

THE WHITE-TAILED DEER IN EARLY WISCONSIN

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The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) has always been the most important large game animal east of the Mississippi River. The settlers upon the fringe of civilization depended largely upon it for food and clothing. Also, deer skins formed an important commodity in overseas commerce. In the Trans-Allegheny region they served as currency, a skin having a value of one dollar in trade. The present-day slang term of one "buck" had its origin in this custom. In Wisconsin there was a considerable traffic in hides when the fur trade was active. Venison became an important source of income during the latter half of the nineteenth century, since the building of railroads furnished access to distant markets.

This deer has remarkable recuperative powers and when given reasonable protection will soon multiply to the carrying capacity of the land. It is one of the few large game animals that will adapt itself to old, agricultural regions. Within recent years it has spread southward in Wisconsin as far as Rock County.

Presettlement History. The first definite mention of deer in Wisconsin appears to have been by Radisson, who was in northwestern Wisconsin the winter of 1661-62. He wrote in his quaint style: "The weather continued so 3 dayes that we needed no racketts [snowshoes] more, for the snow hardened much. The small staggs are [as] if they were stakes in it after they made 7 or 8 capers. It's an easy matter for us to take them and cutt their throats with our knives."¹

Large and small stags were reported abundant at Lake Poygan by Allouez² in 1669. The large stags of the early French explorers were wapiti, commonly called elk. While descending the Wisconsin River in 1673, on their voyage to the Mississippi, Joliet and Marquette³ saw many deer on the lower Wisconsin. Marquette, in November, 1674, followed the Wisconsin shore of Lake Michigan southward. In Manitowoc County, an Indian brought the party a deer, and at the Milwaukee River one of Marquette's men shot another.⁴

Deer appear to have occurred sparingly along the southern shore of Lake Superior. This is understandable in view of the prevalence of coniferous trees and the deep snow that rendered the deer an easy prey to wolves and Indians. According to Hub-

bard⁵ deer were unknown along Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan prior to 1840. Shiras⁶ stated that deer were unknown on the north shore in 1870 and that there were only a few on the south shore. Their remarkable increase later, attributed to lumbering, is shown by the killing of 80,000 deer in each of the years, 1879, 1880, and 1881. Most of them were taken within ten miles of Lake Superior. The source of Shiras' statistics is unknown.

The few early references to deer on the south shore indicate that the population was small prior to 1850 and that it increased rapidly after this date. When Henry⁷ arrived at Chequamegon Bay in 1765, he found the Indians clothed mainly with "dressed deer-skin." The large Indian population residing at this place had to live mainly on fish, the mammals having been virtually exhausted. When the Indians set out on their hunt for furs the winter of 1765-66, they went 100 leagues westward to the Superior-Duluth region.

Interesting information on the early presence of deer in the Upper Peninsula is given by Foster and Whitney. "Within this township [Iron County] the Mackigamig receives from the right its two principal tributaries, the Mitchikau or Fence river and the Nebegomiwini or Night-watching river. The origin of these terms as explained by our voyageurs was this: At one time the deer were observed to be very numerous about the mouth of the former, and the Indians, to secure them, built a fence from one stream to the other. They [deer] would follow rather than leap over this barrier, until they were entrapped by their concealed foe. This method of capturing the deer is also practised on the Menomonee."⁸ They discovered remains of deer in the ancient copper mining pits. Near the Ontonagon River fragments of the cranium, humerus, and horn of a deer were discovered under nineteen feet of debris.

Lieut. Allen⁹ in 1832 reported that the Indians of Grand Island, Lake Superior, live on fish and some game, principally the "common red deer," which were killed between this place and Lake Michigan. He remarked that the Indians of Huron and Kewenaw Bays had exhausted the deer and bear that once furnished them food.

Deer are mentioned by some of the travelers in the Upper Peninsula. McKenney,¹⁰ while at the Ontonagon River on July 23, 1826, wrote that there was no game in the Porcupine Mountains except bear and the "common red deer." On October 7, 1844, about ten miles west of Grand Island, Pitzel¹¹ found on the shore

of Lake Superior the remains of wigwams with the bones of deer and bear hanging in the bushes.

Deer became common after 1850. Kohl was at La Pointe, Wisconsin, the summer of 1855, and wrote: "I recently saw here a hunter who had returned from the hunting-grounds in the upper peninsula, with an extraordinary quantity of game. In six weeks he had killed to his own gun no less than fifty-five deer."¹²

The hunters at Marquette complained in 1862 that the wolves were driving away all the deer.¹³ Cartwright¹⁴ and a companion, hunting in Marquette County, Michigan, killed 67 deer the winter of 1870-71; and in two subsequent seasons 97 and 80 deer respectively. A party of five hunters from Winnebago County, Wisconsin, returned in January, 1874, from the Sturgeon River with 80 deer.¹⁵ In the 1880's, deer were very plentiful in Schoolcraft County, "upwards of forty" being in sight at one time.¹⁶

There is an interesting comment on one means of distribution of deer by Andrews: "By the action of drifting ice . . . even animals, such as squirrels, rabbits, deer, moose, caribou, and bears have navigated the waters of Lake Superior, and been landed on islands to which they could not otherwise have gained access."¹⁷

Early references to deer along the Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior are few. Governor Doty¹⁸ wrote in 1820 that the Fond du Lac Indians (Duluth-Superior region) do not have deer. Rev. Ely¹⁹ traveled extensively in extreme northwestern Wisconsin in the years 1833-54. It was not until February 27, 1839, that a deer is mentioned for the vicinity of Duluth. On this day he recorded that an Indian had killed a deer that had been chased by dogs for three days. There is no mention of deer being seen in his frequent journeys by land and water between Superior and La Pointe. In September, 1848, Peyton²⁰ made an overland journey from La Pointe to the St. Croix River. Then as now the route covered for the most part a sandy plain sparsely timbered. He mentioned the distant sight of deer.

Schoolcraft, in his journey up the St. Croix River in 1832, stopped at Chief Kabamappa's village and wrote: "He observed in speaking of game that the red deer was found on the adjoining plains."²¹ This village was about ten miles below Upper St. Croix Lake, hence near modern Gordon, Douglas County. Rev. Ely¹⁹ recorded on June 27, 1834, that before reaching the same village, which he spells Kabomob, his Indian guide jumped a deer.

Deer were more plentiful in the latitude of Lac du Flambeau. Malhiot²² was in charge of a trading post at this lake during the fall and winter of 1804-05. On October 5 he recorded that he had

traded for 528 deer skins. It is impossible to determine how many of them represented deer taken in the immediate vicinity. Allen⁹ stated in 1832 that the Indians of this lake, in fall and winter, kill large numbers of deer which are very plentiful along the Chippewa River. This stream lies about 40 miles west of Lac du Flambeau. It is possible that the Indians, to obtain deer in quantity, descended the Flambeau River to its junction with the Chippewa in extreme southern Rusk County.

The Lac Vieux Desert region, Vilas County, according to Cram,²³ had a fair number of deer in 1841. On the approach of winter, however, the Indians went southward to hunt deer. The valley of the Menominee had deer in great abundance and was a favorite winter hunting ground for Indians from various quarters. Cram remarked that all of the country on the upper part of the river had been burned over.

The St. Croix River and its tributaries seem to have had a good deer population. Curot²⁴ makes numerous references to the purchase of deer skins and venison at his post on the Yellow River, Burnett County, during the winter of 1803-04. Not all of the deer were killed in Wisconsin. An entry for March 2, 1804 reads: "Mr. Sayer's Men arrived after Dinner today with 20 pieces of dried meat, the remains of 41 Deer that the savages of the river au serpent [Snake River, Minnesota] had killed."

Rev. Ely¹⁹ recorded on June 27, 1834, that his Indian raised a deer near the headwaters of the St. Croix. An Indian guide on April 19, 1839, below the mouth of the Yellow River, shot a doe with "three foetuses," and on the following day another deer was seen near the mouth of the Namekagon River. Schoolcraft, writing on July 27, 1831, offered a suggestion for the presence of deer in the region: "The country as we descend [the Namekagon River] assumes more the appearance of upland prairie, from the repeated burnings of the forest. The effect is, nearly all the small trees have been consumed, and grass has taken their place. One result of this is, the deer are drawn up from the more open parts of the Mississippi, to follow the advance of the prairie and open lands towards Lake Superior."²⁵ In 1843 Rev. Alfred Brunson²⁶ drove a wagon from Prairie du Chien to La Pointe, a good indication of the openness of the country. Schoolcraft²⁷ wrote in 1831 of the abundance of "Virginia deer" from Rice Lake, Barron County, southward along the Red Cedar River.

The Green Bay area was well stocked with deer from the earliest times. De Lignery, in the expedition of 1728 to chastise the Foxes, reached Green Bay where: "Our savages went into the woods, but soon returned bringing with them several roe-

bucks. This species of game is very common at this place, and we were enabled to lay in several days provisions of it."²⁸ The spring of 1780, the expedition to which John Long²⁹ was attached, reached Green Bay where plenty of deer, bear, and other provisions were obtained.

Lahontan,³⁰ in 1688, found deer plentiful at Lakes Winnebago and Butte des Morts. In 1837 Marryat³¹ found the tracks of deer plentiful near Lake Winnebago and saw a herd of fifteen.

In the winter of 1827-28, Fonda³² was engaged to carry the mail from Green Bay to Fort Dearborn (Chicago). He was dressed in a hunting shirt of smoke-tanned buckskin, a cap of wolf-skin with tail attached, and moccasins of elk hide. After leaving Green Bay he would frequently find herds of deer that had yarded in the "heavily timbered bottoms." Deer were also abundant when southeastern Wisconsin was reached. According to Le Claire³³ deer were plentiful in the Milwaukee region in 1800.

There was a plausible, well-established belief that a pronounced increase in deer took place in southern Wisconsin after the close of the Black Hawk war in 1832. Most of the Indians were moved to reservations west of the Mississippi or to northern Wisconsin. This did not deter them, however, from returning for winter hunts. White immigration, a trickle in the beginning, required a number of years to affect the increase of deer. When Keating's party crossed southwestern Wisconsin in the summer of 1823, only one deer was seen.³⁴ The absence of game was attributed to the killing of deer at all seasons by the Indians due to the feeling that they were gradually losing the use of the land.

Later the case was put as follows: "Since the Indians have left this part of the country, wild game has become plenty. As their principal subsistence has been derived from hunting, notwithstanding the strong efforts made to permanently introduce agriculture among them, they have made game of all kinds very scarce in the neighborhood of the settlements, where they delighted to camp. Deer are now found in this vicinity [Prairie du Chien] in large numbers."³⁵ McCleod³⁶ thought that deer had increased three-fold since the withdrawal of the Indians.

In spite of Indians and mining developments, deer were abundant in southwestern Wisconsin in the 1830's. Hoffman³⁷ found large herds on the prairies in February, 1834. Smith wrote of the summer of 1837: "The deer are often seen sporting over the prairie, and in the groves and oak openings; they are frequently aroused out of the high grass, and as the rifle of the hunter has

not yet sufficiently alarmed them in their secret lairs, they are in a measure less wild than in parts more densely settled; I have often seen them in my rambles, quietly gazing at the traveller, until he had passed by."³⁸

It is related by Grignon³⁹ that the Menomonees made their hunt on the Black River during the winter of 1795-96. Two Indian brothers got into a dispute as to their prowess in killing deer. The following day they hunted from dawn until evening. One Indian returned with the tongues of nine deer and the other with ten.

The Chippewa River was long famous for its game. Le Sueur⁴⁰ informs us that this stream was known as the Bon-Secours from the abundance of buffalo, elk, bear, and deer (*chevreuils*) to be found there. Guignas⁴¹ was with the French party that built Fort Beauharnois on the western shore of Lake Pepin in 1727. In October, when the buildings were finished, some of the people set out to find the herds of fallow deer (*bêtes fauves*) of all species of which they had heard so much in Canada. Deer proved to be scarce and it was difficult to kill any. They were hunting on the wrong side of the river as the Wisconsin shore had much more game than the Minnesota.

METHODS OF HUNTING

Prior to the introduction of firearms, the Indians had four methods of hunting deer. These are described by George Copway,⁴² an educated Ojibway, who spent considerable time in Wisconsin. 1. The deer was snared by placing a rope noose made of wild hemp (*Apocynum*) along the runways. When caught the deer choked to death. 2. Sharp stakes were driven into the ground beside a log over which a deer was expected to jump. When successful, the stake pierced the deer's vitals. 3. Deer were run into the water by dogs and then could be taken easily; or they were exhausted by a chase in deep snow. 4. They were killed with bow and arrow at salt-licks, or at the borders of lakes and streams where they were accustomed to feed. An Indian could shoot a deer at a distance of 50 paces. Flambeaus made of birch bark or other combustible materials were used for night hunting. In this way a very close approach to the animal could be made. Candles were subsequently used in place of torches. Lockwood,⁴³ when on the lower Wisconsin in 1827, gave the Indians some candles with which to hunt.

A method of hunting deer on Lake Winnebago has been described by J. G. Thompson, who came to Neenah in 1846.⁴⁴ When a deer was driven into the lake by wolves, the Indians would

pursue in a canoe. A loop, bent on the end of a hickory pole, was slipped over the deer's head and the canoe drawn sufficiently close that the animal could be despatched with a tomahawk.

The earliest Europeans to land in America found that the Indians hunted deer by building converging fences and driving them to a narrow aperture or pound. Morgan⁴⁵ states that the Iroquois built fences of brush in the shape of a V, each wing being two or three miles in length. The woods were fired to drive the deer to the apex. Sometimes 100 deer were taken. Usually the game was driven into the trap by beaters. Firing the woods might destroy the fence so that it could be used for only one drive.

The use of fences by the Indians for driving deer in northeastern Wisconsin was mentioned previously. It is unexpected that this method of hunting would have persisted until the 1880's. In 1883 the Indians had twelve miles of fence about six miles west of Phillips and were reported to be killing deer in large numbers.⁴⁶ At the same time the following item originated at Iron River: "At Big Trout Lake [Vilas County] there is what is known as a deer fence, fifteen miles long, made by felling trees in such a manner that deer cannot get through, and they travel along seeking a place to get out, when the slaughter takes place. We are told on reliable authority that three Indians killed in a few days, recently, one hundred and fifty deer for their hides only . . ." ⁴⁷ The construction of fifteen miles of fence would be a Herculean task and it is doubtful if any modern Indians would have built one of this length.

An old and often described method of hunting in the southern part of the state was to fire the prairies and oak openings. Reliance was generally placed on driving the deer into lakes or stream valleys where the hunters were stationed. P. P. Crane, an early resident of Beloit, has described the procedure in that area: "Also in the fall of 1837, when the prairie grass had become old and dry, smokes were seen rising on the prairies, some days in one direction, others in a different direction. It was ascertained that these fires were started by the Indians for hunting purposes. Whenever they wanted to take a deer, a rifle party would go forward, leaving others behind. The rifle party would go to a selected point, when the party behind would start a long line of fires which soon extended for several miles, being driven by the wind, and as the flames approached, the deer would bound along to get away from the fire, and thus rush toward the riflemen and be shot down."⁴⁸

Deer were run down in Marquette County. Muir states: "In winter, after the first snow, we frequently saw three or four Indians hunting deer in company, running like hounds on the fresh, exciting tracks. The escape of the deer from these noiseless, tireless hunters was said to be well-nigh impossible; they were followed to the death."⁴⁹

The whites had fewer methods of hunting, still hunting and driving being the commonest. In the "Big Woods" of Dunn County, artificial salt-licks were prepared. The deer were shot on moonlight nights from a platform built in a tree 30 to 40 feet from the ground.⁵⁰ The deer was brought home in winter by fastening the head to the tail of a horse and dragging it over the snow. Occasionally two deer were fastened to the horse.

The "shining" of deer at night by means of a light was practised by many hunters. Near Hudson, in 1865, John E. Bartett killed nine deer and wounded four more in one night by "fire hunting," as "shining" was known at the time.⁵¹

Hunting on horseback was common. In Dunn County a bell was attached to the horse. The deer being accustomed to the bells on cattle permitted a close approach. "Atticus," who lived in Racine, wrote in 1844: "The largest and best game is the deer. These are so plenty that they were sold in our market last winter at seventy-five cents apiece. In the western part of the Territory they are hunted on horseback, with horns, and killed with shot-guns instead of rifles. One individual there—a man of undoubted veracity, a lawyer who stands high in his profession, whose sporting has not interfered with his business, and who formerly resided in Illinois—says, that during his residence in that State and in this Territory, he has killed over two thousand deer."⁵²

The favorite method of hunting deer on the prairies was from a sleigh. Elizabeth Baird,⁵³ while visiting at Delevan, Walworth County, in February, 1842, was taken on a hunt. Every person was dressed in white. After driving a short distance, a large herd of deer was sighted and it seemed to her that there were hundreds of them.

