

1938

Field Notes from 1938

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

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Observation: Ruffed Grouse

Observation Number: 1

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 27 January, 1938

Time: 11:15 AM

Location: Area bordering truck trail

Notes: Flushed a grouse from the area bordering the truck trail. The bird had spent some time under a 2 foot spruce tree beside the road. On following the tracks back I found the area where the bird had fed this morning in a 30 foot yellow birch tree, and where it had spent the night on top of the snow (because of the hard crust) under a small spruce tree. In a middle aged stand of spruce, hemlock, yellow birch, and red cedar along the lake shore. This stand was quite dense, and in addition it had a dense understory of spruce, balsam, and birch.

Observation: Ackerman clearing

Observation Number: 10

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 27 January, 1938

Time: 1:45 PM

Location: Ackerman Clearing

Notes: In the Ackerman Clearing I noticed that the Crataegus, which last fall was covered with fruit, had been entirely cleaned off. Perhaps by a grouse of the next observation or maybe by blue jays as I noticed a blue jay eating Crataegus or dried apple the other day while I was on the truck.

Observation: Ruffed Grouse

Observation Number: 11

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 27 January, 1938

Time: 1:50 PM

Location: Ackerman Clearing

Notes: Flushed 2 ruffed grouse. These birds had spent a lot of time of the last 24 hours in this area, as their tracks were common. They had spent the longest time under a pile of windfallen trees where they were protected. It was noted that in many places there seemed to be 3 sets of parallel tracks as if 3 birds had been together, and it was also noted that one of these sets of tracks had parallel lines on either side. Evidently one bird had been trailing its wings for some reason. This observation was located at the edge between a dense middle aged stand of maple and yellow birch with a dense understory of young beech and an occasional spruce.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 40

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 17 February, 1938

Time: 4:45 PM

Location: Jenny Chase field

Notes: Saw a deer at apple tree in Jenny Chase field along highway where found that underneath apple tree deer had tracked up snow to packed condition indicating that they were especially attracted to frozen fruit that fell to the ground.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 20 February, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: Observation taken from summary

Notes: Deer feeds at Catlin Clearing and at Pass untouched although nearby limbs of balsam and hardwoods thoroughly browsed indicating that the deer must first get accustomed to the concentrate as a food. This is borne out by the fact that deer in old fields along highway eat the concentrate soon after it is set out because they have become accustomed to investigating the food possibilities of the pendant

fruits edibles, etc. Balsam limbs, and also hardwood limbs, were especially piled near concentrate to attract their attention to the spot, at Catlin Clearing and at Pass Clearing.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 9 March, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: Observation taken from summary

Notes: Following listing is the observed preferences of deer browsing (in order of preference) in valley of Big Sucker Brook to north of Rich Lake. Softwoods- 1. Balsam 2. Hemlock. Hardwoods- 1. Hazel 2. Sweet Laurel 3. Hard Maple 4. Yellow birch 5. Viburnum alnifolium

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 57

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 March, 1938

Time: 9:25 AM

Location: 100 yards north of Big Sucker Brook

Notes: Saw yearling deer (quite thin) leave spot where I had set out deer concentrate. Found that food concentrate had not been touched but that balsam boughs had been browsed back very heavily. In softwood margin of old field.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 60

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 March, 1938

Time: 2:05 PM

Location: Near Rich Lake dam

Notes: Observed yearling deer browsing on hazel, and lichen on beaver felled aspen near Rich Lake dam. It browsed without note of me for several minutes because the roar of the water over the dam drowned all noise I may have made on approaching it.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 March, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: Observation taken from summary

Notes: At sets of deer food put out two days ago, set numbers 1 and 2 had not been touched except that balsam boughs had been eaten. At set number 3, neither concentrate nor balsam and hardwood limbs had been fed upon. The following list of species is in order of preference as found browsed upon in section north of Rich Lake today. 1. Hard maple and yellow birch. 2. Striped maple and mountain maple (in relation to amount available these two species very heavily browsed and might be termed of first preference except that they usually occur near the coverts and are therefore more easily reached. 3. Balsam and Hemlock. 4. Fly Honeysuckle. 5. Hazel (this might be classed evenly in preference with #4.) 6. viburnum alnifolium (not much available on area observed) 7. Red barked dogwood (Cornus florida) limited in amount. 8. Raspberry (only tips eaten) 9. Beech (very few tips)

