shooting, 4 were live trapped, 6 were removed by ~~capchur gun~~, 4 killed by poachers, and 10 were killed by cars.

I recognize the need for reduction in the Norumbego area, Western Sargent area (to include Cedar Swamp Mountain) and possibly Jordan Pond. However, it will always be difficult to make any significant reduction in these wintering areas unless we get deep snows, or, better yet, spend the entire time in the three areas. Therefore, I recommend that reduction be confined to these areas during this coming fall and winter. We have been successful in reducing the herd elsewhere.

Deer in Acadia have been under management since 1960. In that year the deer reduction program was enacted and since then, under annual reduction, a total of 505 animals have been removed. At present we don't have as many animals as in 1960. However, I do believe we have as many as in 1961, that over the last three years we have just succeeded in removing the annual increment.

Number of deer alone, however, cannot be accepted as the only measure of management success. The ability of a winter range, primarily cedar, to feed our deer herd must be considered. We must get the deer in balance with their winter food supply and once that balance is reached, we should endeavor to hold it. Further increase in the wintering herd can only hasten the depletion of food. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the deer reduction program continue until our winter range improves. This was our ultimate aim so let's continue until that goal is reached.

Finally, and most vital of all, the direction deer management in Acadia will take in the future depends upon us. If we don't follow through until the above goal is reached, then little progress can be made in deer management.

#### Deer Weights

Acadia deer weights were well below state wide average the first year of the deer management program (see tables below). Since then, under annual reduction, Acadia deer have improved but they still remain below state wide averages.

Weights, like any other physical characteristic, are meaningful only when deer of the same sex and age are compared. See Table 1.

The largest deer weight since the inception of the program is one of 194 pounds, dressed. This buck was shot in the Halfmoon reduction area in November 1963. Another one of 190 pounds was taken from the same area.

Roy W. Stamey  
District Park Ranger

Recommended:

G. Gordon Bruce  
Chief Park Ranger

Approved for Distribution

Harold A. Hubler  
Superintendent

Table No. 1 Acadia Deer Weight by Age Classes 1960-1964 (Nov. 1 - Feb. 20)

Age	Sex	<u>Dressed Weight in Pounds</u>				<u>Number Weighed</u>			
		1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
Fawn	Male	41	49	44	49	33	12	18	16
	Female	37	42	43	44	27	7	20	24
1½	Male	91	97	78	78	7	6	9	8
	Female	69	75	79	69	16	9	8	4
2½	Male	98	123	99	111	5	4	3	10
	Female	81	93	93	83	18	5	6	8
3½	Male	115	176	111	116	3	2	5	4
	Female	83	86	87	83	12	4	8	6
4½	Male	123	140	120	136	10	3	8	8
	Female	78	105	89	85	23	4	7	15
Total Weighed						154	56	92	103

Table No. 2

## Maine and Acadia Deer Weights by Age Classes

Age	Sex	<u>Dressed Weight in Pounds</u>		<u>Number Weighed</u>	
		Acadia	Maine	Acadia	Maine
Fawn	Male	47	60	30	358
	Female	45	56	26	273
1½	Male	93	108	9	535
	Female	80	94	9	236
2½	Male	127	148	9	550
	Female	89	106	10	317
3½	Male	160	174	4	489
	Female	83	111	8	230
4½ ♀	Male	152	185	14	371
	Female	87	110	15	189

Data Collected: Acadia 1960-63 (November)  
 Maine 1954-57 (Oct. 21 - Nov. 30)

Table No. 3

Comparative Dressed Weight of Deer by Classes Comparing Acadia Controlled  
Deer with Weights Obtained by the State of Maine for Areas Other Than  
Mount Desert Island

Average Weight of Deer for the Month of November

	<u>Acadia National Park</u>			<u>State of Maine</u>		
	<u>Buck</u>	<u>Doe</u>	<u>Fawn</u>	<u>Buck</u>	<u>Doe</u>	<u>Fawn</u>
1963	148	90	48			
1962	132	95	47			
1961	133	93	49	*146	104	60
1960	138	77	38			

\*5,800 deer collected during the hunting seasons of 1948-57. We do not have year to year breakdowns.