The method of hunting in the town of Christiana, Dane County, has been described as follows: "Previous to its settlement, this was a favorite hunting ground with the settlers in the adjoining towns. Deer were then very plenty, and one of the favorite methods of hunting them in winter was to get what was called a 'drive' on them. Taking advantage of their curiosity, and knowing they could be easily approached with a team, several men in a sleigh followed their trail until within rifle shot, when the team was turned and driven around the deer, the men jump-

ing out behind trees at convenient intervals. As soon as they were well surrounded, the firing commenced, and the deer were driven from one side of the circle to the other, a large number frequently being killed before the herd succeeded in making its escape."⁵⁴

The pernicious use of set-guns was very widespread and continued through the period covered by this paper, to 1900, in spite of a prohibitory law. Only a few examples will be given. A farmer living in the Peshtigo Sugar Bush, Marinette County, visited his set-guns in November, 1874. At one a deer was found. He accidentally walked against the string of the second gun and was critically wounded.⁵⁵ In Taylor County, a homesteader, Anton Kuehrt, was killed on October 28, 1885, when he walked into his own set-gun.⁵⁶ Usually the victim was an innocent hunter. Richard Purkiss of Chelsea, Taylor County, sprung a set-gun in November, 1893, and was killed.⁵⁷

MIGRATION

A century ago the belief existed that deer migrated southward in winter from northern Wisconsin. Cram²⁸ states that the Indians of the Lac Vieux Desert region moved southward "following the deer for the winter hunt." Dart⁵⁸ came to Green Lake County in 1840 at which time "deer were plentiful, except when they went south in winter to escape the cold." If this were the case, hunters would not have gone northward. Muir⁴⁹ came to the adjoining county of Marquette in 1849. He mentions that some of his enterprising neighbors went every fall with their teams to the pine regions in the northern part of the state to hunt and returned with half a dozen deer, one or two bears, and fifteen to twenty bushels of cranberries. A doubt might be raised that the trips were made mainly to kill deer when they were so plentiful locally. The deer in fall were very fond of winter wheat after it had grown for about a month and were easily killed by the hunter, lying in wait for them at night. Muir states that one man in this manner killed 30 or 40 in one small field.

A note from Oshkosh for the year 1881 states: "Bears and deer are very plenty in Wisconsin this fall, as the acorn crop is immense, and it is bringing the deer down from the Lake Superior region in large numbers."⁵⁹ It was stated in the same year that the tracks of deer could be seen everywhere at Phillips, Price County, in summer, but in fall the deer migrated. Subsequently it was also said that the deer moved southward on the approach of winter.⁶⁰

At Glidden, Ashland County, the majority of the deer were believed to migrate about the middle of September, but three weeks later they were, inconsistently, "very numerous."⁶¹ An old hunter thought that the scarcity of deer at Hayward in 1885 was due to a movement southward where there were more acorns.⁶²

Old hunters informed Shiras⁶ that an extensive fall and spring migration formerly took place in all of northern Michigan and Wisconsin. Since he believed that there were very few deer on the southern shore of Lake Superior prior to 1870, any noticeable movement must have taken place since that date. He states: "Early in May, as soon as the depth of the snow permitted travel, thousands of does worked their way north traveling alone in a broad belt along the south shore of Lake Superior, where a few weeks later the fawns were born. The bucks came more leisurely, but by early June the migration was over." The return movement began the middle of August and was in full swing by September. It has also been stated that local and migratory deer occur in Michigan.⁶³ The migratory deer passed through a certain section in fall and returned in spring. Local people claimed that they could distinguish between the residents and migrants.

There is no authentic information to support the statements that formerly there was a migration of deer, using the word in its commonly accepted sense. All the accounts were obtained from hunters and may be set down as folklore. There are similar traditional beliefs. For example, in the fall of 1912, I shot a large buck near Herbster, Wisconsin. An old resident insisted that it was a "swamp" buck and readily distinguishable from a "hill" buck. The latter part of December, 1873, old hunters reported that the deer in Jackson County had been moving northward for a week or two. Opinions were divided on whether this meant that mild or severe weather was approaching.⁶⁴

The year (1895) that "Julian" wrote on migratory deer, Hough⁶⁵ was in Vilas County, Wisconsin. A trapper told him that there were few better deer areas than that in the vicinity of Big St. Germain Lake where the deer wintered in a "heavy thicket." The local disappearance of deer was usually due to yarding. Even in the southern part of the state they concentrated in winter in swamps, thickets, or heavy timber.

COMMERCE

In the days of the fur trade deer contributed meat, tallow, and hides. The trading post, depending upon its location, obtained its fresh meat, venison, from the Indians. The daily ration of the Canadian canoeman consisted of a quart of hulled corn, or peas,

and two ounces of tallow. On this diet he performed the hardest kind of physical labor to the despair of the modern dietitian. Grignon⁸⁹ and his associate, Jacob Franks, about 1806, shipped from Green Bay to Mackinac 120 kegs of deer tallow weighing about 10,000 pounds.

The traffic in venison became enormous in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The lumber camps bought deer carcasses directly from professional hunters, or hired men to shoot for the camp mess. For example, the winter of 1868-69, James Terry engaged to hunt for John Sterling who had two camps on the North Fork of the Eau Claire River.⁶⁶ He received his board and \$4.00 per deer. Up to the first of January of this winter, he killed 38 deer and two bears; and up to the first of January the following winter, 47 deer. These were moderate bags. Further data on the numbers killed by professional hunters will be found in the section on the histories of deer in the various counties.

The local consumption of deer was comparatively small until the construction of railroads provided easy transportation to the large cities within and without the state. Scarcely a newspaper failed to comment on the scarcity or abundance of deer and the price of venison. In December, 1850, a load of 22 deer was brought to Milwaukee and the lot purchased by the Plankinton Hotel.⁶⁷ A quarter of a century later, the following comment was made in Milwaukee: "Venison is so plenty in this market that the pedestrians wish there was some public park for the deer instead of having them occupy the sidewalks."⁶⁸

It was stated in January, 1866, that 3,000 deer had been brought into Eau Claire over a period of three months. Many of these were hauled to Sparta to be shipped by rail to Milwaukee.⁶⁹ The deer season of 1879 at the village of Colby was considered only fair, but there were shipped from that station fifty whole deer weighing 6,334 pounds, and 1,860 pounds of saddles making a total of 8,194 pounds.⁷⁰ There were shipped from Peshtigo during the season of 1882, 1,047 saddles of venison. The total weight of saddles, hams, and carcasses shipped was 61,726 pounds.⁷¹ The aggregate annual shipments from the various railway stations must have been enormous.

The trade in deerskins from the Upper Great Lakes was extensive by 1700, indicating that the valuable furs were no longer easily obtainable. The Sansquartier⁷² inventory made at Detroit in 1709 contains a large percentage of deerskins. The skins were sold under several classifications: bucks, does, fawn, red (*rouge*), blue (*bleu*), grey (*gris*), shaved (*rasee*), and dressed. Red refers to the summer pelage. During the fall molt the hairs for a time

have a bluish cast before attaining the full gray of the winter coat.

Lists of skins collected at various posts are numerous, but frequently it is impossible to determine the locality, or even the state, of their origin. In December, 1820, the Indian Office at Washington offered at auction 32,200 pounds of deerskins, most of them shaved. These were obtained principally at Fort Orange, on the Missouri, and at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.⁷³ Most of the records of the American Fur Company, and other companies, are equally vague on origin since the data from the individual posts have been lost.

There are many records of the number of deerskins handled by the Green Bay traders, but there is no assurance that all of the skins were obtained in the Green Bay region. The Menominees might make their winter hunt on the Upper Mississippi and trade their skins at Green Bay. In August, 1811, the South West Fur Company gave credit to Pierre Grignon, Green Bay, for 891 deerskins; and a year later for 74 deerskins. Jacob Franks, Green Bay, turned over to the South West Fur Company 265 deerskins in July, 1813, and 131 a year later.⁷⁴ Jacques Porlier, another Green Bay trader, received credit from the American Fur Company for 2,468 skins in August, 1821.

An invoice of furs received at Mackinac from Porlier and Grignon, Green Bay, in June, 1832, contains the following items:⁷⁵

Skins	Pounds	Price per lb.
869 shaved deer, heavy	2640	\$0.28
1824 shaved deer, light	3120	
140 red bucks	360	0.26
682 red does	1200	
66 badly shaved deer	99	0.20
65 grey shaved deer	193	0.125

In 1833 Porlier and Grignon sold 2,499 deerskins, and in 1834, 2,058 skins.

The deerskins collected by the American Fur Company at two Wisconsin posts for the years 1835 and 1836 are:⁷⁵

	Green Bay Outfit		Milwaukee Outfit	
	1835	1836	1835	1836
Deerskins undressed, pounds	7,610	8,817	3,232	1,307

The average deerskin weighed about two pounds.

Trade in deerskins was appreciable until towards the end of the nineteenth century. Two men, Carr and Rand, in January, 1882, brought to Sparta 100 deerskins, the result of their hunt.⁷⁶

In 1883, John Carlson, of Trade Lake, Burnett County, obtained 1400 pounds of "buckskin" from the Indians.⁷⁷

LARGE DEER

The weights of a large number of deer are recorded in the newspapers. Wisconsin hunters considered any deer large that weighed over 200 pounds, and if over 250 pounds, exceptionally large. Schoonmaker⁷⁸ gives the weight of two New York deer entire at 390 and 397 pounds. A close approximation of the live weight of a deer is obtained by dividing the dressed weight by 80 and multiplying the quotient by 100. Scott⁷⁹ gives the calculated live weight of nine Wisconsin deer as ranging from 312 to 383 pounds.

The weights of some Wisconsin deer are given below:

County	Year	Stated Weight	Calculated Live Weight.	Reference No.
Grant	1851	254*	317	80
Clark	1867	338†	...	81
Clark	1867	320*	400	82
Ashland	1878	400**	400	83
Door	1884	296*	370	84
Burnett	1890	337†	...	85
Florence	1890	343*	428	86
Marinette	1893	384†	...	87
Door	1902	340†	...	88

* Dressed.

** Not dressed.

† Condition not stated.

FACTORS AFFECTING THE POPULATION

There were many winters when the deer suffered severely. Marquette⁴ spent the hard winter of 1674-75 at the present site of Chicago. On January 24 he mentioned that all the wild animals felt the bad weather; and on March 20, that the deer were so lean that some of those killed were abandoned.

A crust on deep snow was one of the worst conditions that the deer could meet. Then they were an easy prey to wolves and to hunters on snowshoes. Anderson⁸⁹ had a trading post on the Minnesota River the winter of 1806-07. In March a crust formed on the snow and the Indians tomahawked every deer that could be found for sheer amusement. The winter following not a deer could be found.

There are many references to the effect of the winter of 1856-57 on Wisconsin deer. Joseph V. Jones came to Durand, Pepin County, in 1856. That winter the snow was six feet deep on the

level so that the deer were unable to travel. Many were killed with clubs and hundreds starved.⁹⁰ The situation was equally bad in Grant County where the deep, crusted snow permitted a great slaughter. The deer were killed by simply knocking them on their heads. By January they were so lean from starvation that the venison was not marketable.⁹¹ In November, 1857, deer, though formerly abundant in Richland County, were reported scarce. The deep snow of the previous winter led to their easy destruction by wolves and to wanton killing by hunters.⁹²

A report from Prairie du Chien reads: "The market was never so plentifully supplied with venison as at present. It is selling at wholesale from \$3 to \$5 per hundred. A friend of ours killed a drove of seven last week in one day. He followed the path made through the hard crust, until they could scarcely walk and then with a Sharpe's rifle shot them down one after the other. We thought last summer, when noticing some Frenchmen bringing home each morning from 5 to 8 deer, obtained by Fire Hunting on the Wisconsin and Paint Creek, that they would soon kill off all the Deer; but we are now convinced that deer hunting in December exceeds Fire Hunting five hundred per cent, for the very reason that the animals are now rendered helpless by the deep snows, and are murdered by every farmer's boy in the country. Some three sleigh loads of venison passed our office every day last week and as many more this week."⁹³

It is stated by Harvey Brown⁹⁴ that about Christmas, 1857, a crust about one-half inch in thickness formed on the deep snow in Buffalo County, and that nearly every deer perished. Following the spring thaw, their bodies were found in nearly every coulee. Deer were stated to be abundant near New London, Waupaca County, in February, 1857, but owing to the crust on the snow the Indians were killing them off with clubs and hatchets.⁹⁵ Large numbers were also killed in Outagamie County at the same time.⁹⁶

An experienced hunter, Jonathan Cartwright, hunted in the Menomonie woods, Dunn County, at this time and states: "This winter was the hardest on deer of any I have ever known. White men and Indians slaughtered them in great numbers. They would put on snow-shoes, and taking a hatchet, but no gun, would strike them down. . . . One man told me that he killed ten in one day, and that in some places the Indians had taken them by hundreds."⁹⁷ They were very scarce the following two years.

Similar weather conditions prevailed the winter of 1868-69. A crust formed on the snow in Door County in February and deer were slaughtered in wholesale fashion.⁹⁷ As an indication,

Ambrose Hummel of Green Bay killed 88 deer that season along the Menominee River.⁹⁸

The winter of 1887-88 produced great hardship for the deer in northeastern Wisconsin. Two hunters at Bryant, Langlade County, caught a herd of 17 deer in the deep snow and killed all of them.⁹⁹ The effect of this winter on the deer is clearly shown by the following account from Florence: "A fear prevails among hunters that deer will be considerably scarcer than usual next fall. There is no doubt that the severe weather of the past winter has played havoc with the noble game. The deep snow not only placed the deer at the mercy of their enemies, especially the wolves, but covered up all kinds of vegetation so much as to create a sort of famine among the animals. The capture of dozens of live deer by men during the past two or three months, is due almost as much to exhaustion produced among them by lack of food as to the deep snow in which they foundered. The animals would have been more successful in getting away from both men and wolves if they had been in better condition physically. Gaunt as rails, nearly starved and pitiably weak, thousands of them have undoubtedly been killed by wolves in Northern Wisconsin and Michigan during the winter, and it is possible that many have been starved to death. Men who worked in the woods during the latter part of the winter tell some almost incredible stories concerning the poor animals. The deer have sought refuge, presumably from wolves, in lumber camps, and have devoured the boughs of pine trees almost as soon as the men felled them, and while the latter were working near at hand. That their condition is very poor is shown by the experience of some lumbermen engaged in driving logs on the Popple River. A few days since, while working, these men saw a large buck trying to cross the river on some logs ahead of them. The animal, who did not see the men, succeeded, by dint of hard labor, in getting about half way across the river and then fell down, exhausted, on the logs. When the men reached him, a few moments later, he did not make the slightest attempt to get away. They took pity on his weak condition, and, with great care and kindness, carried him over the logs and into the woods, where they left him. They say the animal was hardly able to stand up and that he was so poor that his bones protruded through his hide."¹⁰⁰

The above conditions prevailed when the state deer population was small in comparison with that in recent years. The necessity for controlling the number of deer by shooting when the population exceeds the carrying capacity of the land is beyond question. The effect of overbrowsing on forest reproduction is also very

important. Sentiment on the deer problem may be sadly misplaced.

There is little information on the killing of deer outright by forest fires. The Peshtigo fire in the fall of 1871 was one of the worst on record in Wisconsin. L. D. Gray, who hunted along the Menominee River that fall stated that large numbers of deer were killed by the fires. Eight deer were found burned to death at one place.¹⁰¹ Less than a year later deer returned to the burned regions around Peshtigo.¹⁰² In the fall of 1894, 25 deer were found dead on a knoll near Black River Falls where they were surrounded by fire.¹⁰³

Despite the numerous old claims of heavy destruction of deer by wolves, bobcats, and lynx, no data are available to show that these predators ever had more than a minor effect on the deer population. The long-standing bounties on these carnivores has led to the near extinction of the timber wolf and lynx. A recent study by Thompson¹⁰⁴ reveals that the timber wolves remaining in Wisconsin, in the territories over which they ranged, were ineffectual in preventing an over-population of deer.