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 63

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 12 March, 1938

Time: 5:45 PM

Location: Wolf Lake (easterly shore, opposite open camp)

Notes: Observed that a medium-sized deer was rearing up on its hind legs in order to reach the lower limbs of a cedar.

Observation: Chipmunk
Observation Number: 71 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 16 March, 1938 **Time:** 8:10 AM
Location: Fishing Brook Bridge
Notes: Saw a chipmunk, for the first time this spring, run across the dirt road.

Observation: Otter
Observation Number: 80 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 16 March, 1938 **Time:** N/A
Location: Little Deer Pond Drainage area and at Deer Pond Outlet
Notes: Otter tracks were found all along series of dams through Little Deer Pond drainage area and again at Deer Pond outlet which confirms to a portion of the customary cruising circle- Little Deer Pond, Deer Pond, Lilypad, Fishing Brook, portions of Rich Lake and thence northerly via Arbutus or Big and Little Sucker Brooks, and to Wolf Lake and beyond.

Observation: Deer
Observation Number: 83 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 17 March, 1938 **Time:** 8:00 AM
Location: Corner Pond - north shore
Notes: Observed deer feeding along shoreline (exposed spots without snow) of Corner Pond (north shore). With field glass got exact locations of browsing and going there later found that raspberry, fly honeysuckle and small hard maple were eaten.

Observation: Herring Gull
Observation Number: 91 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 21 March, 1938 **Time:** 9:00 AM
Location: Rich Lake
Notes: Saw herring gull flying westerly over Rich Lake. Weather- fair. Temperature 34 to 50 deg.

Observation: Snowshoe Hare
Observation Number: 109 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 7 April, 1938 **Time:** 9:05 AM
Location: Old field to east of CCC Camp
Notes: Saw snowshoe hare running from one woodpile to another. It had a slight brown sprinkling in white background.

Observation: Woodcock
Observation Number: 32 **Observer:** O.W. Oja
Date: 1 May, 1938 **Time:** 4:50 PM
Location: Well-hole 100 yards south of headquarters
Notes: Flushed, at 8 yards, a woodcock from among the tress around wellhole 100 yards south of headquarters. It flew towards "old kitchen" site, to easterly. Went indoors for field glasses and returned to a plaxe last seen in flight. Flushed a second time at 10 yards and had a good opportunity to make positive identification. On second flushing it flew further to the east and into softwood margin of wet portion of field.

Observation: Ruffed Grouse
Observation Number: 37 **Observer:** O.W. Oja

Date: 11 May, 1938

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Bracken Burn east of Deer Pond

Notes: Saw red fox and shortly afterwards saw several fox pups dash into den. Returned to den in evening to dig it out. In one of the den openings found portion of fresh carcass of immature mink, parts of beaver skeleton and feet and a portion of a ruffed grouse carcass. Dug until 3:20 AM with still some distance to go. Weather- unsettled. Temperature - 30 to 50 degrees.

Observation: Beaver

Observation Number: 37

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 May, 1938

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Bracken Burn east of Deer Pond

Notes: Saw red fox and shortly afterwards saw several fox pups dash into den. Returned to den in evening to dig it out. In one of the den openings found portion of fresh carcass of immature mink, parts of beaver skeleton and feet and a portion of a ruffed grouse carcass. Dug until 3:20 AM with still some distance to go. Weather- unsettled. Temperature - 30 to 50 degrees.

