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FISH DIVISION

November 13, 1931

Report No. 103

CAUSE OF DEATH OF DEER FROM MEADE TOWNSHIP, MASON COUNTY

This report deals with the cause of death of two does shipped to the Institute for Fisheries Research by Frank Knowles, by express, on November 10, 1931.

The deer unfortunately arrived a day before the letter announcing the shipment, and asking for a report, and the shipping tags had been removed before they arrived at the Museum. A regular post-mortem examination could not be made, as the deer were roughed out for skeletons on the day of arrival.

The cause of the death was however entirely clear. One doe showed a large bruised area on the side of the body, where the hair was off, the skin torn, the underlying ribs broken and the muscles beneath congested with blood, indicating that the wound was produced when the animal was alive or very freshly dead. There was a large bullet hole in the rib region and the sternum was fractured.

The other doe had one bullet hole, surrounded by a congestion, piercing the tissue between two ribs. The bullet apparently had passed through the soft organs and out of the body behind the ribs.

Both of the does were clearly killed by rifle shot, and apparently had been wounded in such a way that they escaped the poacher and died later.

Although this report is out of our field, we have prepared it because no one else at the University is specifically concerned, and because the cause of death is entirely clear, and the carcasses have been destroyed.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Original to Mr. Frank Knowles
CC to Fish Division
" " Game Division

Carl I. Hubbs, Director