The ecological changes produced by extensive lumbering in Wisconsin after 1850 led to a great increase in the deer population. The cutting of the coniferous forests was especially important since the land was soon covered by young hardwoods and forage plants, thereby creating a favorable deer habitat. A low point in the state's deer population was reached about 1890. This resulted almost entirely from over-shooting. The game laws were largely ignored and frequently flouted. Jackson, in 1908, in discussing the gradual decrease in the number of deer stated: "The cause of this decrease is not inefficient legislation, but it is because of inefficient protection from wolves and law-breakers."¹⁰⁵ It is certain, however, that prior to 1899, when venison could be sold, the gun was largely to blame.

Under the game laws of 1897, the following were considered "deer counties": Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Brown, Chippewa, Clark, Door, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Florence, Forest, Iron, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Kewaunee, Lincoln, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Oconto, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Price, Sauk, Sawyer, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau, Vilas, Washburn, and Wood. A distributional map, rating deer common, scarce, and doubtful, was published by Cory¹⁰⁶ in 1912.

LEGISLATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF DEER

1851. First law. The killing of deer was prohibited from February 1 to July 1.
1858. The open season remained unchanged.
1860. The open season was reduced two months, and ran from August 1 to January 1.
1867. The hunting season was increased by one-half month: August 1 to January 15.
1869. The use of set-guns was prohibited.
1875. It was forbidden to "ensnare or trap" any deer. Hunting with dogs in Kewaunee County was prohibited.
1876. The use of dogs in hunting was prohibited throughout the state.
1877. The open season was reduced and ran from September 15 to January 1. The use of dogs was permitted in Ashland, Douglas, and Bayfield counties. The deer season in Burnett County was reduced to 15 days until 1883.
1879. The killing of deer in Door County except for personal use as food was prohibited and no deer could be exported from the county.
1880. The shining of deer in Door County was prohibited. The open season in Douglas, Bayfield, and Ashland counties ran from August 15 to November 30. Elsewhere north of Vernon, Sauk, Columbia, Dodge, Washington, and Ozaukee counties, the open season was one-half month shorter: September 1 to November 30.
1881. The open season throughout the state ran from September 15 to January 1.
1883. The exportation of venison from the state was prohibited. The open season was reduced and ran from November 1 to December 15. Hunting of deer at night with lights was made illegal.
1885. The open season was changed to cover the period October 1 to November 30. Deer could be killed only for food.
1887. The open season was shortened and ran from October 1 to November 10.
1889. The act permitting the use of dogs in Ashland, Douglas, and Bayfield counties was repealed. The open season was increased by five days and ran from October 15 to December 1.
1891. The open season was reduced by 15 days: November 1 to December 1. The sale of venison was made illegal if done eight days after the season closed.
1895. Each hunter could transport but two deer. The open season ran from November 1 to 20. Sheboygan County was closed to deer hunting for five years.
1897. The open season ran from November 1 to 20. The killing of deer on ice or in the water was prohibited. Sheboygan and Fond du Lac counties were closed for five years. The bag limit was two deer of any kind. Settlers could kill deer for the use of their families. The sale, transportation, or trading of venison five days after the close of the season was prohibited. The first licenses were issued. The fee was \$1.00 for a resident and \$30.00 for a non-resident.
1899. The length of the open season was unchanged. It was made illegal to sell venison during the first six days of the season or ship or sell six days after the close of the season.

HISTORIES OF DEER IN THE COUNTIES

Adams. Deer were killed formerly in large numbers. In February, 1857, S. U. Hamilton arrived in Sheboygan with a load of 26 deer that he and his father had killed in Adams County. He estimated that over 1000 deer were shot in the county during the season.¹ A party of hunters from the vicinity of Beaver Dam arrived in that town on December 25, 1861, with a load of deer that had been killed in Adams County.² Deer were plentiful in 1867,³ and so common the following year that hams were sold by the Indians at six cents per pound.⁴ The year 1872 was not a successful season; however one hunter killed four deer in one day.⁵ Venison was quite common in 1873 when the saddles sold at six cents per pound.⁶ In 1874 venison was virtually a drug on the market. Carcasses brought only four to five cents a pound in Kilbourn.⁷ There were killed in the town of Quincy in November, 1894, three "antelope,"⁸ a term occasionally used for a spike buck.

¹ Sheboygan *Times*, Feb. 7, 1857. ² Beaver Dam *Argus*, Dec. 27, 1861. ³ Friendship *Press*, Nov. 29, 1867. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 4, 1868. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 1872. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Jan. 3, 1874. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Dec. 12, 1874. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 1894.

Ashland. Lapham¹ in 1858 listed the deer as one of the mammals of the Penokee Range southeast of Ashland. Apparently they did not become common in the Ashland region until the late 1870's. When a deer was caught in Chequamegon Bay in September, 1872, it was considered a stray.² On October 23, 1875, it was stated that the fifth deer for the season had been brought into Ashland, so that they were still not very common.³ In the fall of 1880, deer were reported plentiful and in excellent condition. Two men killed 15 by the end of September.⁴ One hunter at Glidden, in November, 1884, killed seven deer in one week.⁵ In 1885 deer were reported rather scarce around Ashland,⁶ but around Glidden they were numerous in 1885 and 1886.⁷ Two hunters from Medford killed 20 deer in the county in the season of 1892.⁸

¹ Lapham, I. A. *Original diary*, Aug. 24-Sept. 23, 1858. *Wis. Hist. Soc.; Trans. Wis. State Agr. Soc. for 1858-59*. 5 (1860) 399. ² *Ashland Press*, Sept. 21, 1872. ³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 23, 1875. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Aug. 28, Oct. 2, 1880. ⁵ *Glidden Pioneer*, Nov. 26, 1884. ⁶ *Ashland Press*, Nov. 14, 1885. ⁷ *Glidden Pioneer*, Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 1885; June 3, Sept. 23, 1886. ⁸ *Medford Star and News*, Dec. 3, 1892.

Barron. In December, 1872, three sleds arrived in Menomonie with 65 deer that had been killed in the vicinity of Rice Lake.¹ Deer were shot in great numbers in the fall of 1875. Two Chetek hunters killed "some forty" deer and several bears.² Hunters reported deer and bear more plentiful in the fall of 1877 than for a number of years.³ Many were shot in 1879. Hunters from Pierce County killed large numbers near Cumberland. By early

December a hunter at Barron had killed and shipped 23 deer.⁴ Elijah Haines, of Clinton, also shot 23.⁵ Many deer were killed at Rice Lake the following year.⁶

The Eau Claire markets received large quantities of venison from Barron and other northern counties in 1883.⁷ B. L. Eighmy killed 16 deer the season of 1884.⁸ They were unusually numerous in 1886. Two Chetek hunters killed over 30 deer. About 75 deer were shipped from Cameron.⁹ Large numbers were killed in 1889 and 1892.¹⁰ There was a decided decline in the deer population at this time. By 1897 venison was scarce and expensive at Rice Lake.¹¹ Considerable venison was reported shipped from Rice Lake the following year.¹²

¹ Menomonie News, Dec. 21, 1872. ² Rice Lake Chronotype, Nov. 20, Dec. 25, 1875. ³ Ibid., Nov. 28, 1877. ⁴ Rice Lake Chronotype, Nov. 13, Dec. 4; Barron Shield, Dec. 4, 1879. ⁵ Barron Shield, Jan. 1, 1880. ⁶ Rice Lake Chronotype, Oct. 21, Nov. 11, 1880. ⁷ Eau Claire (w) Free Press, Nov. 8, 1883. ⁸ Chetek Alert, Nov. 29, 1884. ⁹ Chetek Alert, Nov. 6, Dec. 4; Barron Shield, Dec. 3, 1886. ¹⁰ Chetek Alert, Nov. 15, 28, 1889; Nov. 18, 1892. ¹¹ Rice Lake Chronotype, Nov. 5, 12, 1897. ¹² Ibid., Nov. 4, 1898.

Bayfield. Shields,¹ while at Bayfield, was informed that the previous September three Indians killed 14 deer within twenty miles of town. Three hunters from Waupaca, after an absence of two weeks in November, 1883, returned with 11 deer and two bears killed near Bayfield.² In the late fall of 1883, David Downer, while hunting at Cable, killed 19 deer, the two largest weighing 225 and 240 pounds, respectively.³ During the season of 1884, a Bayfield hunter is reputed to have killed 75 deer, 5 moose, and one bear in Bayfield and Douglas Counties.⁴ A. Angus in November, 1885, sold in Ashland ten deer killed in the vicinity of Pike Lake, Bayfield County.⁵ Four Neillsville hunters killed 16 deer in the county in the season of 1887.⁶ A party of five hunters from Appleton spent six weeks in the fall of 1892 on Pike River and averaged seven deer per week. The station agent at Pike River stated that 600 deer had been shipped from that place, the maximum for any season.⁷

¹ Shields, G. O. *Rustlings in the Rockies*. Chicago (1883) 281. ² Waupaca Post, Nov. 29, 1883. ³ Durand Courier, Nov. 9, 1883. ⁴ Madison State Journal, Jan. 20, 1885. ⁵ Ashland Press, Nov. 7, 1885. ⁶ Neillsville Republican and Press, Nov. 3, 1887. ⁷ Appleton Crescent, Dec. 3, 1892.

Brown. When Ellis¹ arrived at Green Bay in 1822, game, including deer, was abundant. In July, 1834, Bishop Kemper² saw a "place where they shoot deer" within a mile of town. This was probably a tree-platform. Deer were killed in abundance in 1853 and 1854.³ They were considered more plentiful in 1868 than for many years. One was caught in the city of Green Bay, from which place carcasses were shipped southward daily by express.⁴ A Green Bay hunter, Ambrose Hummel, killed 88 deer in the

season of 1868.⁵ The early spring of 1869, there was deep snow with a heavy crust. Deer appeared to be especially numerous and they came into the settlements. The Indians at Little Kaukauna (Little Rapids) are said to have killed 15 in two days.⁶

This statement appeared in 1870: "We notice that the usual winter supply of venison is beginning to come in. Last season vast numbers of deer were slaughtered within a circuit of fifty miles from this city. We have known one hunter to bring in thirty at one time. They are shipped by express to the Chicago and Milwaukee markets. During the hunting season many who make a business of trapping and hunting come to this region as offering superior advantages for their avocation."⁷

Venison was so cheap in Green Bay in 1873 that it was considered as not covering the cost of the ammunition.⁸ At about this time the county no longer furnished many deer for domestic use. In 1876 the statement was made that deer are particularly plentiful "north of us."⁹ A few deer continued to be killed in the county. A deer ran through the main streets of Green Bay on November 28, 1892;¹⁰ and three appeared within the city limits in September, 1901.¹¹

¹ Ellis, A. G. *Recollections. Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 7 (1876) 240. ² Kemper, Bishop Jackson. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 14 (1898) 429. ³ *Green Bay Advocate*, Oct. 13, 20; Nov. 30, 1854. ⁴ *Green Bay Advocate*, Nov. 19, Dec. 3; *Gazette*, Nov. 21, 1868. ⁵ *Green Bay Advocate*, Oct. 28, 1869. ⁶ *Green Bay Gazette*, March 13, 1869. ⁷ *Green Bay Advocate*, Nov. 10, 1870. *Ibid.*, Dec. 11, 1873. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Oct. 19, 1876. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Dec. 1, 1892. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Sept. 21, 1901.

Buffalo. Deer were plentiful about 1855. The county was a favorite hunting ground for the Indians. Cooke states: "The Sioux, whose tribal home grounds were west of the Mississippi, found that in our part of Wisconsin there were more elk, deer and bear than in Minnesota along the Mississippi."¹ The Cookes could see deer and elk crossing their valley almost daily. Deer were never again as plentiful after the winter of 1856-57, with its deep snow, as they died in large numbers.²

The effect of the deep snow seems to have been overcome within a decade. In 1865, a Mr. Bump of Mondovi killed 11 deer in three days of hunting, while two other men killed six in one day. In the town of Belvidere, forty deer were seen in one day, one herd containing 18.³ In 1869 deer were reported not as plentiful as the previous year; however, two men killed 12 in two weeks near Gilmanton.⁴ A hunter in the town of Modena killed five fine deer within an hour.⁵ Many deer were reported killed in the county in 1878. Two hunters shot six to seven deer in one week near Gilmanton.⁶

¹ Cooke, W. W. *A frontiersman in northwestern Wisconsin. Wis. Mag. Hist.*, 23 (1940) 288, 290, 297. ² Curtiss-Wedge, F. *History of Buffalo and Pepin Counties*,

Wisconsin. Winona (1919) 953. ³West Eau Claire *Argus*, Dec. 28, 1865. ⁴Alma *Express*, Dec. 16, 1869. ⁵*Ibid.*, Jan. 6, 1870. ⁶Madison *State Journal*, Nov. 15, 1878; Mondovi *Herald*, Dec. 28, 1878.

Burnett. Large numbers of deer were killed in this county. In February, 1876, George Matwayos, of Yellow Lake, arrived in Ashland with a load of venison. He and ten other hunters killed 165 deer during the winter of 1875-76.¹ Over 500 saddles of venison were shipped from Rush City, Minnesota, in one week in December, 1877. Most of these deer were killed in Chisago County, Minnesota, and Burnett County.² Deer were stated to be so plentiful in the vicinity of Grantsburg in 1878 that two or three would be seen by going five miles from town in any direction.³ The season of 1885, two camps containing seven hunters killed 41 deer up to the latter part of November.⁴ Deer were abundant in 1886. Two hunters killed 40 during the season. Thoreson and Johnson, of Grantsburg, shipped nearly 500 saddles of venison to St. Paul up to December 10, and expected to handle several hundred more.⁵ It was estimated that at least 1000 deer were killed during the seasons of 1895 and 1896. The complaint was made that many hunters, particularly the Indians, pay little attention to the laws regulating the closed and open seasons.⁶

¹Ashland *Press*, Feb. 19, 1876. ²Grantsburg *Sentinel*, Dec. 21, 1877. ³*Ibid.*, Nov. 8, 1878. ⁴*Ibid.*, Dec. 4, 1885. ⁵*Ibid.*, Dec. 3, 10, 24, 1886. ⁶*Ibid.*, Feb. 4, 1897.

Calumet. The county does not appear to have contained many deer within recorded time, due presumably to the Indians on the reservations. The population in 1840 consisted of 530 Stockbridge and Brothertown Indians, and three whites.¹ In October, 1866, seven does shot along the eastern shore of Lake Winnebago were brought into Appleton.² Deer were reported in 1868 as "never so plenty,"³ but all subsequent information indicates that the number was quite small. Two deer were killed near Chilton in 1871.⁴ The following season five men took five deer in a day's hunt on Killsnake Creek.⁵ This creek was a favorite place for hunting. John Mayer, town of Charlestown, killed six deer in the season of 1876.⁶ The two hunters who killed a large doe at the mouth of the Killsnake in 1877 were envied.⁷ A hunting party that tracked a buck along this creek in 1880 failed to capture it.⁸

¹Cammuck, *T. Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 1 (1855) 104. ²Appleton *Post*, Oct. 25, 1866. ³Chilton *Times*, Dec. 26, 1868. ⁴*Ibid.*, Nov. 4, 11, 1871. ⁵*Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 1872. ⁶*Ibid.*, Dec. 9, 1876. ⁷*Ibid.*, Oct. 6, 1877. ⁸*Ibid.*, Dec. 4, 1880.

Chippewa. Formerly one of the best deer counties in the state. Grignon¹ relates that in the days of the fur trade the Chippewas at the Falls of the Chippewa River were given ammunition by a trader and told to bring in as many deer as they could kill. The

following night they brought in thirty. It was stated in November, 1877, that venison was never more plentiful and that about 50 carcasses were shipped from Chippewa Falls to the Chicago market every week.² Deer were quite plentiful in 1878, and 22 were shipped from the Falls on one day.³ It was feared in 1882 that deer would approach extinction at the rate at which they were being killed.⁴ Two years later three men killed 22 deer in the town of Big Bend.⁵ In 1885 one hunter, Sebe Miles, returned to Chippewa Falls with 20 "very nice" deer.⁶ A buck stated to weigh 300 pounds was on exhibition.⁷

One hunter reported deer very scarce in 1888. However, Dan Scommon killed 19 deer up to November 1, principally along the Jump River.⁸ It was reported in 1890 that more deer were killed that season on the Chippewa waters than ever before, and that they were increasing in number.⁹ Two years later they were again reported plentiful and it was estimated that during the month of November 200 carcasses were sold in Chippewa Falls.¹⁰ By 1900 deer were reduced to modest numbers. At Stanley only a small number were killed during the season of 1898 in comparison with the previous year.¹¹

¹ Grignon, Augustin. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 3 (1857) 240. ² *Chippewa Falls Herald*, Nov. 23; *Times*, Nov. 21, 1877. ³ *Chippewa Falls Times*, Oct. 2, 1878. ⁴ *Chippewa Falls Herald*, Dec. 22, 1882. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 21, 1884. ⁶ *Chippewa Falls Times*, Nov. 25, 1885. ⁷ *Chippewa Falls Herald*, Oct. 23, 1885. ⁸ *Chippewa Falls Times*, Nov. 14, 1888. ⁹ *Chippewa Falls Herald*, Dec. 5, 1890. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 2, 1892. ¹¹ *Stanley Republican*, Nov. 19, 1898.