Observation: Red Fox

Observation Number: 37

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 May, 1938

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Bracken Burn east of Deer Pond

Notes: Saw red fox and shortly afterwards saw several fox pups dash into den. Returned to den in evening to dig it out. In one of the den openings found portion of fresh carcass of immature mink, parts of beaver skeleton and feet and a portion of a ruffed grouse carcass. Dug until 3:20 AM with still some distance to go. Weather- unsettled. Temperature - 30 to 50 degrees.

Observation: Mink

Observation Number: 37

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 11 May, 1938

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Bracken Burn east of Deer Pond

Notes: Saw red fox and shortly afterwards saw several fox pups dash into den. Returned to den in evening to dig it out. In one of the den openings found portion of fresh carcass of immature mink, parts of beaver skeleton and feet and a portion of a ruffed grouse carcass. Dug until 3:20 AM with still some distance to go. Weather- unsettled. Temperature - 30 to 50 degrees.

Observation: Woodchuck

Observation Number: 49

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 28 May, 1938

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Headquarters

Notes: Saw black woodchuck in headquarters field.

Observation: Phenology

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: The witch hobble leaves were nearly all off the bushes; all the tree leaves down with the exception of the beech.

Observation: Weather

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: At 8:00 AM it was very foggy, completely blotting out objects a short distance away, fog clearing gradually and by 9:30 AM completely lifted, the sun having come out brightly in the meantime, remained almost clear the rest of the day. The distance was hazy with what seemed to be smoke when up high enough to see any distance. The temperature was warm all day, approximately 60-65 deg at 8:00 AM, and warming up to about 75 deg. through the day. In the morning the fog had condensed on the ground making the leaves moist, and there was little noise as one walked through them; by 10:20 AM the upper layer of leaves was very dry and there was a great deal of noise when walking through them. There was no wind other than a very slight stir all day.

Observation: Weather

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.J. Frank

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: In the early morning it was quite cool with a fog near the Catlin lake shore. The vegetation near the lake was dripping wet but as one moved further back into the woods this was not so noticeable. There was no breeze or any sunlight reaching the earth. This was the conditions when the census was started. About 8:15 AM the sun began to break through and by 9:30 AM it was shining brightly with a blue sky and white clouds. The sun became dim and hazy about 10:15 AM and remained so for the rest of the morning. In the afternoon the sun shone bright and warm with an occasional southwest breeze. In general, it was very humid as it had been for the preceding 4 or 5 days.

Observation: Beaver Trail

Observation Number: 1

Observer: Robert Keller

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: 9:08 AM

Location: 5 chains north of K-9

Notes: A beaver trail was found crossing the line at the edge of a swamp. The earth is disturbed along the entire length of the trail. At the end of the trail is a round area three feet in diameter which has been excavated to a depth of 6 inches. Roots of red spruce and bracken fern are exposed. Could these roots be food for beaver? General surroundings are open with a few small spruce and fir. The trail ends in bracken fern which has died down and a few sedges also to be found in the immediate area. There is one red spruce tree 6 feet to the southeast of the end of the trail.

Observation: Ruffed Grouse

Observation Number: 179

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: 9:08 AM

Location: 16 1/4 chains west of corner C-14

Notes: Flushed two ruffed grouse, both with a flushing distance of 11 yards. The first bird was seen strutting - ruff expanded, tail spread at a distance of 11 yards at 2 o'clock. It seemed to be an intermediate phase. Almost as soon as I stopped to observe the first bird, the second flushed from the ground at a distance of 11 yards at 4 o'clock. The first bird was pretty much in the open, there was no brush for several yards around it with the exception of a few spears of witch hobble, and the only ground cover was a few ferns showing above the leaves. The second bird flushed from the overhanging branches of a clump of three small spruce trees with branches to the ground, the brush was a fairly dense stand of witch hobble, and the ferns and ground pine forming the ground cover were of medium

density. The forest type was a middle aged stand of beech, birch and maple of medium density, Understory - beech and spruce.

Observation: Weasel

Observation Number: 4

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: 9:23 AM

Location: 3 chains west of C-13

Notes: An immature N.Y. Weasel approached within 3 feet of me on rock ledges of Panther Slope. It spent several minutes investigating me and running in and out of holes and crevices. In full summer pelage.

