

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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TO : Mr. Russ Earnest, Area Manager  
Jackson, MS

FROM : John D. Newsom  
La. Coop. Wildlife Research Unit

SUBJECT: Deer Parasite Survey--Yazoo Refuge

DATE: 12 September 1978

On Wednesday August 30, we collected 5 deer on Yazoo Refuge for parasite and disease investigations. Parasite data are presented below:

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Sex</u> | <u>APC</u> |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 3 yrs.     | F          | 1180       |
| 3 yrs.     | F          | 560        |
| 1 yr.      | F          | 760        |
| 1 yr.      | F          | 580        |
| 1 yr.      | F          | 280        |

As you can see from these data only one of the five animals collected demonstrated a parasite load indicative of a problem. The average, 612, is well below that which indicates a problem.

However, some other interesting aspects of this deer herd did show up. Of the two adult does, one had not bred and the other was not nursing fawns at the time; it appeared that she had produced fawn(s) and had lost them earlier. This may indicate a seriously out-of-balance buck-doe ratio, but sample size precludes any positive conclusions.

Additionally, of all the areas in which we have collected deer, the deer on Yazoo were the "spookiest" we have seen. After dark on many occasions the moment a spot light would shine on a deer it would immediately break into a run. We assumed that refuge personnel may have been harrassing the deer to keep them away from the roads.

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I hope the above information will be of some help in formulating deer management policies on the refuge. If we are able to assist further in this or other matters please feel free to call.

  
John D. Newson  
Unit Leader

JDN:dh