Clark. A lady who cooked for a boarding house at Neillsville during the winter of 1851-52, prepared 21 deer that season.¹ During one week in November, 1864, Theodore Davis killed 14 deer and 4 bears in the town of Weston.² Deer were reported very plentiful in 1869, one hunter killing five in three days.³ A squaw, Kate Scott, killed about 20 deer in the county during the season of 1870.⁴ There was a protest from the village of Greenwood on the slaughter of deer during the season of 1873: "It has been no uncommon thing for the last eight or ten days to see deer passing down the road by the score and we might say by the hundred."⁵ Hundreds were hauled through Neillsville.⁶

Deer continued abundant for many years. A hunter in the town of Thorp killed 35 deer during the season of 1881.⁷ In 1887 deer were reported "very thick" on the North Fork of the Eau Claire River. Large numbers were killed in the county and shipped from Neillsville to Chicago during the last week of October.⁸

In 1889 it was said that Neillsville hunters seldom found any deer to kill; but at the same time loads of venison passed through

Thorp.⁹ It is probable that this venison originated in Taylor County. Deer were scarce in the town of Longwood in 1890.¹⁰ A considerable number of deer and bear were shipped from Granton during the season of 1893.¹¹ Hunters at Humbird had very poor success in 1897.¹² The following statement was made at Neillsville for the season of 1898: "We are unable to ascertain the number killed in this county during the twenty days' hunt but judging from the number shipped from this city alone the slaughter was great."¹³

¹ Neillsville *Republican and Press*, Dec. 15, 1910; *Proc. Wis. Hist. Soc.* for 1913. (1914) 126. ² Neillsville *Advocate*, Nov. 21, 1864; *Madison State Journal*, Nov. 29, 1864. ³ Neillsville *Republican*: *Madison State Journal*, Dec. 6, 1869. ⁴ Black River Falls *Banner*, Dec. 24, 1870. ⁵ Neillsville *Republican*, Nov. 15, 1873. ⁶ Neillsville *Press*, Nov. 14, 1873. ⁷ Colby *Phonograph*, Feb. 15, 1882. ⁸ Neillsville *True Republican*, Oct. 27, 1887; *Times*, Nov. 3, 1887. ⁹ Neillsville *Republican and Press*, Oct. 26, Nov. 23, 1889. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Oct. 23, 1890. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 19, 1893. ¹² *Ibid.*, Nov. 11, 1897. ¹³ *Ibid.*, Nov. 24, 1898.

Columbia. The information on deer in this county is limited. A few deer were seen near Kilbourn (Wisconsin Dells) the winter of 1857-58, but none were known to have been killed: "Mr. Prentis, who lives near here, and who has killed a number every season, informs us that he has not seen one this winter. A great many were destroyed last winter."¹ (The winter of 1856-57 was marked by deep snow.) Deer hunters at Portage were said to have had unusual success in 1866.² The fall of 1868, Joe Brickwell, town of Lewiston, killed five deer. He then went to the town of Lemonweir, Juneau County, and killed an additional 17 deer.³ In March, 1869, the tracks of three deer and six wolves led to the Wisconsin River near Kilbourn.⁴ In September, 1890, a deer was shot at Wyocena by Dick Lobdell.⁵ Deer were never exterminated in this county, a few persisting along the Wisconsin River.

¹ Kilbourn *Mirror*, Jan. 19, 1858. ² Portage *Reporter*: *Madison State Journal*, Dec. 3, 1866. ³ Portage *Register*, Feb. 6, 1869. ⁴ Kilbourn *Mirror*, March 24, 1869. ⁵ Portage *Register*, Sept. 27, 1890.

Crawford. This county had a large deer population and was a favorite hunting area until the latter part of the 19th century. An army officer stationed at Prairie du Chien wrote on Aug. 23, 1847: "Turkeys and deer are plenty in the woods."¹ Large numbers were reported killed in 1864 and 1868.² Many of the Boscobel gunners hunted in this county.³ Local venison sold in Prairie du Chien in December, 1882, at ten cents a pound.⁴ In the winter of 1882-83, Amos De Voe of Boscobel shot 12 deer in the county.⁵

¹ H., A. S. *Sport in the West. Porter's Spirit of the Times*, 17 (Sept. 11, 1847) 33. ² Prairie du Chien *Courier*: *Madison State Journal*, Nov. 29, 1864; Dec. 21, 1868. ³ Boscobel *Dial*, Dec. 4, 1874; Oct. 31, 1879; Dec. 3, 1880; Nov. 11, 1881. ⁴ Prairie du Chien *Courier*, Dec. 12, 1882. ⁵ Boscobel *Dial*, Jan. 5, 1883.

Dane. Jefferson Davis in 1829 camped on the site of Madison, where "Fish and water-fowl were abundant; deer and pheasants less plentiful."¹ In 1836, Featherstonhaugh² had occasional glimpses of deer with their fawns.

Deer must have increased greatly during the next few years for by 1847 the hunting was excellent. At this time about 100 Indians camped in the timber on the north side of Lake Mendota for some weeks and made a great slaughter of deer.³ A year later so many deer were offered for sale in Madison that the extermination of the species was feared.⁴ There may have been two "raids" by the Indians, or a confusion in dates. H. A. Tenney wrote: "The way they were slaughtered at times in mere sport, was a wicked waste. In 1849 the Winnebagoes camped near the present Insane Hospital. Spreading over the country, they drove all the deer of all kinds towards the center and killed all—sparing none. They had over 500 carcasses, when a band of citizens went over and drove them off, but the deer never recovered from that fatal raid."⁵

Good data on the abundance of deer in the county in the 1840's are given by Park.⁶ It was not uncommon in spring to see 20 to 30 deer in a herd at Blue Mounds. George Dow saw as many as 200 in a herd in the town of Cambridge, and often 75 to 100. The town of Deerfield was so named on account of the excellent hunting. The firing of the prairies by the Indians to drive out the deer was an event much dreaded by the settlers in the town of Burke. An early settler in the town of Berry wrote: "In those early times there were plenty of deer, and often as many as twenty-four head at a time were seen feeding upon the fields of winter wheat sown by the early settlers. The town was a favorite resort with the Indians . . . In the fall of 1848, about sixty-five of them and their families remained near my land, on section 27, for about six weeks, killing deer. When they prepared to depart, they loaded each of their ponies with a fresh killed deer, which they purposed carrying to Milwaukee to sell . . . The deer continued plentiful for a number of years, but the constant settling up of the Town, and the killing of them, made their appearance very scarce, so that the last deer known to have been killed in the town was by myself in 1856."

The winter of 1847-48, Mahlen Hasbrock and brother killed 103 deer in the town of Vermont.⁷ There was very little timber in the town at this time, the growth being chiefly brush and saplings.

The last deer was killed on the site of Madison in 1847. It was an old buck that had a trail over University Hill.⁸ Few deer

appear to have been killed in the county between 1850 and 1900. Local sportsmen went a distance to hunt. Two deer, seen at Arlington on August 28, 1881, were considered a rare sight.⁹ One was also seen in June of this year in the town of Westport.¹⁰ In December, 1884, no deer were known to have been killed in the county during the season.¹¹ An unusual event was the killing of a deer in Lake Mendota by Charles Freeman, of Madison, in November, 1889.¹² On November 13, 1897, a large deer was shot in the town of Verona by John Anderson.¹³ Another was killed in this town in November, 1898. It was stated to have weighed 340 pounds when killed and 220 pounds dressed. One of the weights, probably the former, must be incorrect. A herd of 22 deer in the town was believed to have descended from the two deer that escaped from a deer farm that Otto Tupfer kept in the town of Middleton several years previously.¹⁴ This is an unnecessary assumption as the deer may well have wandered in from the Wisconsin River bottoms as they do today.

⁹ Butler, J. D. *Taychoperah, the Four Lakes country*. Wis. Hist. Colls., 10 (1888) 75. ¹⁰ Featherstonhaugh, G. W. *A canoe voyage up the Minnay Sotor*. London, 2 (1847) 89. ¹¹ Madison *Argus*, Nov. 23, Dec. 24, 1847. ¹² *Ibid.*, Dec. 19, 1848. ¹³ Durrie, D. S. *A history of Madison*. Madison, (1874) 163; cf. W. J. Park, p. 394. ¹⁴ Park, W. J. *Madison, Dane County and surrounding towns*. Madison, (1877) 238, 269-70, 354, 369, 394, 432, 477, 489. ¹⁵ Butterfield, C. W. *History of Dane County, Wisconsin*. Madison, (1880) 934. ¹⁶ Durrie, l.c. ¹⁷ Madison *State Journal*, Sept. 5, 1881. ¹⁸ Madison *Democrat*, June 14, 1881. ¹⁹ Madison *State Journal*, Dec. 18, 1884. ²⁰ Milwaukee *Journal*, Nov. 19, 1889. ²¹ Madison *State Journal*, Nov. 15, 1897. ²² *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 1898.

Dodge. There is so little information for this county that deer must have been exterminated rather early. A hunter from Fox Lake shot a buck at Lost Lake in December, 1854.¹ A buck and two does were shot near Beaver Dam Pond at this time.² The following season deer were brought into Fox Lake almost daily.³

¹ Fox Lake *Times*: Milwaukee (d) *Democrat*, Dec. 22, 1854. ² Fox Lake *Times*: Milwaukee (d) *Democrat*, Jan. 9, 1855. ³ Fox Lake *Journal*: Milwaukee (w) *Wisconsin*, Dec. 23, 1856.

Door. The northern part of the peninsula was especially good for deer. Three hunters from Racine killed 50 deer during the season of 1873 at North Bay.¹ In 1874 two men from Racine killed 43 deer in the county in about a month's time.² There was an abundant crop of acorns the fall of 1877 and deer were unusually fat. An "immense number" were killed, an estimated 1500 for the county. The use of dogs was widespread in defiance of the law.³ Large quantities of venison from the county were shipped south through Kewaunee in 1880.⁴ In 1883 deer were considered more abundant than for several years. At North Bay they were found in the swamps. When driven from the latter, they took to the water and generally escaped.⁵ Five years later deer were considered scarce.⁶ Subsequently they were killed in limited num-

bers. In 1891 it was said that, "at the present rate of extermination there will not be a solitary one left in this region five years from now."⁷ The shooting of three deer on Chamber's Island is mentioned. A "large number" were killed in the northern part of the county in the fall of 1895.⁸ It was estimated that not over 25 were killed in the county in 1897, up to the middle of November.⁹

¹ Sturgeon Bay *Advocate*, Dec. 25, 1873. ² Kewaunee *Enterprise*: Racine *Advocate*, Jan. 16, 1875. ³ Sturgeon Bay *Advocate*, Nov. 29, Dec. 13, 1877. ⁴ Kewaunee *Enterprise*, Dec. 3, 1880. ⁵ Sturgeon Bay *Advocate*, Dec. 6, 1883. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 1888. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 7, 14, 1891. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 9, 1895. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1897.

Douglas. Many years elapsed before deer were common on the Brule River. In May, 1856, a deer was reported seen on the Nemadji River, about eight miles south of Superior. The comment was made that the animal seldom comes so close to Lake Superior.¹ At this time hunters went to the upper St. Croix for deer.² A few deer were seen on the headwaters of the Nemadji River in October, 1858,³ and a year later they were reported quite common a few miles west of Superior.⁴ In 1867 it was stated that deer were numerous, but that few were killed;⁵ however, when a deer was killed on the Nemadji River on January 1, 1874, it was still considered comparatively uncommon near Superior.⁶

Deer were uncommon until about 1875, after which date the increase was quite rapid. In December, 1876, one hunter killed twelve deer in a short time;⁷ and eleven years later the slaughter was "immense."⁸ In the fall of 1890 deer were reported plentiful due to the light snowfall of the last winter.⁹ During the hunting season of this year, N. Lucius and Company shipped about 200 saddles of venison from White Birch and Gordon.¹⁰ The following year it was estimated that 2800 deer were killed in the county, 2000 of which were shipped from three points.¹¹ A contemporary estimate placed the number of deer killed at the more probable figure of 1000.¹² Verwyst,¹³ writing in 1895, states that he was informed that 2500 deer were killed in one season in the county a few years previously. It was estimated that 1000 deer would be shipped from the county during the hunting season of 1897.¹⁴

¹ Superior *Chronicle*, May 13, 1856. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 1857. ³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 5, 1858. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Oct. 1, 22, 1859. ⁵ Superior *Gazette*: Madison *State Journal*, Jan. 7, 1868. ⁶ Superior *Times*, Jan. 3, 1874. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Dec. 15, 1876. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 1887. ⁹ *B. Shooting and Fishing*, 9 (2), (Nov. 6, 1890) 16. ¹⁰ Superior *Times*, Nov. 1, Dec. 13, 1890. ¹¹ Baraboo *Republic*, Dec. 10, 1891. ¹² Superior *Times*, Nov. 28, 1891. ¹³ Verwyst, C. Wis. *Hist. Colls.*, 13 (1895) 428. ¹⁴ Shell Lake *Watchman*, Nov. 6, 1897.

Dunn. The early abundance of deer in the "Big Woods" is discussed by Gibbs.¹ Deer were reported quite plentiful around Menomonie in 1872.² In 1873 deer were more plentiful than for

many years past and large quantities were brought to town; however, deer were reported scarce the following year.³ It was estimated that between 150 and 200 deer were killed in the winter of 1874-75 in the town of Tiffany, and only about 100 in the following season.⁴ In 1877, one hunter in the town of Knapp killed about 12 deer, and another in the town of Tiffany 21.⁵ A. H. Best and sons killed 57 deer in the town of Tiffany, and the Whisler brothers of the town of New Haven, 29, of which 16 were lost due to the warm weather.⁶ A total of 64 deer were killed in the town of Tiffany in the season of 1878.⁷ There is recorded the killing of 38 deer in the towns of Tiffany and Knapp in 1879.⁸ The seasons of 1880 and 1881 were poor.⁹ The fall of 1882, Josiah and Joshua Hicks of the town of Colfax killed 47 deer; Edwin Best of the town of New Haven, 37; and O. E. and C. M. Best of the town of Tiffany, 44.¹⁰ The season of 1883 was very poor.¹¹ Subsequently deer were killed in only modest numbers.¹²

In February, 1870, a lynx killed a deer near Menomonie. Undersheriff Doolittle set a trap and caught the lynx.¹³

¹ Gibbs, *O. Lake Pepin Fish-Chowder*. N. Y., (1869) 93-94. ² *Menomonie News*, Nov. 16, 1872. ³ *Ibid.*, Dec. 13, 1873; Oct. 24, 1874. ⁴ *Ibid.*, March 6, 1875; Jan. 1, 1876. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Dec. 15, 22, 1877. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Jan. 5, 19, 1878. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Feb. 1, 1879. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 29, Dec. 20, 1879. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, 1880; Dec. 17, 1881. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 23, 1882; Jan. 6, 1883. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Dec. 15, 22, 1883. ¹² *Ibid.*, Nov. 11, 1887; Nov. 20, 1890. ¹³ *Menomonie News: Chippewa Falls Herald*, Feb. 26, 1870.

Eau Claire. On December 10, 1860, a lot of 31 deer were brought to Eau Claire. About 50 were received within three days.¹ Five years later it was estimated that 3000 deer were brought to town over a period of three months.² Large loads of venison arrived in Eau Claire in 1867 and 1868.³ In 1870, a hunting party of four men secured one bear and 9 large deer in nine days.⁴ Two professional Augusta hunters, S. Hoag and Charles Martin, killed 102 deer in the season of 1871.⁵ A party hunting near Augusta in 1878 killed 18 deer.⁶ Deer were scarce and shy at Sumner, presumably in Barron County, in 1884.⁷ On December 12 of this year a band of forty Indians disposed of 35 saddles of venison obtained along the South Fork of the Eau Claire River.⁸

An old experienced hunter of Eau Claire, D. P. Graves, is credited with shooting three tons of venison "in the woods toward the Superior region" in 1886.⁹ The killing of deer in small numbers continued, but the county was no longer attractive to professional hunters.