Observation: Muskrat

Observation Number: 14

Observer: L.C. Stegeman

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: About 1/2 way from sign 7-17 13.40 and the island in Deer Pond

Notes: A muskrat was seen feeding and swimming. After seeing me it swam to the west side of the the south bay. The muskrat seemed to be feeding on clams and when it noticed me moving along the shore it swam to the nearest cove.

Observation: Smoky Shrew

Observation Number: 41

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 15 October, 1938

Time: 1:10 PM

Location: I-6

Notes: A smoky shrew was caught by hand running in the leaves.

Observation: Jack Snipe

Observation Number: 4

Observer: R.T. King

Date: 16 October, 1938

Time: 9:25 AM

Location: J line 1.7 chains east of J-8

Notes: Two jack snipe were seen. These birds were apparently resting on the remnants of an old beaver dam.

Observation: Flying Squirrel

Observation Number: 91

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 28 October, 1938

Time: 11:20 AM

Location: 100 yards out in Wolf Lake opposite open camp

Notes: Caught flying squirrel that was swimming westerly in Wolf Lake. It crawled up along oar into boat. It was entirely unaggressive until warmed up and dry.

Observation: Geese

Observation Number: 92

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 29 October, 1938

Time: 9:03 PM

Location: Catlin Camp dock

Notes: Heard geese flying overhead.

Observation: Porcupine

Observation Number: 1

Observer: W.A. Dence

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: M line 65 yards south of M-11

Notes: Medium size animal feeding on bark of 14 inch sugar maple at about two feet from the ground. This was on a small knoll wooded with a few hemlock, red spruce and a slight mixture of beech, birch, and maple. Hemlock was the dominant species. The density was not over .8. This maple, as well as another tree in the immediate vicinity, has a large scar not over a year old. The animal was feeding on the wound tissue all around the scar but in at least two places has gone considerable distance beyond. The gnawing extended well into the swell of the butt. The tree was practically girdled. The animal climbed to the first branch and watched while I wrote my notes. There was evidence that porcupine had been living in the vicinity for several years. A large beech had wounds that were at least two years old.

Observation: Barred Owl

Observation Number: 20

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: 9:26 AM

Location: 8.1 chains west of F-10

Notes: Saw matured barred owl fly out of softwood patch. Softwood patch composed of hemlock, balsam and spruce atop knoll. Owl flew north a distance of about 4 chains and alighted in a hemlock. Second flight was 6 chains and alighted in yellow birch, and finally north beyond possibility of taking for specimen.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 35

Observer: L.C. Stegeman

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: 5 1/8 chains south of J-13 - 100 feet east of J line

Notes: A large doe took 2 or 3 jumps and froze. She was up wind so could not smell me and I was behind a small spruce which partly concealed me. I remained motionless except to write up the note and kept my eye on the doe. She was an excellent example of protective coloration. The grey-brown winter coat blends perfectly with the background. She stood looking straight at me. After 5 minutes of immobility, by the watch, she began moving her head scanning the slope and has lost interest in me. She seems to have lost me. It moved its forefoot next, switched its tail, and scratched its ear with its hind foot. It then started chewing something and began feeding. I began making loud squeaking sounds but the doe paid no attention. Whistling was then tried and the doe looked up, but soon lost interest. Guttural grunting sounds made her nervous and she began stomping her front foot and switching her tail, and flapping her ears. This continued for a couple of minutes, then she began to slip away. As she broke into a run a beautiful big buck sprang from a clump of spruce sapling and followed her. This observation took 15 minutes of time by the watch and the buck evidently stood motionless the entire time for, in spite of close and constant watching, it had remained unseen.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 3

Observer: R.T. King

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: 10:25 AM

Location: K line of K-9, about half-way between the K-9 intersection and the north edge of the beaver flow

Notes: Saw two deer in the beaver flow. These deer were in water 1 to 2 feet deep with nothing else near them but grasses and dead and down timber. They were apparently resting but certainly not lying down or they would have been submerged. I was in water above my knees as I made my across the K line here. Didn't see the deer until I heard them splashing away in front of me. It was impossible to pace out the distance because of the deep holes and the channel in this flow. Interesting to speculate

whether these deer had been frightened from outside the forest by hunters and had run in this far and sought refuge in such an inaccessible and apparently uncomfortable place.

