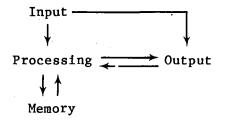
TOPIC 8. NERVOUS SYSTEM FUNCTIONS

The nervous system is a most elaborate and intricate control system that coordinates the maintenance, activity, and productive functions of each individual. Many other systems interact with the nervous system. The muscular system, for example, is coordinated to a high degree by the nervous system, resulting in smooth and graceful body movements. The endocrine system functions with the nervous system to a large extent. Klemm (1970:849) points out that the endocrine system is not only controlled by the nervous system but hormones also act on the nervous system in a feedback way.

The overall function of the nervous system is described by Klemm (1970:851) in a simplified way as an input \rightarrow output system mediated by the processing of the information, with the additional possibility of retention of some of the information in the memory. The functions can be illustrated like this.



Inputs may be processed in the brain before output responses are made. These are called voluntary responses. Some responses are made before the central nervous system has processed the input information. An animal may be startled, run a short distance without processing the reasons for running, and then stop to process the information provided by the input. The source of the input may be of no consequence--a branch may fall and scare a deer--or it may be of considerable importance to the individual--a twig may be snapped by an approaching predator. When incidents are processed and consistent biological responses formulated, the animal is exhibiting a memory that may be drawn on for later processing. Such information becomes part of the "historical environment" discussed in CHAPTER 3 of PART II.

Some responses do not include the nervous system; sensory receptors that signal distention of the rumen are part of the continuous system that causes the output--rumenoreticular contractions--to occur without conscious response by the organism. These are involuntary responses, and are part of the maintenance processes of life. The sensory capabilities of an animal are of interest to ecologists because these functions link animal to environment. These functions are commonly referred to as the senses, and include sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell, thermal senses, and pain. These senses alone do not define the functional environment (See CHAPTER 3 in PART II), but they establish the perceived operational environment. If an individual cannot see, for example, then none of the wavelengths of the electromagnetic spectrum usually detected visually by an animal of that species affect that individual, and its environment is altered accordingly.

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TYPE PUBL CITY PGES ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS/EDITORS-- YEAR

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edbo	els e	nyny 933	many acoustic behavior of anima	busnel, rg, ed 1963	•
aubo	phli	nyny 240	many the senses of animals	matthews, 1h knig 1963	ļ.
aubo	macm	nyny 113	many sensory mechanisms	case,j 1966	,
aubo	hi11	loen 760	many the chemical senses	moncrieff.rw 1967	'
aubo	ccth	spil 200	many molecular basis of odor	amoore, je 1970)
	•		-	burton, r 1970	-
edbo	apcc	nyny 412	many comm, chem sig: advan chem	johnston, jw, jr; / 1970)
edbo	iucn	mosw 904	ungu behav, relat to management	geist, v, ed; walth 1971	
proc	acpr	nyny 231	rata ecochemi studies, reindeer	bertmar,g 1975	j

UNIT 8.1: VISION

The eye, the organ of vision, is an extremely important part of the nervous system of diurnal animals. The eye of wild ruminants has but one lens, (it is a simple rather than a compound eye), and the lens focuses the image on the retina on the back of the eye where the stimuli are converted by the receptors to nerve impulses that are transmitted to the brain for processing.

Differences in visual functions of wild ruminant species have been observed but not evaluated physiologically. What structural and functional capabilities does the pronghorn have that enables it to see for great distances that other wild ruminants do not have? Comparative studies have not been done, so definitive answers to such questions are not available.

REFERENCES, UNIT 8.1

VISION

BOOKS

TYPE	PUBL	CITY PGES	ANIM KEY W	VORDS	AUTHORS/EDITORS	YEAR
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aubo	chha	loen 132	vert visio	on in vertebrates	tansley,k	1965

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

AJVRA 39--4 699 702 odvi cone, rod photo receptors witzel,da; sprin/ 1978

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

odhe

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR cee1 CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR AVCSA 18--2 159 167 alal lens lesions, elk, sweden kronevi,t; holmb/ 1977 CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR rata CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR anam CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ыы CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ovca CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ovda CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR obmo CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR oram

UNIT 8.2: HEARING

Most ruminants detect and interpret sounds in the natural environment with a high level of capability. Further, individuals emit sounds that have particular meanings to other members of the species. Elk, for example, use "bugling" as an integral part of breeding behavior. This sound is emitted by the vocal cords. White-tailed deer emit a snorting sound when they are uncertain of the kind of stimulus being received. This sound is made by forcing air out through the nostrils vocal cords do not seem to be involved.

