

Deer Encounters

White-tailed deer are such picturesque
Denizens of this great estate
We long to share this habitat
Where these handsome beasts ruminant

While walking along the dense woods
I saw a deer five feet from me
He froze only a few moments
Then retreated too far to see

The ability of deer to
Vanish is so mysterial
Fading mutely into the woods
They are almost ethereal

Research on deer has shown that they
Have extremely acute eyesight
They can see many times better
Than humans more so at twilight

Deer's extremely keen sense of smell
Far exceeds that of a canine
Their auditory range is far
Greater than that of yours and mine

Deer are amazingly agile
They are very likely to bound
Through the densest forest thicket
Without ever making a sound

While I walked along the sidewalk
Five deer entered onto the street
Frozen we stared at each other
Until they made their hushed retreat

The white-tailed deer at Oak Hammock
Are such ravenous ruminants
If only we could train them to
Devour all those invasive plants

Coming upon a handsome buck
He bounded behind a close tree
Where he froze while looking at me
After one photo he did flee

It is fascinating to see
Families of life in the wild
Each spotted fawn brings to mind the
Bambi film I saw as a child

Each deer encounter is a new
Experience or so it seems
The communion is so sublime
As in a vast forest of dreams
Gene Ziegler. Aug. 2023