¹ *Eau Claire Free Press*, Dec. 13, 1860. ² *Eau Claire Free Press: La Crosse Democrat*, Jan. 22, 1866. ³ *Eau Claire (w) Free Press*, Dec. 19, 1867; Dec. 3, 1868.

⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 22, 1870. ⁵ *Augusta Herald*, Jan. 6, 1872. ⁶ *Menomonee News*, Nov. 9, 1878. ⁷ *Eau Claire (d) Free Press*, Nov. 25, 1884. ⁸ *Eau Claire (d) Leader*, Dec. 14, 1884. ⁹ *Chippewa Falls Times*, Nov. 24, 1886.

Florence. Objections were made in 1882 to the presence of so many hunters from Ohio. Venison was being brought to Florence by the ton.¹ Deer were comparatively scarce in 1883, and it was thought that Florence might no longer be so extensive a "deer port" owing to the law prohibiting the shipping of venison from the state.² Fine hunting was reported for 1884.³ Foreign hunters were reported not as successful as usual in 1885; however, a party of five Ohio hunters within a month killed 25 deer at Patton Lake.⁴ The following year a party of four Ohio hunters killed 34 deer on the Little Popple River.⁵ C. S. Osborn killed 18 deer in 25 days on the Popple River in 1888.⁶ Venison was plentiful at the beginning of the season but later there was great scarcity.⁷ Deer were considered scarce in 1889 and it was estimated that only about 500 were killed.⁸

Only about one-half of the usual number of deer were killed in 1890;⁹ and they were scarce during the years following.¹⁰ The kill in 1897 was only about one-third of the usual number.¹¹ They were so scarce in 1898 that it was believed doubtful if more than 50 were killed in the county.¹² Comparatively few were killed in 1899 at the opening of the season.¹³

¹ *Florence Mining News*, Nov. 25, 1882. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 3, 24, 1883. ³ *Ibid.*, Dec. 13, 1884. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 14, 21, 1885. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 1886. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 3, 1888. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Oct. 13, 20, 27, 1888. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Aug. 24, Nov. 30, 1889. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 11, Nov. 22, 1890. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Oct. 24, 1891; Oct. 15, 29, Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 1892; Oct. 28, 1893; Oct. 20, 1894. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 6, 20, 1897. ¹² *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, 19, 1898. ¹³ *Ibid.*, Nov. 11, 1899.

Fond du Lac. Deer were comparatively scarce by 1865 and confined largely to the eastern edge of the county. A small number of deer were brought into Fond du Lac in the late fall of 1867. A load of eight deer was considered very unusual.¹ Venison was scarce and expensive in 1868 though a man in the town of Empire is stated to have killed 16 deer after a snowstorm.² Venison was plentiful in 1869 due to importation from the Black River, Outagamie County.³ Late in December of this year a considerable number of deer drifted into the towns of Forest and Marshfield but were soon killed.⁴

Deer were more numerous in the eastern part of the county during the season of 1870 than for some years.⁵ Venison, obtained locally, was also abundant in 1871.⁶

Hunters complained of scarcity of deer in 1872.⁷ From this date on only an occasional deer was reported killed. Venison was being received by express in 1872, the source of which is in doubt. Five men hunting in the "north" for five weeks killed 34 deer.⁸ Hunters were stated to have sent in "more than the usual

supply of venison" during the season of 1873. This is meaningless without further information.⁹ Venison at this time was being imported from Marinette.¹⁰

¹ Fond du Lac (w) *Reporter*, Nov. 30, Dec. 21, 28, 1867. ² Fond du Lac *Reporter*, Nov. 28; *Commonwealth*, Nov. 25, 1868. ³ Fond du Lac *Reporter*, Dec. 4, 1869. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Jan. 1, 1870. ⁵ Fond du Lac (w) *Commonwealth*, Nov. 19, 1870. ⁶ Fond du Lac *Reporter*, Dec. 9; *Commonwealth*, Dec. 23, 1871. ⁷ Fond du Lac (w) *Commonwealth*, Nov. 23, 1872. ⁸ Fond du Lac *Reporter*, Nov. 30, Dec. 28, 1872. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 8, 1873. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Nov. 15, 1873.

Forest. There is no early information. Much game, including deer, was obtained by hunters in 1888.¹ Indians bringing venison to Crandon in 1889 reported that there was not much game.² Deer was scarce the following season.³ Indians had only fair success with deer in 1892; however, M. S. Barker bought 1000 pounds of venison from them at Armstrong.⁴ On October 26, 1893, John Bowers brought to Eagle River ten deer that were killed in the northern part of Forest County.⁵ The complaint was made that deer were being exterminated by market hunters so that few were left for the local people. Very few were killed at Three Lakes.⁶

¹ Crandon *Republican*, Oct. 23, 1888. ² Crandon *Forest Leaves*, Nov. 28, 1889. ³ Crandon *Forest Leaves*, Nov. 6, 13; *Republican*, Nov. 26, 1890. ⁴ Crandon *Republican*, Nov. 24, 1892. ⁵ Eagle River *Democrat*, Oct. 28, 1893. ⁶ Crandon *Forest Leaves*, Nov. 2, 23, 1893.

Grant. When Hollman¹ settled at Platteville in 1828, deer, elk and other game were to be found in "astonishing quantities." Rev. Brunson² estimated that in the course of a ride of ten miles near Platteville on November 25, 1835, he saw the tracks of 50 deer. James Grushong, who arrived in 1832, often saw droves of thirty to forty running through the woods; and Daniel R. Burt saw herds of thirty feeding at one time.³ Concerning his arrival at Platteville, Evans wrote: "The first winter [1846-47] we were here there was a great snow, and deer were plentiful. Hunters brought venison into Platteville, and so great was the supply that they never thought of bringing the forequarters. Generally, they brought only the saddles, and sold these for two or three cents a pound."⁴ In October, 1877, David Connelley, living at Woodman, killed a buck weighing 220 pounds.⁵

¹ Hollman, F. G. *Auto-biography*. Platteville, n.d., p.3. (MS prepared in 1870). ² Brunson, A. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 15 (1900) 264. ³ Anon. *History of Grant County, Wisconsin*. Chicago, (1881) 552, 575. ⁴ Evans, J. H. *Proc. Wis. Hist. Soc. for 1909*. (1910) 240. ⁵ Boscobel *Dial*, Oct. 12, 1877.

Green. There is little information on the status of deer in this county. In 1845, Duerst¹ found at the site of New Glarus much game, including deer. Monroe sportsmen were hunting deer in the late fall of 1857, but their success was not stated.²

¹ Duerst, M. *Diary, 1845, of New Glarus Colony*. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 15 (1900) 333. ² Monroe *Sentinel*, Nov. 25, 1857.

Green Lake. Richard Dart settled in the county in 1840, when: "Deer were plentiful, except when they went south in winter to escape the cold."¹ This belief arose because the deer wintered in swamps and other sheltered places. Deer seem to have been exterminated at a relatively early date. The venison in the market at Princeton in 1873 was evidently brought in from abroad² as there are several references to hunters going north for deer. It is impossible to determine if the deer brought into Berlin in 1872 were killed locally or elsewhere.³

¹ Dart, Richard. *Proc. Wis. Hist. Soc. for 1909.* (1910) 260. ² *Princeton Republic*, Dec. 6, 1873. ³ *Berlin Courant*, Dec. 19, 1872.

Iowa. This was a good county for deer. Mrs. Daniel Ruggles, who came to Ridgeway in 1841, stated that during the first few years of her residence, hunters from Mineral Point, Madison, and Janesville came there to hunt for weeks at a time. In one season there were 17 dressed deer hanging in trees near the house.¹

Deer continued plentiful for many years. In 1852, C. A. Desilva, of Dodgeville, killed 23 in six days.² Two men, the winter of 1854-55, in a hunt of three or four days, killed 11 deer within a few miles of Mineral Point.³ They were reported plentiful as late as December, 1869.⁴ The origin of a load of venison sold in Mineral Point is not given.⁵ Four deer were seen at Avoca in December, 1871.⁶

¹ Anon. *History of Iowa County, Wisconsin.* Chicago, (1881) 602. ² *Mineral Point Tribune: Milwaukee Sentinel*, Dec. 9, 1852. ³ *Mineral Point Tribune*, Jan. 10, 1855. ⁴ *Lancaster Herald*, Dec. 21, 1869. ⁵ *Mineral Point Democrat*, Dec. 29, 1869. ⁶ *Black Earth Advertiser*, Dec. 14, 1871.

Iron. This county was late in acquiring deer in abundance. In 1874, Joe Current and his uncle killed about 20 deer at Moose Lake in a period of two weeks.¹ A drowned doe was found in Lake Lavina in May, 1886. During the open season deer were reported plentiful north of Hurley.² They were reported scarce before the opening of the season of 1889, but later plentiful around Hurley.³ Deer were unusually plentiful in 1890.⁴ It was stated in 1892 that deer were unknown at Hurley seven years previously⁵ (1885). One hundred deer hunters from Ohio and Indiana were reported living in special cars on the branch line of the Wisconsin Central in 1895.⁶

¹ *Ashland Press*, Dec. 5, 1874. ² *Hurley Miner*, May 13; Nov. 13, 1886. ³ *Ibid.*, Aug. 29, Nov. 7, 14, 1889. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Oct. 30, Nov. 20, 1890. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Dec. 3, 1892. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 1895.

Jackson. In one week in January, 1856, 200 deer were hauled into Sparta for shipment to New York City. They were purchased at four cents a pound from two men who killed them a

short distance north of Black River Falls.¹ At the same time a farmer living near Sparta returned with his second load of twenty deer that he had secured near Black River Falls.² In the fall of 1867, E. G. Slayton and brother of the town of Leon, Monroe County, killed 86 deer.³ These were probably shot in Jackson County.

Large quantities of venison were sold at Black River Falls in 1866 at six to eight cents a pound.⁴ Some deer were killed in 1868, but for some unexpressed reason there were fewer deer hunters in Jackson and Clark counties than for a number of years.⁵ Deer were reported "not very plenty" during the season of 1870.⁶ Three years later G. M. Bowman killed 17 deer in six to seven weeks within two to six miles of Black River Falls.⁷ A modest number was shot near Merrilan in 1882, and two were killed by a train.⁸

The season of 1893 was very poor at Merrilan.⁹ The deer population at this time was very low. Deer were unusually scarce in 1894 near Merrilan where only three or four deer were killed.¹⁰ The following season was equally poor.¹¹ Thirteen hunters from Baraboo spent a week at City Point and killed but two deer.¹² Only one deer was killed at Melrose during the season.¹³ Very few were killed in 1896.¹⁴ A total of 373 deer licenses was issued in the county in 1897, and somewhat over 10,000 for the state. There was complaint of illegal shipment of venison.¹⁵

¹ Sparta *Watchman*: Milwaukee (d) *Sentinel*, Jan. 16, 1856. ² Sparta *Watchman*: Milwaukee (d) *Sentinel*, Feb. 1, 1856. ³ Sparta *Eagle*, Jan. 23, 1867. ⁴ Black River Falls *Banner*: Madison *State Journal*, Dec. 6, 1866. ⁵ Black River Falls *Banner*, Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 1868. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Dec. 24, 1870. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Dec. 6, 1873. ⁸ Merrilan *Leader*, Dec. 1, 15, 1882. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 13, 20, 1893. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 2, 1894. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 15, 1895. ¹² *Ibid.*, Nov. 8, 1895. ¹³ Black River Falls *Banner*, Nov. 28, 1895. ¹⁴ Merrilan *Leader*, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 13, 1896. ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 12, 26, Dec. 10, 1897.

Jefferson, Deer were abundant at the time of settlement.¹ Cravath² refers to deer repeatedly. Caswell³ settled near Lake Koshkonong in 1837 and states: "Deer were rarely found on the prairie. They naturally took to the woods in fall and to the oak openings in the winter, for there they could always find acorns by pawing the snow for them. They would in winter herd together, and seek the oaks, sometimes in droves of fifty or more." Actually the deer used the prairies extensively in summer and fall. In winter the cover of tall grass and forbs was destroyed by burning or snow. Caton⁴ gives a long account of methods of hunting deer on the Illinois prairies.

In the fall of 1847, deer were uncommonly numerous.⁵ A hunter frequently returned with a deer after an absence of an hour or two. Venison sold in Watertown in the fall of 1849 at \$2.00 per 100 pounds.⁶ The Rock River woods were full of deer

during the winter of 1853-54, and hunters brought them in by the sleigh load.⁷

A good knowledge of the abundance of deer is obtained from Cartwright⁸ who settled in the Bark River Woods, town of Sullivan, Jefferson County, in 1842. The winter of 1842-43 he and a companion killed about 75 deer. He states: "The deer used to go into the oak openings at night to get acorns to eat. In the morning they would go into the swamps and stay during the day. We used to go out very early in the morning, and watch upon the runways. One time I killed four before sunrise.

"In one hunt I caught thirteen deer in three days. I have quite a number of times caught five in a single day. Once I got six in one day . . . In 1855, when I did some of my last hunting in Jefferson County, the deer were very scarce. There have, probably, not been a half dozen killed there since that time."

The date for the sharp decline of deer in Jefferson County given by Cartwright is approximately correct. In the fall of 1855 they were reported scarce in regions where they were quite numerous the year previously.⁹ Later it was reported that a Mr. Johnson had killed 40 during the season.¹⁰ In 1857, "Weasel"¹¹ reported deer so scarce around Watertown that it was not worth while hunting them. The shooting of a young deer at Watertown in November, 1856, is recorded.¹² During the winter of 1856-57, E. H. Pearse killed 30 deer in the woods between Watertown and Jefferson.¹³ Two deer were seen by Fred Seaver on the west shore of Rock Lake in the spring of 1867.¹⁴

¹ Keyes, Elisha W. *Early days in Jefferson County. Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 11 (1888) 416. ² Cravath, P. *Early annals of Whitewater, 1837-1867*. Whitewater, (1906) 18, 40, 49, 61, 84, 178, 189. ³ Caswell, Lucien B. *Reminiscences*. MS Wis. Hist. Soc. Lib. pp. 19, 20. ⁴ Caton, J. D. *The antelope and deer of America*. N. Y. (1877) 388-97. ⁵ *Watertown Pilot*, Dec. 8, 1847. ⁶ *Watertown Chronicle*, Sept. 5, 1849. ⁷ *Watertown Register*, Jan. 21, 1854. ⁸ Cartwright, David W. *Natural history of western wild animals*. Toledo (1875) 159, 161. ⁹ *Jefferson Jeffersonian*, Oct. 25, 1855. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Feb. 14, 1856. ¹¹ "Weasel". *Porter's Spirit of the Times*, N.S. 3 (Nov. 28, 1857) 202. ¹² *Watertown Democrat*, Nov. 8, 1856. ¹³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 5, 1857. ¹⁴ Hawkins, A. S. *Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci.*, 32 (1940) 57.

Juneau. Game was abundant prior to 1850.¹ In 1859 deer were plentiful on Bear Creek where the Indians killed seven in one day; and a Mr. Hurd, town of Clearfield, brought a load of venison to New Lisbon.² Deer abounded in 1869 and sold at five cents a pound.³ The number killed the following year was considerably lower owing to absence of snow and the low price of venison.⁴ They were considered plentiful in 1871, a dozen being brought into Mauston within a week.⁵ Few were killed in 1872 and 1873.⁶ In 1874 there was fine deer hunting at the "ranch" of Hon. T. McConnell in this county.⁷ Hunting, however, was not considered profitable.⁸

The hunting was moderately good in 1876 and 1877, quantities of venison being shipped by express.⁹ There was a decided drop in the amount of venison marketed in 1878.¹⁰ Up to the first week of December, 1882, 25 carcasses were brought to Mauston.¹¹ In November, 1887, a wagon load of deer passed through New Lisbon, where hunters were considered particularly successful; but game was scarce at Mauston.¹² In succeeding years deer were killed in only small numbers. Six deer were killed by Frank Allen, town of Lemonweir, in the season of 1889.¹³

¹ Kingston, J. T. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 8 (1879) 383, 397. ² *Mauston Star*, Sept. 28; *New Lisbon Argus*, Nov. 26, 1859. ³ *New Lisbon Argus*, Nov. 18, 25, 1869. ⁴ *Mauston Star*, Dec. 15, 1870; *New Lisbon Argus*, Jan. 12, 1871. ⁵ *Mauston Star*, Nov. 2, 30, 1871. ⁶ *New Lisbon Argus*, Nov. 21, 1872; Nov. 6, 13, Dec. 18, 1873. ⁷ *Princeton Republic*, Dec. 19, 1874. ⁸ *New Lisbon Argus*, Jan. 7, 1875. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 23, 30, Dec. 14, 1876; Nov. 15, 1877. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 26, 1878. ¹¹ *Mauston Star*, Dec. 7, 1882. ¹² *New Lisbon Argus*, Nov. 3, 10; *Mauston Star*, Nov. 17, 1887. ¹³ *Mauston Star*, Dec. 5, 1889.