Observation: Beaver Work

Observation Number: 4 & 5

Date: 12 November, 1938

Location: K line north of K-9

Observer: R.T. King

Time: 10:40 AM

Notes: The beaver are now very active. There is much fresh cutting, some last night's, and much fresh dirt upturned by the logs they have dragged into the flow. This recent beaver work continues along the 8 line from K-8 west for about 5 chains to where the 8 line runs into the flow again as it swings to the northwest.

Observation: Ruffed Grouse

Observation Number: 7

Date: 12 November, 1938

Location: 10.5 chains east of I-8

Observer: R.T. King

Time: 11:13 AM

Notes: Three ruffed grouse flushed from the ground at 3 o'clock. These birds flushed from a dense spruce thicket on the edge of a wet boggy place bordering a stream. There were numerous droppings indicating that the thicket has been used as a roosting place. Dense spruce, a few maple and yellow birch, understory of younger spruce; spruce reproduction, witch hobble; mosses, spruce needles, dead and rotten wood.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 5

Date: 12 November, 1938

Location: 660 feet east of J-13

Observer: W. Fitzwater

Time: 11:29 AM

Notes: Three white-tailed deer put on an act. I stopped as soon as I saw them, and so did two of them. One bounded off a short distance and appeared in the bush. Another, a four point buck, stood square in the center of the trail three chains away and watched me for the time it took to make the observation. Before I left the shot the third one, a doe, crossed the trail and strolled off with the buck. The stand was predominately hardwood with beech, yellow birch, maple, spruce. The ground cover was viburnum, ferns, maple, beech, and spruce reproduction.

Observation: Red Fox

Observation Number: 6

Date: 12 November, 1938

Location: 9 line 87 yards east of J-9, about 25 yards south of line. Not on assigned line.

Observer: W.A. Dence

Time: 1:44 PM

Notes: A beautiful large red fox was observed coming towards me as I was walking line 9 on my way out to the truck trail. The animal was in a low flat draw sloping towards Wolf Creek. Spruce flat type of forest, with red spruce dominating. An occasional balsam and hemlock occurred with the spruce. Then there were a few soft maple trees as well as yellow birch. These trees formed a rather dense cover. So dense that the logs lying at various places were covered with a dense mat of moss. Spruce reproduction was abundant. The fox was headed towards me when first observed, but it suddenly turned and sneaked away in the direction of Wolf Creek.

Observation: Ruffed Grouse

Observation Number: N/A

Date: 12 November, 1938

Observer: L.C. Stegeman

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: One grouse carcass was brought in by Mr. Oja and the macroscopic examination of the bird did not reveal any diseased conditions or abnormality to account for its death. The crop contents was as follows: Wood sorrel - 54% (leaves) American honeysuckle - 11% (buds) False Miterwort - 2% (leaves) Seeds unknown 3% (seeds) The above is by weight. The total weight was 1513.7 milligrams.

Observation: Summary

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: L.C. Stegeman

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: No berries or fruits of any kind were seen. Considerable succulent materials in the form of herbaceous species still plentiful. I did not see evidence of recent browsing on the witch hobble. Chipmunks were neither seen nor heard on this trip, but were abundant a month ago.

Observation: Weather

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: 6:00 AM Overcast, slight breeze from south, leaves fairly dry on ground, but do not make much noise. Temperature about 60 deg.

