

During the greater part of the day. In the latter end of May, and in the month of June, when the flies are troublesome, they come out into the fields towards the close of the day, generally about an hour before sunset.—They also frequent the water in the night at this season to protect themselves from the flies. In certain sections of the country, particularly where the Utica Slate underlies the surface, there are numerous saline springs. The deer are very partial to the water of these springs, and hence they have received the name of "Deer licks." A method of killing them in the newer settlements is much practised by the younger hunting community, as follows: In some branching tree near the "Deer Lick," a scaffold is constructed with a seat sufficient to contain one or two persons. Armed with a rifle or a smooth-barrelled gun well charged with buck-shot, or one or two bullets, the hunter towards night ascends into this nest and waits until the unsuspecting animal arrives to take his evening draught. It generally approaches cautiously, but examining only the objects on the ground in the neighbourhood of the spring. The enemy in the tree above is not noticed until the deadly report reveals him often too late. They resort to these licks in the evening, during the night and in the morning—not so frequently during the day. It is said that they content themselves with merely sipping the water and licking the saline matter from the stones. We have often observed them and seen them drink a good deal of the water. The old bucks are exceedingly wary, and not easily approached unless when intensely engaged in feeding in a pea field, or when the hunter stumbles upon one while half asleep in his lair. In the months of October, November, and December, they run furiously through the woods, following particular paths. They will often then brush close by a person without perceiving him. At this season we have seen them running swiftly along a "Deer path" with their heads low down near the ground, in the manner of a hound hunting by scent. The bucks have furious battles with each other, using both horns and feet; sometimes the horns of the combatants become so entangled that they cannot be separated—both then perish by hunger, or become the prey of other animals. The American Naturalist SAY, gives the following instance:—"As the party were descending a ridge, their attention was called to an unusual noise proceeding from a copse of low bushes, a few rods from the path. On arriving at the spot they found two buck deers, their horns fast interlocked, and both much spent with fatigue, one in particular being so much exhausted that he could not stand. Perceiving that it would be impossible that they should extricate themselves, and must either linger in their present situations, die of hunger, or be destroyed by the wolves, they despatched them with their knives, after having made an unavailing attempt to disentangle them."—Beyond doubt, many of these animals must annually thus perish.

They are fattest in autumn, but in December the bucks become lean, while the does are fat until the middle of the winter. In the spring they are very thin and feeble. A barbarous method of hunting the deer at this season, is to attack them in their "yards." A party of men with a number of dogs seek out one of these places and set their curs in pursuit.—