

# WHITE TAILED DEER

## ODOCOILEUS VIRGINIA

### DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

Lightsome deer. Length of the body 150-190 cm, tail 20-35 cm, weight 70-150 kg, males larger. In summertime the hair is reddish brown, in winter grey. Distinctive patch of white fur beneath its tail. Horns of the male curved and prickly.

Fawn white maculate.

### PREVALENCE:

Population is abundant in South- and West-Finland.

### HABITAT:

Hardwood and mixed forests next to cultivated areas.

### LIFE STYLES:

Moves mostly in the obscure and at night. Females live in the small flocks or alone with fawns, males principally alone.

### NOURISHMENT:

In summer different grasses and herbs, in winter sprouts of hardwood, juniper, pine, moss and lichen etc.

### BREEDING:

The white tailed deer have mating time in October-December. Fawns are born in May-June. Usually two fawns are born and they live with mothers over winter.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:

The first individuals were brought from Minnesota to Vesilahti to the estate of Laukko in 1934. A couple of years later white-tailed deer were liberated from the enclosure. In 1949 for the amount of the population was calculated about 100. Population has increased little by little and centered on to the southwestern Finland, where snow cover is relatively thin. Nowadays there are about 15000 white-tailed deer.

### HUNTING:

Hunting begun in 1960s. Ministry of agriculture and forestry granted hunting licences with one condition; there will be organized winter feeding to the wild reindeers in the area.

