



Reporting Deer Observations



Why does DEM Fish & Wildlife document deer sightings?

We are asking citizens to report live deer from August 1st to September 30th. This will allow the Division of Fish and Wildlife to obtain fawn to doe ratios and an index of reproductive rates through time. We ask that you report all live deer (does, bucks and fawns).

How to report an observation?

We rely on citizen scientists (that's you!) to collect state-wide deer observations in Rhode Island each year.

You can submit observations via the following link:

[RI Summer Deer Survey](#)

What are other important considerations when making an observation?

- Please be as accurate as possible with counts (see the following examples).
- Please do not report the same deer more than once.
- Please do not use trail cameras for observations.
- If you are unsure, record your observation and attach a photo.
- Fawns don't always have spots in September. They have a short snout compared to adults (see next page).



Example Observations



Identifying Fawns



Early Aug.



Late Aug.



Early Sept.



Late Sept.



Adult vs. Fawn

Identifying Adults



Doe



Buck



Doe



Buck



Buck



Example 1

Buck with 2 does and 3 fawns

How to record:

Does observed: 2

Fawn observed: 3

Bucks observed: 1



Example Observations



Example 2

Two fawns

How to record:

Does observed: 0

Fawn observed: 2

Bucks observed: 0



Example 3

Doe with 2 fawns

How to record:

Does observed: 1

Fawn observed: 2

Bucks observed: 0





Example Observations



Photo: Dean Birch

Example 4

Doe with 2 fawns

How to record:

Does observed: 1

Fawn observed: 2

Bucks observed: 0



Example 5

Doe with 1 fawn and 1 buck

How to record:

Does observed: 1

Fawn observed: 1

Bucks observed: 1