The organs of hearing are located in the inner ear. These organs convert vibrations of different frequencies and wave-lengths to nerve impluses that are transmitted to the brain for processing. The impulses received are interpreted according to pitch, which is dependent on the frequencies of the vibrations, and intensity, or loudness, which is dependent on the frequencies and amplitudes of the vibrations. Wild ruminants respond to differences in both of these as they process such information in the ecological context. Close but harmless sounds may cause a response, for example, while sounds that are distant but associated with potentially harmful events (distant gunshots, for example) may not cause a response.

Little is known about the actual sensitivity distributions of wild animals to different sound characteristics. Direct measurements of inner ear characteristics are difficult if not impossible to make in wild ruminants, and animals trained to respond in certain ways to different sound stimuli have not been used in wild ruminant research. Hearing capabilities must be guessed at or evaluated on the basis of limited observations made in the field.

One interesting bit of research was completed at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory at Cornell when young whitetail fawns that were being trained for telemetry experiments were exposed to a systematic playing of recorded wolf howls (Moen et al. 1978). The fawns exhibited a patterned heart rate response to the frequencies and loudness of the howls, indicating some kind of genetically programmed response. Heart rate measurements in response to a series of snowmobile activities have also been made; the deer were very quick to detect the sound of the snowmobile. Further details are given in CHAPTER 17. Additional observations of heart rate responses to common sounds such as airplanes, tractors, and other noises of society have also been made while completing heart rate studies. Some of these transient responses are described in Moen and Chevalier (1977). The conclusion must be that deer, at least, are very sensitive to sounds and do a considerable amount of information processing without exhibiting overt behavioral responses.

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR ceel

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CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS------ AUTHORS------ YEAR AMZOA 10--4 481 481 rata ontogen, vocaliza, behavio ericson,ca 1970 BEHAA 54--1 50 59 rata indivi char, calls, calves espmark,y 1975 rata continued on the next page

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UNIT 8.3: OLFACTION

Olfaction, or the sense of smell, appears to be an important function associated with the selection of forage by at least some of the wild ruminants, and the avoidance of predators and in the reproductive behavior of all of the wild ruminants. Olfaction is made possible by specialized epithelial cells lining the nasal cavities. These specialized cells receive olfactory stimuli, and transmit information via olfactory nerves to the olfactory lobes of the brain for processing.

The olfactory areas are larger in the keen-scented animals than in those with a lesser sense of smell. The actual mechanism of olfactory perception is subject to further measurement and debate. Kare (1970:1173) briefly discusses theories of olfaction. Similarities in molecular configurations between the stimulus and the receptor may be one explanation. Molecular vibrations of the stimulus are thought to play a part in some olfactory relationships. Solubilities of adsorbed molecules may also play a part in olfaction, as well as enzyme effects and other chemical relations at the olfactory surface. Rather than seeking a single explanation for olfaction, the different contributions of all of these possible mechanisms under different ecological situations should be considered.

An interesting similarity exists between the apparent genetically programmed responses of young white-tailed deer to wolf howls using the sense of hearing described in the previous unit (UNIT 8.2) and the results of Muller-Schwarze (1972) on the responses of young black-tailed deer to predator odors. These black-tailed deer exhibited negative responses to the droppings of both North American and African predators, even though they had had no previous encounters with such predators. Muller-Schwarze concluded that the deer possessed a genetically determined negative response to odors of predators. Such conclusions, and those described in UNIT 8.2 on hearing responses to recorded wolf howls, are of real ecological interest and potentially of great significance in management. The role of odors in the behavior and ecology of wild ruminants is apparently great, and may be even greater than we humans, with our limited olfactory capabilities, consider it to be. The scent environment is very dynamic (see CHAPTER 3), and olfaction is very important in behavioral relationships (see CHAPTERS 4 and 5).

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bibi

AMZOA 7---3 421 429 mamm olfaction in mammals moulton, dg 1967

UNIT 8.4: TASTE

Taste is an important sensation associated with food. It is also closely associated with the sense of smell, and the two can hardly be separated except by experimental elimination of one of these senses.

The taste receptors are called taste buds, and are found in large numbers on the tongue. Cattle have large numbers on the tip of the tongue and even larger numbers on the back of the tongue (Kare 1970:1192). This distribution may also be characteristic of wild ruminants.

