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| d | Conclusion: It seems, based on collected data, that the deer mouse population in the open space South East of the Vintage Hills housing development is thriving. Young specimens outnumbered adults nearly two to one. This indicates that in the normal breeding cycle has not been irreperably damaged. One must take into account that the Deer Mouse is a k-strategist, meaning it pins the species survival on producing many offspring. Thus one can expect for most of the young to die before they reach sexual maturity. However, with the introduction of so many young, and plentiful food sources, the population, in my interpretation, will have no trouble maintaining a homeostatic population level. In fact, one may conclude that the population will actually grow over the next few years as long as food resources correspond to population growth. In additon, the distribution of the Deer Mouse population seems to place greater numbers further away from recent housing development. This is a bit of a quandary, in that houses may offer shelter and food, thus attracting the mice. However, one must keep in mind threats associated with populating a housed area, including domesticated animals, poison and trap control, etc. Also the abundant food sources else where would counter act the lure of suburbun colonization. In all, I feel the that the introduction of new construction in the area as well as extremely wet weather patterns, have not adversely affected the Deer Mouse population in the tested region. This is due in part to the abundance of space as one proceeds further S. East of the Vintage Hills housing development, and the plentiful food resources now available to the population as a result of the wet weather. |

*This Web Site is Best viewed with 256 or more colors.*

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