Kenosha. This county comprised mainly prairie and oak openings. Lothrop¹ found deer so numerous in 1835 that in making a survey of twenty miles, 50 or more might be seen; occasionally as many as 20 in a herd. The letters of Quarles, written from Kenosha, have some interesting information:

November 7, 1837. "I am anticipating rare sport in shape of occational deer hunting this winter—they are very plenty—I have seen a large number—Last Wednesday saw seven in one drove 75 yards from me & discharged my shot gun but did not so much as friten them."

February 14, 1839. "Deer are very plenty. I have seen from 30 to 40 in a day Their meat is fat & much better flavour than at the east their food being different."²

¹ Lothrop, J. *Historical sketch of Kenosha County. Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 2 (1856) 462.

² Quarles, J. V. *Letters. Wis. Mag. Hist.* 16 (1933) 299, 310.

Kewaunee. Deer were common to abundant until about 1878. In January, 1874, venison continued to arrive in Ahnapee in abundance.¹ The winter of 1874-75 "John Feezier's boys" killed 40 deer and the winter previous 38.² In December, 1875, deer were numerous in the town of Montpelier and many were killed.³ They continued numerous in 1876 and 1877.⁴ Hunters were now going to Door County. One hunter from the town of Carlton brought home nine deer in 1878;⁵ and the following year a party of hunters from Kewaunee killed a deer at Whitefish Bay.⁶

Deer were reported very scarce in the towns of Carlton and Casco in 1881.⁷ In 1889 it was said that there were no deer in the county to kill.⁸ The sight of a deer in the town of Red River in December, 1894, was worthy of comment.⁹ In the fall of 1896

a large number of deer was reported seen in the town of Gardner.¹⁰

¹ Ahnapee Record, Jan. 8, 1874. ² Kewaunee Enterprise, Jan. 26, 1875. ³ Ibid., Dec. 4, 1875. ⁴ Ibid., Dec. 9, 1876; Nov. 9, 1877. ⁵ Ibid., Dec. 20, 1878. ⁶ Ibid., Oct. 24, 1879. ⁷ Ibid., Nov. 4, 18, 1881. ⁸ Ibid., Oct. 18, 1889. ⁹ Ibid., Dec. 28, 1894. ¹⁰ Ahnapee Record, Nov. 19, 1896.

La Crosse. One of the famous deer hunters of this county was Jack Rand. In December, 1862, he brought into La Crosse a load of 25 deer and reported that they were scarce and wild.¹ The following winter he killed and marketed 55 deer. Had it not been for the deep snow, he thought that he would have killed 100.² As late as 1871 many deer were killed within eight miles of La Crosse, chiefly in the Mormon Coulee. One deer was killed with a pistol within the city limits.³

¹ La Crosse Democrat, Dec. 24, 1862. ² Ibid., Jan. 15, 1864. ³ La Crosse (d) Democrat, Dec. 21, 1871.

Lafayette. The spring of 1834, when Rodolph¹ arrived at the present site of Darlington, he counted more than fifty deer in a herd. In 1853, when W. M. Curry arrived, deer were still abundant.² Several deer were killed in the fall of 1868 north of Darlington.³ Venison was plentiful in this village the following season.⁴

¹ Rodolf, T. *Pioneering in the Wisconsin Lead Region*. Wis. Hist. Colls., 15 (1900) 353. ² Curry, W. F. In *Commemorative biographical record of the counties of Rock, . . . and Lafayette, Wisconsin*. Chicago, (1901) 292. ³ Darlington Democrat, Dec. 11, 1868. ⁴ Ibid., Dec. 3, 1869.

Langlade. There is little information on this county. The end of November, 1883, three Shiocton hunters returned through Shawano with 9 deer obtained during a hunt of about a week's duration at Lily.¹ Another party passed through Shawano on November 30, 1886, with a wagon-load of deer shot in the neighborhood of Lily.² Venison was plentiful in the market at Antigo in October, 1889.³ A party of hunters from Manitowoc County secured 9 deer near Antigo, and found a set-gun, in the season of 1895.⁴ Alvin Smith of Antigo shot three deer in one day in the fall of 1897.⁵ Hunters managed to have venison on sale in Antigo by noon of the opening day in 1898.⁶

¹ Shawano Journal, Nov. 30, 1883. ² Ibid., Dec. 3, 1886. ³ Antigo Republican, Oct. 31, 1889. ⁴ Manitowoc Pilot, Nov. 21, 1895. ⁵ Antigo Republican, Nov. 11, 1897. ⁶ Antigo Item, Nov. 5, 1898.

Lincoln. David Finn homesteaded between Wausau and Merrill in 1860 and found deer very numerous.¹ In 1877 Hank Sails killed 9 deer up to the last week of November.² Deer were considered more abundant in the spring of 1879 than ever before.³ They were so abundant in 1882 that the statement was made that a person could not go more than 80 rods without seeing two or

three.⁴ There was an apparent scarcity for a number of years. In 1896 deer hunters had good success. Four hunters left Spirit Falls with 11 deer; however two good hunters living at Bay Mill did not get one.⁵ They were numerous at Spirit Falls in 1897,⁶ and especially plentiful in 1898.⁷ There were issued this season 361 deer licenses in comparison with 427 for 1897. Large shipments of venison were made from Tomahawk in 1900. It was estimated that 50 deer were killed within a radius of five or six miles of Heafford Junction.⁸

¹Merrill *Herald*, Feb. 22, 1921. ²Merrill *Advocate*, Nov. 24, 1877. ³*Ibid.*, June 16, 1879. ⁴*Ibid.*, June 26, Nov. 20, 1882. ⁵Tomahawk *Tomahawk*, Oct. 31, Nov. 7, 1896. ⁶*Ibid.*, Oct. 30, 1897. ⁷*Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 26, Dec. 3, 1898. ⁸*Ibid.*, Nov. 10, 17, 1900.

Manitowoc. Deer were numerous in 1859 and for some years afterwards.¹ In 1876 they were reported more numerous than for some years.² The next year several deer were shipped from Two Rivers.³ They were hunted at New Denmark (Cooperstown) in 1879.⁴ Great numbers were shipped through Manitowoc from the north in 1885.⁵ In 1887 deer were found close to the city limits of Manitowoc. One was shot in the swamp south of the city. Dogs chased a deer through the streets of Mishicot, and five deer were seen in the town of Liberty.⁶ Deer became rare before the end of the century. One was killed at English Lake in November, 1898: "There are said to be a number of deer in this county this year."⁷

¹Plumb, R. G. *A history of Manitowoc County*. Manitowoc, (1904) 6. ²Two Rivers *Chronicle*, Oct. 24, 1876. ³*Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1877. ⁴*Ibid.*, Nov. 19, 1879. ⁵Manitowoc *Times*, Dec. 1, 1885. ⁶Manitowoc *Times*, Oct. 27; *Pilot*, Oct. 29; Two Rivers *Chronicle*, Nov. 1, 26, 1887. ⁷Manitowoc *Pilot*, Nov. 10, 1898.

Marathon. David Finn settled between Wausau and Merrill in 1860 when deer were very numerous.¹ They remained numerous for many years afterwards.² It was stated in 1881 that the wolf had nearly disappeared while deer were becoming more numerous.³ Deer were unusually plentiful in the fall of 1887 and many were killed.⁴ The large number killed in 1899 was attributed to the fact that they were more numerous than usual.⁵

¹Merrill *Herald*, Feb. 22, 1921. ²Wausau *Pilot*, May 29, 1874; Nov. 18, 1876; Nov. 24, 1877; *Torch of Liberty*, Dec. 12, 1878. ³Wausau *Torch of Liberty*, Jan. 13, 1881. ⁴Wausau *Wisconsin*, Oct. 29, *Pilot and Review*, Oct. 18, 1887. ⁵Wausau *Wisconsin*, Nov. 25, 1899.

Marinette. Within historic time the valley of the Menominee was excellent deer territory. In 1869 they were reported unusually plentiful on the headwaters of the Peshtigo.¹ L. D. Gray, a professional hunter of Green Bay, killed 26 deer along the Menominee during the season of 1871. He killed 68 deer in each of the years 1869 and 1870.² A party of five men from Appleton and Neenah killed 48 deer in the same region in the fall of 1872.³ The same year three hunters from De Pere killed 23 large deer

along the Menominee.⁴ They were killed in large numbers in 1874.⁵ A protest arose in 1886 against the wholesale slaughter of deer and the shipment of the carcasses to Chicago.⁶ Two years later hunters had poor success and venison was scarce in the Marinette markets.⁷ Opinions differed on the season of 1889. At Marinette the kill was the smallest ever known. It was claimed that Peshtigo hunters killed more deer than were reported for any other section of the state.⁸ Three hunters killed 15 deer in the vicinity of the Peshtigo River.⁹

Deer were killed in only modest numbers during the next decade. They were reported scarce in 1891, 1893 and 1895.¹⁰ The shooting was better in 1896. A party of Peshtigo hunters shot about 15 deer on the headwaters of the Thunder and Peshtigo rivers and seven were displayed in a Marinette market. A farmer at Pound killed five deer but other hunters from this village had very poor success.¹¹ They were reported plentiful in 1900,¹² probably in contrast with recent years.

¹ Oconto *Lumberman*: *Madison State Journal*, Nov. 25, 1869. ² *Green Bay Advocate*, Jan. 4, 1872. ³ *Appleton Crescent*, Dec. 14, 1872. ⁴ *De Pere News*, Jan. 11, 1873. ⁵ *Marinette and Peshtigo Eagle*, Oct. 17, 1874. ⁶ *Marinette Eagle*, Nov. 27, 1886. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 1888. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 30, 1889. ⁹ *Green Bay Gazette*, Nov. 21, 1889. ¹⁰ *Marinette Eagle*, Nov. 7, 1891; Oct. 14, 1893; Nov. 9, 16, 30, 1895. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, 1896. ¹² *Ibid.*, Oct. 27, 1900.

Marquette. John Muir was cited previously on the early abundance of deer in this county. On November 25, 1876, Fred Pond, who subsequently became a noted writer on sports, and a companion went on their first deer hunt. A deer that was shot eight miles northwest of Westfield was not recovered until the next day, by which time it had been nearly consumed by wolves.¹ A doe was shot and another deer wounded in the town of Springfield on November 21, 1877.² Deer were killed also in 1879.³ In 1882, "quite a number" were shot west of Westfield and shipped from that village.⁴ The following season five deer were brought into Westfield and several were seen between Westfield and Lawrence on December 18.⁵ In the fall of 1889 a butcher at Montello purchased a deer from Chippewa Falls since venison "is a scarce article in this section."⁶ It is doubtful if the county was ever without deer as these animals would drift in from Adams County.

¹ *Montello Express*, Dec. 9, 1876. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 24, 1877. ³ *Ibid.*, Dec. 20, 1879. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 4, Dec. 9, 1882. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 24, Dec. 22, 1883. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 9, 1889.

Milwaukee. Deer persisted in the Milwaukee area for a long time. In 1839 they were still so common that they could be seen almost daily: "How plainly I can see, after all these years, the beautiful young mother and the fine looking father coming

through the big trees on their horses, just as the sun was going down, each with a gun across the front of the saddle and each with a deer strapped at the back of the saddle with its legs hanging down and its horns standing out—for the little mother was a fine shot and could bring down her own game on earth or in the air as well as any man could."¹

The severe winter of 1842–43, venison was so plentiful in Milwaukee that it was difficult to give it away.² A marked scarcity might have been expected afterwards, but in January, 1844, a Capt. Sanderson secured six deer within ten to twelve miles of the city.³ They continued to be common until 1852. In December of this year several were shot near town.⁴ On about November 4, 1858, a deer was driven into the old Milwaukee harbor and killed.⁵

¹Fitch, Martha E. *Wis. Mag. Hist.*, 9 (1925) 81. ²Milwaukee *Sentinel*, Feb. 15, 1843. ³*Ibid.*, Jan. 20, 1844. ⁴*Ibid.*, Dec. 11, 28, 30, 1852. ⁵Milwaukee (d) *Wisconsin*, Nov. 4; *Sentinel*, Nov. 5, 1858.

Monroe. There is no information showing that Monroe County was especially good for deer. Even in the 1850's the hunters from this county went mainly to Jackson County as will be observed under Jackson County.

Oconto. In 1863 deer were so plentiful as to appear at the edge of the village of Oconto.¹ They were reported plentiful in 1874 and 1875.² Deer were plentiful in 1876 but hunters had poor success in the absence of snow.³ Many were killed in 1877.⁴ Considerable venison was shipped from Oconto in 1878. The party of Pensaukee hunters who "came down" with 23 deer after a hunt of three weeks may have shot them in Marinette County.⁵ Hunting was good the year following.⁶ The reports for 1881 were mixed. Three men in killing three deer had "remarkable success"; yet, a party of five hunters brought in 22 deer.⁷ Large numbers were killed in 1886 and 1889.⁸ The shooting appears to have been overdone in the latter year, for in 1891 the number killed was only one-half that of two years previously.⁹ A further decrease was recorded for 1893.¹⁰

¹Oconto *Pioneer*, Nov. 6, 1863. ²Oconto *Reporter*, Feb. 7, 1874; Oct. 16, Dec. 18, 1875. ³*Ibid.*, Nov. 25, Dec. 9, 1876. ⁴*Ibid.*, Jan. 5, 1878. ⁵*Ibid.*, Nov. 23, 30, 1878. ⁶*Ibid.*, Dec. 13, 1879. ⁷*Ibid.*, Oct. 22, Dec. 10, 1881. ⁸*Ibid.*, Oct. 2, Nov. 20, 1886; Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, 1889. ⁹*Ibid.*, Dec. 4, 1891. ¹⁰*Ibid.*, Nov. 11, 1893.

Oneida. Deer do not appear to have become numerous until the latter part of the 19th century. A large number were brought into Rhinelander in 1892.¹ The poor season of 1893 was attributed to a change in the game laws, forest fires in September, and the depredations of wolves.² Due to the local low price of five to six cents per pound on carcasses, many deer were shipped out of

Rhineland in 1894.³ Deer were "quite plentiful" in 1895.⁴ In 1897 only a few were killed at Pratt Junction,⁵ but they were considered more plentiful at Minocqua than for some years.⁶ Deer were plentiful around Minocqua in 1898 and a large number was killed.⁷ Though numerous at Rhineland, but few were killed due to the absence of snow.⁸ Large numbers were shot at Minocqua in 1899 and 1901.⁹

¹ Rhineland *Herald*, Nov. 19, 1892. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 4, 1893. ³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 27, 1894. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Oct. 26, 1895. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1897. ⁶ *Minocqua Times*, Nov. 11, 1897. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 24, 1898. ⁸ *Rhineland Herald*, Nov. 12, 1898; *Two Rivers Chronicle*, Nov. 15, 1898. ⁹ *Minocqua Times*, Nov. 16, 1899; Nov. 21, 28, 1901.

Outagamie. Mrs. M. A. Bristol¹ attended a wedding at Grand Kaukaulin in 1829, when, among other meats, venison was served. Following a light snowfall in November, 1854, many deer were killed within one to two miles of Appleton.² An immense number was killed in February, 1857, when the snow was crusted. Two Indians killed 14 deer in the town of Center on February 14.³ So many deer were killed in 1860 that venison sold for four cents per pound.⁴ They were numerous again in 1861,⁵ and unusually so in 1868, when the slaughter had not been equalled since the crusted snow of 1857. Set-guns were reported in use in the northern part of the county.⁶

Deer were quite plentiful in 1869, one hunter killing four in one day.⁷ They were reported unusually numerous around Shiocton in 1870.⁸ They were reported plentiful again in 1871 and 1872.⁹ More deer than usual were killed in the county in 1875.¹⁰ In 1876 they were exceptionally plentiful at Seymour and a large number was killed in February, 1857, when the snow was crusted. that 150 deer were killed within a radius of five miles from Shiocton.¹² Appleton hunters returning from the "north" in 1888 reported deer very scarce.¹³ Only a few deer were killed at Shiocton in 1897, due to the dryness of the woods.¹⁴

¹ Bristol, Mrs. M. A. *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 8 (1879) 303. ² *Appleton Crescent*, Nov. 18, 1854. ³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 21, 1857. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 1, 22, 1860. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 30, 1861. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Dec. 12, 19, 26, 1868. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, 1869. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 19, 1870. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Dec. 16, 1871; Nov. 16, 1872. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 9, 1875. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Dec. 7, 1876. ¹² *Milwaukee (d) Sentinel*, Dec. 12, 1878. ¹³ *Appleton Crescent*, Nov. 10, 1888. ¹⁴ *Shiocton News*, Nov. 26, 1897.

