

Perhaps there is no carnivorous animal of the same size and genus, with the exception of the cheetah, that can leap so far for a number of consecutive bounds as can the cougar. A full grown one can leap twenty feet and upwards at each bound, for a distance of one hundred yards or more. I can readily credit this, when I know from personal observation, that the large wiry-haired Scotch staghound can cover twenty feet at each stride, and keep up the pace for a couple of miles. A large Virginian deer can leap from seventeen to twenty feet and keep up the gait for a considerable distance, when freshly started, with the matchless chorus of the hounds behind him. About six years ago, I had the curiosity to measure a single bound of a fine spike horned buck, after it had rushed down the steep side of one of our own Laurentian hills before the hounds; and I found that, from the spot from whence it had started to the point where its fore feet struck the earth again, the distance was one hundred and eleven feet, or thirty-seven yards. The descent or grade was, of course, exceedingly steep.

I have heard many an exciting story, and read many a thrilling account, of the blood-curdling scream of the panther, or, as this animal has been frequently called, the "catamount," but I have never seen one in the act of screaming, or under any other circumstances except in a menagerie. On two or three occasions, many years ago, I heard, in the thick forest near the Village of Richmond, and afterwards in the Township of Huntley, some strangely startling and frightful screams, which I then attributed to the cougar. Be this as it may, I have heard no screams of the same kind for the last thirty years.

Being always fond of music, I soon learned, not, however, without some trouble, to imitate the terror-striking scream of the catamount; and having been given to harmless practical joking, I have frequently accelerated the gait of nocturnal travellers, and had the pleasure afterwards to listen to their exaggerated accounts of narrow escapes. It never required more than two good yells to put the boldest to flight.

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I think I have now told you all I know concerning the cougar. If I have entertained any of my hearers, or, better still have instructed any in the smallest degree, I shall consider myself amply rewarded for