

worked straight down our side of the ridge to a point 30 feet above where the trail led by. Three of the fellows ^(scouts) preceded along trail to the west while the rest of us waited anxiously to see what would happen when this buck was approached. It remained motionless and would have no doubt remained there had the group not employed crude movements and noises to purposely frighten it up the ridge again. Even then it stopped about 20 feet further up ridge to again satisfy its curiosity before finally gaining the other exposure of the ridge to join the main herd. At the second switchback on the west exposure (valley side) could see the entire herd. Being in such an advantageous position tarried to observe their actions. The entire herd was amassed here and represented 9 mammals in number. No doubt the extra four had left their bedding grounds previous to our arrival and had worked around to the west exposure to feed. The hillside they were feeding upon supported Artemisia, Cliff rose, oak brush and other minor plants. Sex ratio 2 ♂ to 7 ♀. The old buck with large horns (a four pointer) dominated the herd and appeared to be directly influenced by the presence of one particular female. Lowering its head and in a high crouched position would approach the ♀ in a bold and striking gait. The female would in turn jump ahead or protest the encroachment. Influenced by the herd he entirely ignored the our presence not being over 250' away and conspicuously stationed. Frequently he would raise his head and sniff the surrounding air, his expiration recorded upon the cold atmosphere and his body steaming from the exciting moments. No other deer in herd showed this steaming of body. This could have either been due to either a physical movement or incidental to the rutting action. I have never experienced a herd of deer in Grove Canyon that so utterly ignored our presence. One other buck was present in herd but offered no competition in the mating game. It possessed malformed spikes about six inches long and made all attempts to keep out of the way of the older buck but the old buck did not particularly mind its presence. The pelage ranged from one extremely dark coat of a single doe, through medium tans possessed by the other does and a truly light tan possessed by the buck. The breathing vents along trail where course crosses around point from west valley exposure to north side of Grove Creek Canyon, were particularly noticeable when the sun shine passed through the heavily laden moisture clouds escaping from them. Have observed a greater vapor condensation from these vents on other