Ozaukee. The winter of 1838-39 was spent by Vieau¹ at what is now the site of Port Washington. He took to Milwaukee by ox-team loads of venison and wild turkeys. Ficker² settled in the town of Mequon while deer were still plentiful. He states that during the winter of 1852-53 there were 80 to 90 deer along Lake Michigan, about five miles east of his place, and that more than 50 were killed in one small area.

¹ Vieau, Sr., A. J. *Narrative. Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 11 (1888) 231. ² Ficker, C. T. *Wis. Mag. Hist.*, 25 (1942) 348.

Pepin. This small county is situated at the mouth of the Chippewa River, which was known to the early French as Bon Secours, or Good Succor, from the abundance of deer and other large game animals. Prior to the winter of 1856–57, deer still occurred in large numbers. The snow was four feet deep on the level that winter and the deer population never recouped its losses.¹

¹ Curtiss-Wedge, F. *History of Buffalo and Pepin Counties, Wisconsin*. Winona, (1919) 1004.

Pierce. Deer hunting was very rewarding. In the winter of 1856–57, three men killed over 200 deer and several elk in the region between the Trimble and Rush rivers.¹ Many were killed in the county in 1868 and in 1872.² In the latter year deer were plentiful and in excellent condition at Bay City where one herd of 15 was seen.³ The population dwindled gradually to a small number. A deer seen in the town of El Paso on November 18, 1900, was believed to be the only one seen in the county for several years.⁴

¹ Prescott *Transcript*, Feb. 14, 1857. ² Prescott *Journal*, Dec. 11, 1868; Ellsworth *Herald*, Nov. 20, 1872. ³ Prescott *Transcript*, Dec. 12, 1872. ⁴ Ellsworth *Herald*, Nov. 22, 1900.

Polk. Deer were fat and abundant in 1865.¹ A great number were killed in the last two weeks of October, 1866. Two of the deer weighed 229 $\frac{3}{4}$ and 245 pounds respectively.² The scarcity of deer in 1867 was blamed on the Indians.³ James Bailey, town of Farmington, rode a belled horse in hunting and sometimes shot five to eight deer in one day.⁴ Deer were plentiful in 1873. Z. M. Frasier of Clam Falls came into St. Croix Falls with 20 deer that he sold at five cents per pound. The following report on this season appeared from the town of Lincoln: "Worthy Prentice and a partner have killed 75 deer during the winter; W. D. Thompson, 40; J. Tomkins, 30; and George Dunham about the same number."⁵ A dealer in Osceola purchased about 75 deer at seven cents a pound, and shipped them to T. D. Randall, Chicago, receiving 121 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound.⁶

George Reed, of Clear Lake, killed 25 deer and one bear in the season of 1877 up to December 1.⁷ During the same season Matt Young, town of Eureka, killed six deer in one day; and H. F. Muzzey, town of Luck, shot 26 deer from November 6 to December 1.⁸ During the season of 1879, one hunter killed 35, and another 25 deer at Clear Lake.⁹ The shooting was good at this place in 1880.¹⁰ A hunting party from Osceola returned with 15 deer.¹¹ Messrs. Grimes and Muzzey of Clear Lake killed 84 deer in 1882.¹² The following year deer were scarce.¹³ In 1884, a hunting

party that spent a month in the woods returned with only 14 deer.¹⁴ Subsequently deer were killed in only limited numbers.¹⁵

¹ *Osceola Press*, Aug. 16, 1865. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 3, 1866. ³ *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, 1867. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 24, 1869. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 1, Dec. 27, 1873. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Jan. 10, 1874. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Dec. 8, 1877. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Dec. 22, 29, 1877. ⁹ *Clear Lake News*, Jan. 30, 1880. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Nov. 20, 1880. ¹¹ *Osceola Press*, Dec. 11, 1880. ¹² *Clear Lake News*, Nov. 3, Dec. 29, 1882. ¹³ *Osceola Press*, Dec. 1, 1883. ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Dec. 6, 1884. ¹⁵ *Osceola Press*, Nov. 29, 1890; *St. Croix Falls Standard*, Nov. 21, 1895; *Osceola Press*, Nov. 13, 1897.

Portage. During the first four days of December, 1855, T. J. Townsend killed 17 deer in the town of Amherst.¹ Deer were so plentiful at Plover in 1864 that a dozen was killed by each of two hunters.² In December, 1874, a Fond du Lac hunter returned with seven deer shot near Stevens Point.³ Two hunters killed "some thirty deer" and three bears near Junction City in 1875.⁴ In 1877 deer were reported quite numerous near Stevens Point.⁵ A large number of deer were killed in 1879. One Asa Mathewson was reputed to be particularly skillful at this business. He killed 10 in one week.⁶ On Nov. 6, 1881, W. G. Bailey shot a lynx while it was eating a deer. The lynx had evidently killed the deer as the latter was still warm.⁷ Deer were shot in numbers along the Plover River in 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, and 1886.⁸ On November 7, 1887, Frank Slusser, town of Linwood, brought to Stevens Point seven deer killed a few miles north of the city. Deer were reported plentiful in 1887.⁹ Some deer were killed in 1888, but the county had ceased to be an attractive hunting area. On November 17, 1889, four men hunted a day on White River without seeing a deer.¹⁰

¹ *Waupaca Spirit*: Milwaukee (d) *Democrat*, Dec. 28, 1855. ² *Plover Times*: Madison *State Journal*, Dec. 15, 1864. ³ *Fond du Lac Reporter*, Dec. 12, 1874. ⁴ *Grand Rapids Reporter*, Dec. 9, 1875. ⁵ *Fond du Lac Commonwealth*, Nov. 17, 1877. ⁶ *Stevens Point Gazette*, Oct. 22, Nov. 5, 12, 26, 1879. ⁷ *Stevens Point Democrat*, Nov. 12, 1881. ⁸ *Stevens Point Gazette*, Oct. 25, 1882; *Democrat*, Nov. 3, 1883; *Democrat*, Nov. 22, 1884; *Gazette*, Nov. 18, 1885; *Gazette*, Nov. 10, 1886. ⁹ *Stevens Point Gazette*, Nov. 9, 1887. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Nov. 20, 1889.

Price. Information on deer in this county is limited. Shields¹ states that a Mr. Fewell shipped over 3000 pounds of venison from Phillips about 1880. Deer were reported abundant in 1881 and 1882;² then the statement was made that not a single deer track was reported the winter of 1883-84.³ Small numbers of deer were reported killed up to 1888. This year they were stated to be plentiful but that few had been brought to Phillips.⁴ They were scarce around Prentice in 1896.⁵

¹ Shields, G. O. *Rustlings in the Rockies*. Chicago, (1883) 282. ² *Phillips Badger*, Aug. 31, 1881; Dec. 6, 1882. ³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 13, 1884. ⁴ *Phillips Times*, Oct. 20, 1888. ⁵ *Prentice Calumet*, Oct. 30, 1896.

Racine. Dyer, who lived in the town of Burlington, wrote: "In the winter of 1839, one hundred and five deer, by actual count, were seen to ford Fox River near the claim of Mr. [David] Bush-

nell."¹ A few years later Bottomley,² who settled near Rochester, did not report deer plentiful. In the spring of 1847, he and two other hunters succeeded in killing three deer. A note from Racine, dated July 18, 1849, reads: "There are deer here, but not so abundant as they once were."³ A deer was seen in the northern outskirts of Racine in January, 1872.⁴ In December, 1887, a wolf hunter found the tracks of a deer in the western part of the county along the Fox River. This deer was reported killed later at Burlington.⁵

¹Dyer, C. E. *Official record of the Old Settlers Society of Racine County*. (1871) 61. ²Quaife, Milo M. *An English settler in pioneer Wisconsin: the letters of Edwin Bottomley*. Madison, (1918) 70, 152. ³B. and S. *Sporting in Wisconsin*. *Porter's Spirit of the Times*, 19 (Aug. 11, 1849) 295. ⁴Racine *Argus*: *Madison State Journal*, Jan. 13, 1872. ⁵Racine *Journal*, Dec. 21, 1887.

Richland. A party of hunters from Mineral Point returned from Richland County early in January, 1855, with between 30 and 40 deer, and 10 bears.¹ The county contributed many deer to the market. An article, dated January 5, 1857, in a Madison paper states: "A hunter in town today says the woods are full of slain deer, and that they will be brought to town with a perfect rush as soon as the snow will permit. The snow is so very deep that the deer are easily hunted down and captured, but it is difficult to get them out of the woods. He states that himself and one or two others have about forty hung up on trees awaiting an opportunity to get them to market."²

It is doubtful if the above pertains to Dane County at this date. Furthermore, four days later an item referring to the slaughter of deer states that 108 deer arrived in the city from Richland County for shipment east by rail.³ The lot weighed ten tons, giving an average of 185 pounds. Apparently only the largest deer were brought in for shipment.

Market hunting reduced the number of deer rather rapidly. In January, 1856, it was stated: "Richland County, we will venture to say, has furnished more venison for the eastern markets this winter, than has any other county in the State. Every few days, wagon loads of whole deer pass through this village for Madison and Milwaukee. We fear that our forest will soon be stripped of this kind of game."⁴

A year later few deer were brought to market and most of these were consumed locally.⁵ They were considered quite plentiful up to 1868.⁶ In December, 1881, none was known to have been killed in the county.⁷ The DeVoe brothers of Boscobel shot four deer at Lone Rock in October, 1884.⁸

¹Mineral Point *Tribune*, Jan. 10, 1855. ²Madison *Argus* and *Democrat*, Jan. 5, 1857. ³*Ibid.*, Jan. 9, 1857. ⁴Richland Center *Observer*, Jan. 29, 1856. ⁵*Ibid.*, Dec. 23, 1856. ⁶*Ibid.*, Nov. 19, 1868. ⁷Richland Center *Republican* and *Observer*, Dec. 1, 1881. ⁸Boscobel *Dial*, Oct. 28, 1884.

Rock. In December, 1852, two Milwaukee men hunted two days on Rock Prairie and killed five deer and seven wild turkeys.¹ Deer are stated to have disappeared from the vicinity of Janesville by 1856;² however, a farmer on January 7, 1875, brought to this city three deer that he had shot two days previously.³

¹ Milwaukee *Sentinel*, Dec. 30, 1852. ² Guernsey, O. *History of Rock County*. Janesville, (1856) 173. ³ Janesville *Gazette*, Jan. 7, 1875.

Rusk. A deer weighing 276 pounds dressed was killed on Deer Tail Creek in the fall of 1885.¹ Two men hunted on this creek for ten days in 1887 and returned with eight deer.² A load of 19 deer, killed near Bruce, passed through Chippewa Falls, in November, 1889.³ In November, 1897, it was stated that 25 to 30 deer, shipped from Bruce, passed nightly through Rhinelander.⁴

¹ Chippewa Falls *Times*, Oct. 7, 1885. ² Chippewa Falls *Herald*, Nov. 11, 1887. ³ Chippewa Falls *Times*, Nov. 20, 1889. ⁴ Rhinelander *Herald*, Nov. 13, 1897.

Saint Croix. The number of deer killed in the 1850's was very impressive. The winter of 1854-55 a farmer up the St. Croix killed about fifty deer, and two other men 30 within ten days.¹ The following season a company under Joseph Lagrue of Hudson killed 76 deer and five bears in ten days. Guy Salisbury and a companion shot 26 deer in five days, and other hunters did nearly as well.² Four men killed 133 deer on Apple River.³ In February, 1856, a man from Apple River brought to Prescott a load of 16 deer, the last of 200 that he had transported during the winter.⁴ There seemed no end to the deer brought into Hudson during the winter of 1858-59. A lot of 60 to 70 deer was awaiting shipment to St. Paul.⁵ In January, 1860, a hunter killed 11 deer in a week within five miles of Hudson.⁶

Deer were abundant in 1863.⁷ The season following one hunter shot five deer in one forenoon.⁸ In the fall of 1865, J. E. Bartlett of Hudson killed 9 deer in one night by fire-hunting.⁹ Elias Grimes, town of Emerald, killed 8 deer in one day in the season of 1869.¹⁰ At this time a Mr. Bailey, town of Knapp, shot 31 deer up to December 1; and W. Briggs, town of Eau Galle, in one day killed 11 deer and wounded three others which were secured the following morning.¹¹ In the winter of 1871-72, George Reed killed 91 deer, eleven of which were secured in a single day.¹² The Bailey family, of the town of Knapp, "shot or otherwise got in their possession" 68 deer in the fall of 1875. Nearly 100 deer were shipped from Baldwin.¹³ Only a few deer were killed at New Richmond during this season.¹⁴ The locality from which H. F. Muzzy, of Star Prairie, returned after killing 42 deer is not stated.¹⁵

The year 1880 appears to have been the last when deer were killed in quantity. In general, hunters were not very successful; however, George Reed, town of Cylon, killed about 30 deer.¹⁰ There was a scarcity of venison in the Baldwin markets in 1889.¹⁷

¹ Hudson Star, April 11, 1855. ² *Ibid.*, Dec. 12, 1855. ³ *Ibid.*, Feb. 6, 1856. ⁴ Prescott Transcript, Feb. 8, 1856. ⁵ Hudson Star: Milwaukee (d) Sentinel, Feb. 22, 1859. ⁶ Hudson Star: Milwaukee (d) Sentinel, Jan. 31, 1860. ⁷ Hudson Star: Madison State Journal, Nov. 17, 1863. ⁸ Hudson Star: Madison State Journal, Dec. 8, 1864. ⁹ Madison Capitol, Sept. 5, 1865. ¹⁰ Osceola Press, Dec. 31, 1869; Hudson Star, Jan. 5, 1870. ¹¹ Hudson Star and Times, Dec. 1, 1869; Jan. 21, 1870. ¹² New Richmond Republican: Milwaukee (d) Sentinel, Jan. 16, 1872. ¹³ Hudson Star and Times, Dec. 17, 1875. ¹⁴ New Richmond Republican, Dec. 1, 1875. ¹⁵ New Richmond Democrat, Jan. 22, 1880. ¹⁶ Hudson Star and Times, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, 1880. ¹⁷ Baldwin Bulletin, Nov. 29, 1889.

Sauk. In 1854, three men hunting for five days killed 16 deer and 2 bears north of the Baraboo River.¹ The last week in December, 1856, A. Lezert, of Baraboo, shot five deer.² A herd of 11 deer was seen at Marble Ridge, near Reedsburg, in April, 1875.³ The following year deer were reported more numerous than for several years, and it was estimated that thirty were killed in the county in one week.⁴ The county has an area of 840 square miles and in 1889 the deer population was estimated at 200.⁵ Hunters were attracted from a distance. In 1889 and 1892, Pearl De Voe of Boscobel killed deer near Spring Green.⁶ At no times have the deer been exterminated in this county.

¹ Milwaukee (d) Democrat, Dec. 19, 1854. ² Baraboo Republic, Jan. 3, 1857. ³ Reedsburg Free Press, April 15, 1875. ⁴ Baraboo Republic, Nov. 29, 1876. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1889. ⁶ Boscobel Dial, Dec. 12, 1889; Dec. 1, 1892.

Sawyer. The early history is unknown. Deer were plentiful in 1884 and a considerable number was killed.¹ The following season they were very scarce.² The fall of 1886, Milo Russell killed 12 deer.³ Many deer were killed in the fall of 1892: "Henry Belden, George Moore and Sebe Brown killed twenty-six large deer last month. They made a business of it and sent them to Milwaukee."⁴

¹ Hayward News, Nov. 15, Dec. 27, 1884. ² *Ibid.*, Oct. 24, 1885. ³ Hayward Journal-News, Nov. 6, 1891. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, Dec. 9, 1892.

