



An Observation by Wilton Corkern, December 1, 2006:

Today a stiff breeze sweeps across the farm, bending trees and kicking up whitecaps on the river. This morning's rain has given way to partly sunny skies with patches of fast-moving clouds. The deer are at the peak of the mating season. Does and fawns are mostly gathered into herds now, each group watched over by a decorously-antlered buck. Bucks without harems wander alone or in pairs or in threes. They drift into the open much more often than their more successful (and smarter?) brethren, showing off their racks in broad daylight. Migratory waterfowl, usually here in force by this date, have been scarce so far this mild fall. We've seen a few Scaups and Ruddy Ducks, and an occasional Pied Billed Grebe on Piscataway Bay, but no Canvasbacks or Whistling Swans so far. Those usual heralds of December are yet to arrive. But today's wind blows away a week of days in the 60s and almost sultry nights. After the front: Cold and clear weather lies ahead. Our Winter's Eve program is tomorrow night, and the timing seems perfect.



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