Observation: Weather

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.A. Dence

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: Sky completely overcast at 9:00 AM when census was started. Fairly warm for this time of year. Probably around 60 deg. Brisk wind from northwest. Sun came out at 11:25 AM and the sky seemed to be clearing everywhere. However, at 12:35 PM the sun was obscured by clouds and remained so until 1:09 PM when it appeared for scarcely 30 minutes. After that time the sky was completely overcast for the balance of the day. Also, it became colder from noon on until night. Wind became calmer after about 10:00 AM. Woods not so noisy as last time because there were fewer leaves on the lines and those that were present were moist and matted. Leaves completely off now except for a few sapling beech trees. No snow thus far this fall.

Observation: Summary

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: W.A. Dence

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: No chipmunks were seen today, must be in hibernation now. Porcupine have begun to bark in earnest now and sugar maple was the only tree attacked. All work observed was about wound tissue on old scars, with one exception where work was observed on the foot of a birch sapling. For some strange reason grouse appear to have left some of their favorite habitat as revealed by earlier observations. For example, during the last census there was a noticeable concentration near Wolf Pond. I saw none there on this trip.

Observation: Weather

Observation Number: N/A

Observer: R.T. King

Date: 12 November, 1938

Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Notes: Nebulosity - completely overcast, hazy, good visibility. Wind - north, slight breeze, calm in the woods. Condition underfoot - dead leaves compacted and damp, not very noisy. Much less noisy than last census. Really an ideal day for censusing except the deer are probably somewhat shy because of the hunting season.

Observation: Meadowlark

Observation Number: 99 & 100

Observer: O.W. Oja

Date: 1 December, 1938

Time: 4:34 PM

Location: Stone wall at headquarters and at entrance road

Notes: Saw a meadowlark along stone wall at headquarters which was later seen quite near to the building and in parking space where the ground was free of snow. Bird seemed quite undisturbed on being approached to within reasonable distance. At 4:34 PM it was seen on entrance road, probably same as seen at noon.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 341

Observer: W.J. Frank

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 3.5 chains north of K-10

Notes: Deer tracks were observed crossing line K. The deer followed the line zig-zagging back and forth across it for about 4 chains. At one place the animal had stopped at a red maple which had been felled by the brushing crew in brushing the line, and fresh deer browsing was noted on this tree. Further along was a spot where the deer had pawed through the snow and fragments of ferns were noted. This pawing was noted at frequent intervals throughout the day and the deer were found to be feeding on the rhizomes of *Aspidium spinulosum*. Whether or not they were eating last year's fronds could not be decided although in almost all instances these were found to be scattered about the pawing spot. There was a maze of deer tracks along K, from K-10 to about 8 chains north of K-10.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 1

Observer: William Fitzwater

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 231 feet east of K-14 on line 14

Notes: Found a set of deer tracks that were old (that is, had been made before the last snow) running along the trail, east on the line 14. At one place they had pawed on the snow exposed near the center of the plot. Scattered throughout the duff was the stem of some ferns. These ferns were collected to be taken in and identified. Most of the leaves were gone on the stem leaving only a small portion of the tip. Later observations (see below) show that this was a rather common occurrence and the general setup for each observation. At first I believed that the deer had concentrated on the ferns alone, but I noticed in some places that the ferns appeared to stand above the light snow. Therefore, eating the stems alone would not account for the pawing of the dirt unless they took the rhizome. This fern was identified as *Aspidium spinulosum*. The stand in this case was beech, maple, and spruce on a slope of sixty degrees facing the west.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 1

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 9:15 AM

Location: 1.30 chains east of F-6

Notes: Fresh deer tracks cross the line going south. The deer walked through a clump of witch hobble, crossed the line and nipped a few witch hobble, pawed under a 10 foot spruce tree and ate some of the fern which was under the snow, went on nipping the witch hobble. In an open stand of mature yellow birch and hemlock with an understory of 20 foot spruce and balsam. Underbrush dense witch hobble and some beech reproduction.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 2

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 9:25 AM

Location: 17 chains west of G-6

Notes: Fresh deer tracks going north. In the same type as the proceeding observation (open stand of mature yellow birch and hemlock with an understory of 20 foot spruce and balsam) except that it is much denser. The deer had browsed on witch hobble, pawed up a fern and eaten the root just at the ground line, and had a few yards away knocked some branches from a hemlock tree and eaten them.