Shawano. Early accounts are wanting. Deer were abundant in the fall of 1873 and again in 1874.¹ During the next decade there were many accounts of deer killed but nothing on their abundance. In the fall of 1877, A. K. Porter killed a deer in the town of Waukechon that weighed 285 pounds dressed.² Sixteen deer were brought into Tigerton in one day during the first week of December, 1881.³ They were quite numerous in the town of Angelica in 1882, and large numbers were killed along the Lake Shore Railroad.⁴ Large numbers were killed in the fall of 1884, several parties returning with 20 to 30 deer.⁵ In the fall of 1885 a party of three hunters returned from "the up country" with

29 deer.⁶ It is to be assumed that the large kills were made in the counties to the north. A man named Lucia found a herd of seven deer in the Indian reservation in the fall of 1887 and killed three of them. At this time three deer that had been feeding in a wheatfield at the edge of Shawano were shot.⁷ Deer were reported scarce in 1889.⁸ They were plentiful "up north" in 1890, a party shooting 13 in two days.⁹ In November, 1892, the hunting was poor in the town of Almon, but many deer were "sent down from the woods."¹⁰

¹ *Shawano Journal*, Nov. 8, 1873; Nov. 28, 1874. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 3, 1877. ³ *Oshkosh Times*, Dec. 10, 1881. ⁴ *Shawano Journal*, Dec. 1; *Advocate*, Nov. 9, 1882. ⁵ *Shawano Advocate*, Dec. 11, 1884. ⁶ *Shawano Journal*, Nov. 27, 1885. ⁷ *Shawano Advocate*, Nov. 3, 10, 1887. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Oct. 24, 1889. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 20, 1890. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 24, 1892.

Sheboygan. Deer were reported more plentiful in the fall of 1868 than for several years.¹ There is no information that deer were at all abundant at this time. In 1870 venison was on sale in Sheboygan, to which place were brought five deer killed in the northern part of the county.² The killing of a deer at Elkhart Lake on November 3, 1873,³ is followed by a long silence. In 1892, an "unusual event" was the killing of a deer in the town of Greenbush. Shortly afterwards another was wounded but not secured.⁴ In 1895 the hunting of deer in the county was prohibited for five years. Nevertheless, in the fall of 1895 a large deer was killed illegally by Louis Reiss.⁵ A herd of four deer was seen in the town of Greenbush in October, 1896.⁶

¹ *Sheboygan Herald: Madison State Journal*, Dec. 16, 1868. ² *Sheboygan Herald*, Dec. 16, 23, 1870. ³ *Plymouth Reporter*, Nov. 6, 1873. ⁴ *Sheboygan Times*, Nov. 19, 26, 1892. ⁵ *Plymouth Review*, Dec. 4, 1895. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Oct. 14, 1896.

Taylor. Apparently this was a good county for deer but there is no information that they were killed in large numbers. Several were seen near Medford in November, 1875.¹ They were reported plentiful and being killed in every direction in 1877.² The hunting was good in 1881.³ Venison was a drug on the market in the season of 1883. At a price of five cents a pound, there was little inducement to ship many.⁴ Hunters were not very successful in 1885, deer being scarce and the woods noisy. Hunters northward on the Penokee Range were reported having good success.⁵ The following season was no better.⁶ In the years 1887 to 1889, hunters were very successful.⁷

Hunters were reported more numerous than deer in 1890.⁸ The killing of eight deer by Adam Christman in the season of 1891 may be considered a feat.⁹ Venison was plentiful the year following. On November 23 a load of 20 deer shot by four Indians was brought to Medford.¹⁰ The poor success in the season of 1893 was attributed to lack of snow and noisy woods.¹¹ The Stratton broth-

ers from Jackson County hunted near Medford in 1895 and reported deer plentiful.¹² In 1897 deer were shipped daily from Medford the first week of the season. There were 440 hunting licenses issued in the county.¹³ A party of five men hunted a week to obtain seven deer in 1898.¹⁴ In 1899 deer were reported plentiful throughout the county.¹⁵

¹ Medford News, Nov. 25, 1875. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 24, 1877. ³ Medford Star and News, Nov. 5, 1881. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 24, 1883. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Oct. 31, 1885. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 13, 1886. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 1887; Nov. 3, 1888; Nov. 9, 23, 1889. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 15, 1890. ⁹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 28, 1891. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, 26, 1892. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 28, 1893. ¹² Black River Falls Banner, Nov. 21, 1895. ¹³ Medford Star and News, Nov. 6, 27, 1897. ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, 1898. ¹⁵ *Ibid.*, Oct. 28, 1899.

Trempealeau. When Bunnell¹ came to Trempealeau in June, 1842, deer were abundant. James Reed took his rifle and was gone from the cabin only a few minutes before he returned with a deer. Reed remarked that, "the bluffs are full of deer; though they hide at this season of the year." Fire-hunting was much in vogue. Four deer spent a forenoon in the outskirts of Arcadia in December, 1877.² A few remained in the county in the 1890's.

¹ Bunnell, L. H. *Winona and its environs.* Winona, (1897) 185, 195, 330. ² Arcadia Republican: Merrillan Leader, Dec. 29, 1877.

Vernon. Information on deer in this county is meager, but there is reason to believe that the early population was as high as in the other counties bordering the Mississippi. In November, 1873, they were reported more numerous than at any time since the "winter of the deep snow."¹ One deer was reported killed in the vicinity of Viroqua in December, 1875.²

¹ Viroqua Censor: Madison State Journal, Nov. 11, 1873. ² Viroqua Censor, Dec. 15, 1875.

Vilas. In the early days deer were not common. Only a few appear to have been killed in 1893.¹ Deputy Game Warden Mackie thought that the bounty on the wolf and lynx should be increased as they were making a great slaughter of the deer.² This was one of the recurring obsessions. Deer were plentiful in 1895. There was protest against non-state hunters and a stringent license law was suggested. Ninety-three deer were shipped out of Eagle River in one day, and it was stated that nearly as many were shipped from Conover, State Line, Star Lake, Woodruff, and Minocqua. Shipment of 700 to 1000 deer was believed to be a fair estimate for the season, and exceeding probably the number left alive.³ Hough,⁴ having noticed much sign of deer, was informed by Joe Blair that there were few better localities for deer than that around Big St. Germaine Lake.

The scarcity of deer in the fall of 1896 was attributed to the "army" of Indiana and Illinois hunters in the area the previous

year.⁵ Deer were reported plentiful in 1899.⁶ During the season of 1900, three men killed five deer in four days at Black Oak Lake.⁷ It was stated that 750 deer licenses were issued in the county in 1901.⁸ Cory⁹ was informed that 300 deer were shipped from Eagle River in November, 1906.

¹ Eagle River *Democrat*, Oct. 7, 21, 1893. ² *Ibid.*, Oct. 14, 1893. ³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 21, Nov. 4, 18, 25, 1895. ⁴ Hough, E. *Forest and Stream*, 45 (Dec. 28, 1895) 558. ⁵ Eagle River *News*, Oct. 26, 1896. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Oct. 23, 1899. ⁷ *Minocqua Times*, Nov. 22, 1900. ⁸ Eagle River *News*, Dec. 2, 1901. ⁹ Cory, C. B. *The mammals of Illinois and Wisconsin*. Chicago, (1912) 64.

Walworth. This county abounded in deer in 1838. "Herds of from ten to twenty were frequently seen."¹ According to Hollister,² the last deer was killed near Delavan in 1846, and the last seen in 1852.

¹ Baker, Charles M. *Pioneer history of Walworth County, Wis. Hist. Colls.*, 6 (1872) 466. ² Hollister, N. *The last records of deer in Walworth County, Wisconsin. Bull. Wis. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 6 (1908) 143-44.

Washburn. The early history of deer in this county is a blank. Deer were plentiful in the fall of 1891. One hunting camp contained 11 deer, some of which were believed to have been killed illegally. One hunter reported having killed 20 deer in nine days of hunting at Shell Lake. Hunters at Spooner had only fair success.¹ The number killed in the fall of 1892 was small due to the "slaughter" the year previous.² A hunter at Minong killed 10 deer in the fall of 1894.³ The following year it was stated that deer were becoming scarcer yearly.⁴ The 1897 season was poor. Many of the "foreign" hunters at Minong neither shot nor saw a deer.⁵ Only a few deer were killed in 1898. They were quite plentiful at White Birch but the brush was too thick for successful hunting. After the game wardens had confiscated two loads of venison, 18 saddles were stolen.⁶ A large amount of venison was shipped from Spooner.⁷ Scarcity of deer was the comment for 1899. It was said that it no longer paid to hunt them at Mills.⁸

¹ Shell Lake *Watchman*, Nov. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3, 1891. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 1892. ³ *Ibid.*, Nov. 8, 1894. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 28, 1895. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, 1897. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 8, 1898. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, 1898. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 23, 1899.

Washington. Information on deer in this county is almost a blank. Elizabeth Maxon was married in 1846 and settled on Cedar Creek with her husband. During the first years they were bountifully supplied by the Indians with "venison, fish, wild turkey . . ."¹ According to the accounts of the early settlers, game, including deer, was incredibly abundant.²

¹ West Bend *News*, March 6, 1907. ² Quickert, Carl. *The story of Washington County*. West Bend, (1923) 23.

Waukesha. John Olin¹ arrived in Waukesha in May, 1836. Near the White Rock Spring at Pewaukee, he saw "as many as

eighty deer in a drove." The winter of 1841-42, when Unonius² settled at Pine Lake, the deer appeared in the timber in large numbers. On one occasion an Indian drove four deer to the smooth ice of the lake and hamstrung them with a tomahawk. When the snow became deep, Unonius went on a hunt with the Indians who with snowshoes ran down the deer. An English settler who came to Mukwonago the fall of 1843 wrote that deer were sometimes seen but he had seen only one.³ They were reported scarce in the county in 1857.⁴

¹ Olin, C. C. *The complete record of the John Olin family*. Indianapolis, (1893) p. iv. ² Unonius, G. *New Upsala. Wis. Mag. Hist.*, 19 (1936) 295, 308, 309. ³ *Milwaukee Courier*, June 26, 1844, 2. ⁴ *Madison State Journal*, Dec. 24, 1857.

Waupaca. Large numbers of deer were killed near New London in the fall of 1856.¹ The crust on the snow in February, 1857, permitted the Indians to slaughter them with clubs and hatchets.² Deer were scarce in the fall of this year.³ In 1866 they were reported plentiful throughout the county.⁴ A wholesale slaughter of deer was reported for the neighborhood of Ogdensburg the winter of 1868-69 when they collected in droves on account of the deep, crusted snow.⁵ In October, 1876, a hunting party returned with seven deer.⁶

Deer were not killed in large numbers after 1875. The end of October, 1877, five deer were shipped to Milwaukee from Weyauwega, but not all of the hunters from this place were successful.⁷ A party of five hunters from Weyauwega, hunting "north of here," in two weeks killed only seven deer.⁸ On November 4, 1879, four deer were shot at Rural.⁹ The killing of six deer on the headwaters of the Little Wolf River by one hunter in two days was considered exceptional success.¹⁰ In November, 1880, a load of eight deer passed through Ogdensburg.¹¹ A party of four hunters from Weyauwega, away for twelve days, killed only one deer.¹² During the season of 1881 local hunters killed seven deer in the northern part of the county.¹³ The locality where two men shot 12 deer in the fall of 1883 is not given.¹⁴ Seven deer were killed by four hunters on the headwaters of the Little Wolf in October, 1885.¹⁵ In October, 1887, five hunters shot seven deer in town Twenty-Five.¹⁶ Three deer were killed by two men on their hunting expedition in October, 1890.¹⁷

¹ *New London Times*, Nov. 14, 1856. ² *Ibid.*, Feb. 27, 1857. ³ *Weyauwega Weyauwegan*, Nov. 15, 1857. ⁴ *Waupaca Criterion*: *Madison State Journal*, Dec. 11, 1866. ⁵ *Waupaca Criterion*: *Madison State Journal*, March 11, 1869. ⁶ *Weyauwega Times*, Oct. 28, 1876. ⁷ *Weyauwega Chronicle*, Oct. 27; *Times*, Nov. 24, 1877. ⁸ *Weyauwega Chronicle*, Dec. 1, 1877. ⁹ *Waupaca Post*, Nov. 8, 1879. ¹⁰ *Ibid.*, Dec. 6, 1879. ¹¹ *Ibid.*, Nov. 4, 1880. ¹² *Weyauwega Chronicle*, Nov. 27, 1880. ¹³ *Ibid.*, Dec. 10, 1881. ¹⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 17, 1883. ¹⁵ *Waupaca Post*, Oct. 29, 1885. ¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Oct. 20, 1887. ¹⁷ *Weyauwega Chronicle*, Oct. 29, 1890.

Waushara. Deer were so common in the fall of 1865 that nearly everyone spoke of seeing or shooting one.¹ The deer population seems, however, to have been of a modest number. Deer were brought in almost daily in December, 1867.² On November 20, 1869, four deer were shot within as many miles of Wautoma.³ A few were killed in 1871. Lorenzo Rawson, of Hancock, passed through Wautoma with a "load" of deer for the eastern market.⁴ A few deer were shot annually in succeeding years. In 1877, deer were reported quite plentiful in the hills north and west of Wautoma, and some were killed.⁵ A hunter from Montello shot two deer at Coloma in November, 1880.⁶ Though many hunters were in the field the end of November, 1882, only one deer was reported shot. Subsequently two were killed in the town of Richford.⁷

¹ Wautoma *Argus*, Oct. 27, 1865. ² *Ibid.*, Nov. 28, Dec. 12, 1867. ³ *Ibid.*, Nov. 25, 1869. ⁴ *Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 28, 1871. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 2, 16, 1877. ⁶ Montello *Express*, Nov. 27, 1880. ⁷ Wautoma *Argus*, Dec. 1, 15, 1882.

Winnebago. In June, 1856, Walter James went "night-hunting" in his canoe on a small lake near Muckwa and found deer plentiful.¹ They were abundant in 1868 and large numbers were brought into Oshkosh.² In 1873 only a small number of deer appeared in the Oshkosh market where they sold at 6 cents per pound by the carcass. The 81 deer killed and shipped to New York were certainly not shot in the county.³ Venison was a drug on the market at Oshkosh in 1875 due to the warm weather and: "The crop of old bucks must have been immense this year, as we have noticed about four bucks to one doe make their appearance in this market."⁴ Venison was plentiful and cheap in 1878.⁵ Large numbers of deer were killed in the vicinity of Norrie in 1881.⁶ Considerable venison appeared in the Oshkosh market in 1882 and sold at 12½ cents per pound.⁷

¹ Harney, R. J. *History of Winnebago County*. Oshkosh, (1880) 112. ² Oshkosh *Journal*, Nov. 21; *Times*, Nov. 24; *Northwestern: Madison State Journal*, Nov. 28, 1868. ³ Oshkosh *Times*, Nov. 5, Dec. 31; *Neenah Gazette: Madison State Journal*, Jan. 5, 1874. ⁴ Oshkosh *Times*, Dec. 11, 1875. ⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 16, 1878. ⁶ *Ibid.*, Nov. 26, 1881. ⁷ *Ibid.*, Nov. 25, 1882.

Wood. Deer were plentiful in the fall of 1873. A load of 14 was brought into Grand (Wisconsin) Rapids.¹ About 20 deer were killed in the neighborhood of Centralia within a period of two weeks in 1875.² In October, 1887, seven deer were shot by the Searles brothers in two days.³ Following a snowfall at this time, 32 deer were killed within a radius of four miles of Grand Rapids.⁴ Deer were killed yearly. As late as 1895, venison sold for 8 cents per pound in Marshfield. The fall of this year two deer were brought into Marshfield before 9:00 o'clock on the

morning that the season opened, the claim being made that they were tame deer. That fall the Dupee brothers, living near Pittsville, killed nine deer and four bears. The last deer killed, a buck, weighed 315 pounds.⁵ In 1896, 22 deer were killed in the vicinity of Grand Rapids the last two weeks of October.⁶ Deer were plentiful in 1897. About 600 licenses were sold.⁷ Hunters had a successful season in 1898 also.⁸

¹ Grand Rapids Reporter, Dec. 18, 1873. ² *Ibid.*, Dec. 2, 1875. ³ *Ibid.*, Oct. 27, 1887. ⁴ Wausau Central Wisconsin, Oct. 29; Milwaukee Journal, Nov. 7, 1887. ⁵ Marshfield Times, Nov. 8, 29, 1895. ⁶ Grand Rapids Reporter, Oct. 29, 1896. ⁷ Marshfield Times, Nov. 5, 19, 26, 1897. ⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 4, 18, 1898.

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