Taste and/or smell apparently function in food discrimination. Preference tests have shown that black-tailed deer have distinct preferences for different solutions (Crawford and Church 1971). Forage preferences of white-tailed deer discussed in PART IV indicate that they select the more digestible forages before the less digestible ones, showing that taste and smell have effects on the diet quality.

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TASTE

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odvi

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JWMAA 35--2 210 215 odhe respon, chem taste stimuli crawford, jc; chur 1971

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JASIA	521	125	128	dogo	pref	threshol,	tast disci	i bell,fr	1959

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR JANSA 30--5 777 783 dosh tas resp I. sug, sacc, sal goatcher,wd; chur 1970 JANSA 30--5 784 790 dosh II. acids, quin, urea, sod goatcher,wd; chur 1970

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UNIT 8.5: TOUCH

No references to studies of the sense of touch in wild ruminants have been found. The role of touch in their daily lives may be quite important, however. The tongue of such selective browsers as deer appears to have a highly developed sense of touch, with the tongue and lips having important roles in prehension.

The sense of touch is also important in mother-young relationships. The licking of the newborn by the dam and the nursing responses of the young almost within minutes after birth likely involve the sense of touch to a high degree.

The roles of touch in the lives of wild ruminants should be considered when evaluating both physical and biological relationships to their environnments. Descriptions of these roles should be made, even if there is little or no experimental evidence of the functions or importances of the roles at this time.

REFERENCES, UNIT 8.5

TOUCH

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CODEN	vo-nu	BEPA	ENPA	ANIM	KE Y	WORDS	AUTHOR S	YEAR
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CODEN	vo-nu	BEPA	ENPA	ANIM	KE Y	WORDS	AUTHORS	YEAR
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CODEN	vo-nu	BEPA	ENPA	ANIM	KEY	WORDS	AUTHORS	YEAR
				cee1				
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UNIT 8.6: THERMAL SENSES

Sensors that detect differences in the thermal energy at the skin surface or other sites of temperature sensitivity are important in the regulation of the thermal energy balance of free-ranging animals in their natural environments. These sensors function in thermoregulatory behavior, as well as in the internal thermogenic responses possible when heat energy must be dissipated or conserved.

The physiological functions of thermal sensors have not been reported on for wild ruminants. They presumably have a rather highly developed repertoire of possible responses as a result of thermal sensing since they are quite well-adapted to cold climates. The sensors in most direct contact with the environment must be located on the exposed skin surfaces. The nose, for example, seems to be sensitive to differences in thermal energy loads. Whitetail fawns at the Wildlife Ecology Laboratory, for example, have been observed to rest with their heads in the shade and their bodies exposed to the sun on hot days, suggesting that the head--most likely the nose--contains the sensors.

The roles of thermal sensors in relation to the transfer of heat energy from the skin to the environment are discussed in CHAPTER 16. Thermoregulatory behavior, piloerection, and other thermally-induced responses provide some clues to the functions of thermal sensors.

REFERENCES, UNIT 8.6

THERMAL SENSES

SERIALS

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odvi

CODEN VO-NU BEPA ENPA ANIM KEY WORDS----- AUTHORS----- YEAR

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CLOSING COMMENTS

CHAPTER 6: SYSTEMS PHYSIOLOGY, contains descriptions, sometimes brief, of the functions of different systems of the body. These descriptions of system functions are in addition to descriptions of system characteristics in CHAPTER 1. There would be some advantages to discussing system characteristics and functions together, but then the discussions of a part of the animals body becomes so lengthy that relationships to other parts and the workings of the integrated whole cannot be easily worked into the overall discussion. The present organization of the material reflects a functional approach to the whole organism.

A limited number of WORKSHEETS have been included in CHAPTER 6. Many of the descriptions of system functions do not lend themselves well to mathematical representation, and data are lacking on many functions.

The next chapter (CHAPTER 7: ENERGY METABOLISM) describes one of the fundamental characteristic of life. All system functions are dependent on the metabolism of energy, and knowledge of the amounts of energy involved in ecological metabolism is absolutely essential when calculating the impacts of populations on range resources and carrying capacity.

