

# Nat Theo Club

## FIELD NOTES

ISSUE 30



### Moose

MAMMAL. CERVIDAE (DEER FAMILY)

#### HABITAT & DIET

Moose live in the northern USA, Alaska, Canada, Europe, and Russia. They prefer forests, wet areas, and open spaces. They love snacking on willow which often grows by water. They are herbivores, which means they only eat plants.

#### FUN FACTS

Only male moose grow antlers. A pair of moose antlers can weigh from 45 - 75 pounds. They shed their antlers and regrow a new pair every year.



#### WHAT IS THE LARGEST ANIMAL YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE WILD?

Although I once saw grey whales, moose are the largest animal I regularly see in the wild. They are the largest animal in the Cervidae (deer) family. They can grow to about 7 feet tall and up to around 1,800 pounds.

Although the one I saw this past spring, pictured to the bottom left, was quite a bit smaller! It was a moose calf (baby), only a couple of weeks old. I watched it for around an hour as it snacked on willow branches next to its mama.

Whether it's a small calf, mama (cow), or grown male (bull), I am always amazed when encountering these massive animals. Although they don't have great sight, they have amazing hearing. This is especially true for the large males with huge antlers. Look at the photo of the bull moose to the left. Do you notice how their antlers are different from deer antlers? Moose antlers are much more flat and broad than deer antlers. Like an amplifier, this shape helps catch and guide noise to their ears. God designed moose with incredible hearing so they can stay safe and find each other.

God also gives us special hearing. When we follow Jesus as our Savior, we are able to hear God's voice. John 8:47 says, "Whoever belongs to God hears what God says..."

Like a moose with noise-amplifying antlers, God designed us to hear from Him well, including through His Holy Spirit, as we pray, and as we read His Bible. As we listen to God and His truth, we can be careful to remember and follow it, as Hebrews 2:1 tells us: "So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it."

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