Observation: Porcupine

Observation Number: 6

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 10:20 AM

Location: 13.1 chains east H-6

Notes: Found place where a porcupine is spending the winter. He has a den under some upturned roots 75 links south of the line, and from this point he has three well marked trails. The first leads north across the line 2 chains to an 8 inch hemlock which the animal is working on today. The second trail leads to a den in the butt end of a log 1 1/2 chains south of the main den. The third leads 3 chains southeast to a 16 inch hemlock which is being girdled. The den is located in a spring marsh area covered with trails lead to high ground covered with mature spruce-hemlock and hardwoods.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 7

Observer: W.L. Webb

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 10:29 AM

Location: 6 chains east of I-6

Notes: As I was recording fresh tracks a doe deer in excellent condition started to run from a point not more than 1 chain from me. The deer had been browsing on a hard maple top which had a lot of dried leaves on it and in the protection of this cover she had evidently felt safe to stand there for quite a period of time. This was in a mature dense stand of spruce hemlock and maple; the underbrush was medium density beech and witch hobble.

Observation: Beaver

Observation Number: 355

Observer: W.J. Frank

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 10:37 AM

Location: 1 chain north of the junction of Little Deer Pond Trail and line L

Notes: Beaver activity was noted on line L. Evidence of beaver having recently hauled branches and twigs was apparent in the snow. They had been hauling aspen twigs from a fallen aspen about 20 yards from the pond. Evidently the twigs were hauled to the ice and taken under the ice through an opening. This opening in the ice was about 6 yards west of line L, and was 10 feet long and beaver for the ice at the point where the beaver have carried their twigs appears jagged, that is, as if it had been broken. There is a small creek at the opposite end of the hole and the current from this stream probably made the original opening with the beaver maintaining it. On the bottom below the opening are a few fresh-

cut twigs 1/2 inch in diameter and 6 - 12 inches long. These twigs have been peeled of their bark. Recent cuttings on yellow birch and spruce were also noted.

Observation: Beaver

Observation Number: 359

Observer: W.J. Frank

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 10:55 AM

Location: About 85 paces south of L-6 where Little Deer Creek crosses line L

Notes: Here was found evidence of recent beaver work. On a south facing hillside there was beaver work on fire cherry, red maple and they had started to cut a yellow birch 20 inches dbh. There were a maze of beaver tracks and slides where they had skidded logs and branches down to the water. The stream had open water in it and was flowing. The following day upon returning to the same location the beaver had worked that night, December 18, and some of the cuttings previously noted had been dragged into the water.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 292

Observer: Robert Keller

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 2:40 PM

Location: 3 chains east of J line at a point 1.5 chains north of where the J line crosses the Deer Lake trail

Notes: Dead two point buck. The hind parts have been destroyed by foxes. No evidence as to how it met its death. Hemlock type which is very dense. Hemlock reproduction is abundant. Could this have been a wounded animal seeking shelter in this heavy evergreen cover?

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 5

Observer: H.F. Heady

Date: 18 December, 1938

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: 30 yards south of 410 east of K-10

Notes: I saw one doe with one fawn following her. She circled to the east and north crossing the line about 50 yards east of me. The type is beech, birch, maple with witch hobble undestroyed. There were several places along their trail where a fern, *Aspidium spinulosum*, had been pawed out of the snow. Apparently they were eating the basal portion of the fronds and the large roots or rhizomes.

Observation: Deer

Observation Number: 6

Observer: H.F. Heady

Date: 19 December, 1938

Time: 1:10 PM

Location: 1/3 chains west of F-14

Notes: I saw two does and one buck 2 1/4 chains north. They ran to the northwest. It was near a small creek and they were feeding on fern roots, *Aspidium spinulosum*. The type is beech, birch, maple, white ash, and witch hobble. These deer were in very good condition.