> Aaron N. Moen February 23, 1981

GLOSSARY OF SYMBOLS USED - CHAPTER SIX

ADEP = Apparent digestible energy in percent

AGDA = Age in days

BHRM = Bedded heart rate per minute

FHRM = Foraging heart rate per minute

HERA = Heart rate

JDAY = Julian day

LWKG = Live weight in kilograms

MEPP = Methane production as percent of gross energy in the food

RHRM = Running herat rate per minute

SHRM = Standing heart rate per minute

TPLW = Testes weight as a percent of live weight

WHRM = Walking heart rate per minute

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AABIA Annals of Applied Biology ABBIA Archives of Biochemistry and Biophysics ABBGB Animal Blood Groups & Biochemical Genetics ACATA Acta Anatomica Anatomia Histologia Embryologia AHEMA American Journal of Anatomy AJANA A.JBSA Australian Journal of Biological Sciences AJMEA American Journal of Medicine AJPHA American Journal of Physiology American Journal of Veterinary Research AJVRA Arkansas Academy of Science Proceedings AKASA Allattani Kozlemenyek ALLKA AMNTA American Naturalist AMZOA American Zoologist Anatomischer Anzieger ANANA ANBEA Animal Behaviour Animal Production ANIPA ANREA Anatomical Record Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences ANYAA APARD American Association Zoo Veterinarian Annual Proceedings Applied Microbiology APMBA ARPHA Annual Review of Physiology APSSA Acta Physiologica Scandinavica Supplementum ATICA Arctic ATRLA Acta Theriologica AVCSA Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica **AVS PA** Acta Veteinaria Scandinavica Supplementum AZFEA Acta Zoologica Fennica AZOFA Annales Zoologici Fennici BEHAA Behaviour BIGEB **Biochemical Genetics** BIJOA **Biochemical Journal** BIREB Biology of Reproduction British Journal of Nutrition BJNUA BLOOA Blood BLUTA Blut BPURD Biological Papers of the University of Alaska Special Report BRHLA Biorheology BUCDA Bulletin of the Georgia Academy of Sciences California Fish and Game CAFGA CAFNA Canadian Field Naturalist CATRB Calcified Tissue Research CBCPA Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology CBPAB Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology A Comparative Physiology CIRIB Proceedings International Congress on Animal Reproduction and

Artificial Insemination

Canadian Journal of Biochemistry CJBIA CJCMA Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine CJZOA Canadian Journal of Zoology Clinical Chemistry CLCHA Canadian Journal of Comparative Medicine and Veterinary Science CNJMA Canadian Journal of Animal Science CNJNA CNVJA Canadian Veterinary Journal COVEA Cornell Veterinarian Chesapeake Science CPSCA Canadian Wildlife Service Occassional Paper CWOPA ECOLA Ecology European Journal of Biochemistry EJBCA ENDOA Endocrinology EVOLA Evolution FEPRA Federation Proceedings FOSCA Forest Science FUNAA Fauna GENTA Genetics GNKAA Genetika GRBNA Great Basin Naturalist HEREA Hereditas HLTPA Health Physics JANSA Journal of Animal Science JAPYA Journal of Applied Physiology Journal of Agricultural Science JASIA JAVMA Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association JB CHA Journal of Biological Chemistry JCECD Journal of Chemical Ecology JCOQA Journal of the Colorado-Wyoming Academy of Sciences JDSCA Journal of Dairy Science Journal of Evolutionary Biochemistry and Physiology JEBPA JICRB Journal of Interdisciplinary Cycle Research JOANA Journal of Anatomy JOENA Journal of Endocrinology JOMAA Journal of Mammalogy JONUA Journal of Nutrition JOPAA Journal of Parasitology JPROA Journal of Protozoology JRMGA Journal of Range Management JRPFA Journal of Reproduction and Fertility JSFAA Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture JWIDA Journal of Wildlife Diseases JWMAA Journal of Wildlife Management JZAMD Journal of Zoo Animal Medicine JZOOA Journal of Zoology

