

As their only means of escape, when hunted by wolves, deer make for the nearest water. Should the river or lake be narrow, the deer generally swim either up or down. Seldom straight across; and frequently after making a detour of some distance, land again on the same side from which they had entered the water. By this ruse the wolves are puzzled and put off the scent.

If there are weeds or thick brush growing along the shore, a hunted deer will sometimes sink himself under water in a thick clump, so that no part of his body can be seen above the surface but his head, by which his pursuers are baffled. On glare ice the wolf soon ends the chase. When frightened, the deer falls flat at every bound and is quickly overtaken and killed. Should a deer get into a strong rapid and the wolves attempt to follow, they are generally swept off their feet and carried away. If one should approach close enough, a large buck will often kill his foe with one blow from his sharp hoof. Dogs of the courageous kind are sometimes killed in the same manner.

The great and merciless slaughter of deer, however, occurs in the latter part of winter, when the snow is deep and covered by a crust strong enough to bear wolves or dogs, and not sufficiently so to support a deer. Then it is that the wild wolves of the forest, as well as the human wolves of a yet imperfect civilization, relentlessly murder the poor animals in hundreds.

I have now told you nearly all I know about the wolf, and also much of what I have learned from the valuable writings of standard naturalists concerning the life, habits and habitat of this widely distributed member of the great and interesting family of our north American carnivora.

From personal experience, and careful comparison, I have no hesitation in assigning to the wolf of the Ottawa Valley, if not a pre-eminence in size and weight, at least an equality in magnitude, as well as in all the other amiable characteristics distinguishing the genus *lupus* in any other land.

If I have been fortunate enough to add one original fact to the voluminous records of natural history, if I have imparted one instructive idea, if I have succeeded in amusing or entertaining my critical audience, if I have thrown but a single ray of new light upon the wolf, I shall consider myself specially favoured in having achieved more than I expected to accomplish.