

7 ♀ common mergansers front Bee House.

7:10 P.M. adult ♀ mule deer, a stray, fed at feeder and only one all day. The regular unit remains away during high windy or foggy days. This ♀ measured 27" high at

Howard Cole of S Lopez Island reported 50 mule deer in his field. Deer are most serious problems in farming whether it is grains, fruit or vegetables. In this year, 1986, the deer are in larger numbers than usual.

Fawn of this year measured 23" high at shoulders.

Oct. 23, 1986

All local family group at feeder at 7:30 A.M.

8:00 A.M. stray ♀ mule deer arrived & fed at feeder.

8:15 A.M. ♂ mule deer (single eye tine (Q)) and chased stray away. Buck displaces family group & feeder.

8:45 A.M. Family group mule deer and stray fed at feeder. The single eye tine ♂ arrived and followed stray. His nose in air and then head lowered almost to ground in a charge of the stray. The stray evaded each time the charge was made (4 times). The ♂ chased ♀ out of area twice & then ♂ returned and later ♀ returned. The ♂ rested on ground, chewed cud, adjusted position, grazed for 15 feet or tested antlers. ♂ definitely tuned to breeding but <sup>(stray)</sup> ♀ not. Did not see ♂ approach ♀ of family unit.

11:30 A.M. ♂ mule deer rested 20' from ♀ of family. Photo 861023-1 showing ♂ single <sup>eye</sup> tine standing behind madrina, rear and head exposed. From here grazed 5' for 4 minutes, brushed antlers on deer high juniper, grazed, then left area. The ♀ <sup>ad.</sup> of family group remained in standing position for 45 min. The young ♂ investigated the nose and neck of stray female with compatibility as if former member of group.

Probable relationship:

adult ♀, young ♀, young ♂, fawn current family group. Stray ♀ and buck progeny of adult family group of 3 years ago; The stray female having set up another territory but frequently visiting old territory. ad. single eye tine ♂ a brother of stray and member of family (local). An adult ♂ without eye tines occasionally visits area and could be part of family group or not. (Q)

There is more activity of mule deer in morning than in afternoon.  
861023-2 *Peromyscus maniculatus hollisteri*. 201 94-23-18-33gms.  
♀ 2x3 placental scars.