KPSUA Khimiya Prirodnykh Soedinii

LAANA Lantbrukshogskolans annaler LBANA Laboratory Animals LBASA Laboratory Animal Science MAMLA Mammalia MGQPA Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Game Research Project Quarterly Progress Report Murrelet, The MRLTA Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews NARFA NATUA Nature North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, NAWTA Transactions of the, NCANA Naturaliste Canadien, Le NFGJA New York Fish and Game Journal NJZOA Norwegian Journal of Zoology New York State Conservationist NYCOA New Zealand Journal of Science NZJSA OJSCA Ohio Journal of Science PAANA Proceedings of the Australian Society of Animal Production Pennsylvaina State University College of Agriculture PAARA Agricultural Experiment Station Progress Report PASCC Proceedings of the Alaskan Scientific Conference PCBSA Proceedings of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies Proceedings of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish PCGFA Commissioners PCZOA Proceedings of the International Congress of Zoology PHREA Physiological Reviews PIAIA Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science PNSUA Proceedings of the Nutrition Society POASA Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Science Proceedings of the Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine PSEBA QJEPA Quarterly Journal of Experimental Physiology and Cognate Medical Sciences RSPYA Respiration Physiology SCAMA Scientific American SCIEA Science SOVEA Southwestern Veterinarian Southwestern Naturalist SWNAA SZSLA Symposia of the Zoological Society of London TAMSA Transactions of the American Microscopical Society THGNB Theriogenology TJSCA Texas Journal of Science TNWSD Transactions of the Northeast Section, The Wildlife Society

UABPA	Biological Papers of the University of Alaska
UASPA	Proceedings of the Utah Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters
UCPZA	University of California Publications in Zoology
WAEBA	Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin
WDABB	Bulletin of the Wildlife Disease Association
WLDHA	Waldhygiene
WLMOA	Wildlife Monographs
WLSBA	Wildlife Society Bulletin
WMBAA	Wildlife Management Bulletin
W14D4	
XAARA	U S Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service
XAMPA	U S D A Miscellaneous Publication
XARRA	U S Forest Service Research Note RM

ZEBFA Zhurnal Evolyutsionnoi Biokhimii i Fiziologii

ZEJAA Zeitschrift fuer Jagdwissenschaft

ZETIA Zeitschrift fuer Tierpsychologie

ZOLZA Zoologicheskii Zhurnal

ZOOLA Zoologica

ZSAEA Zeitschrift fuer Saeugetierkunde

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acpr	Academic Press	New York	nyny
amph	American Physiolocial Society	Washington, D. C.	wadc
anth	Antheneum	New York	nyny
apcc	Appleton-Century-Crofts	New York	nyny
butt	Butterworth	London	loen
butt	Butterworth	Washington, D. C.	wadc
caun	Cambridge University Press	New York	nyny
ccth	Charles C. Thomas	Springfield, IL	spi1
chha	Chapman & Hall	Appleton, WI	apwi
coup	Cornell University Press	Ithaca, NY	itny
cupr	Cambridge Univ Press	Cambridge, England	caen
dcch	C. D. Church, Oregon State	Corvallis, OR	coor
edar	Edward Arnold	London	loen
else	Elsevier	New York	nyny
grst	Grune and Stratton	New York	nyny
haro	Harper and Row	New York	nyny
hein	Heinemann	London,England	loen
hill	Hill	London, England	loen
hrwi	Holt, Rhinehart & Winston,	New York	nyny
	Inc.		
iepu	Intext Education Publishers	New York	nyny
isup	Iowa State University Press	Ames, IO	amia
iucn	IUCN	Morges, Switzerland	mosw
jwwa	J. W. Walsh	Portland, ME	pome
lefe	Lea and Febiger	Philadelphia, PA	phpa
libr	Little, Brown	Boston, MA	noms
macm	MacMillan Company	New York	nyny
meth	Methuen & Co., Ltd.	London Norre Vorth	loen
mhbc	McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc.	New York	nyny
moco	C. V. Mosley Co.	St. Louis, MO	salo
nhfg	New Hampshire Fish &	Concord, NH	conh
	Game Department		
orpr	Oriel Press	Newcastle Upon Tyne, Eng.	nute
orst	Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	coor

pepr phli prha	Pergamon Press Philosophical Library Prentice-Hall, Inc.	Oxford, England New York Englewood Cliffs, NJ	oxen nyny ecnj
saco	Saunders Publishing Co.	Philadelphia,PA	phpa
tapl	Taplinger	New York	nyny
uchp unep	Univ. of Chicago Press University of New England Publishing Unit	Chicago, IL Armidale, Australia	chil arau
vare	Van Nostrand-Reinhold	New York	nyny
whfr	W. B. Saunders Company W. H. Freeman Company Williams and Wilkins	Philadelphia San Francisco, CA Baltimore, MD	phpa sfca bama

LIST OF WORKSHEETS - CHAPTER SIX

1.3a	Estimates of methane energy
2.la	Heart rates of white-tailed deer fawns (odvi) in relation to age and activity
2.1b	Heart rates of adult white-tailed deer (odvi) in relation to activity and time of year
4.la	Testes development as percent of body weight in male white-tailed deer (odvi) through