

portsman's paper, tells of the recent killing of one of these animals at Georgetown, El Dorado County, California, which measured nine feet from tip to tip and weighed two hundred pounds. This variation in size may be quite possible, for every hunter of any experience knows that the average weight of a large Virginian deer is about two hundred pounds, although, occasionally, extra large bucks have been met with, weighing two hundred and fifty, and even three hundred pounds.

The colour of the cougar is a deep fawn, inclining to white on the belly. The body is long and somewhat slender, and the height about two feet six inches at the shoulder. The tail is two feet long with a small tuft of stiff hair at the end. The legs are thick and extremely muscular, and the teeth are sharp, strong and dangerous looking. Like all animals of the cat tribe, the claws are keen, formidable and retractile, thus aiding in the seizure and retention of its living prey, as well as enabling it to climb trees with facility.

After a gestatory period of about ninety-two days, the female brings forth two kittens at a birth; sometimes, however, one, three or even four constitute her infant family. The young are produced late in the winter, or early in the spring. A reliable authority, William A. Conkling, Ph.D., Director of the Central Park, New York, speaking of panthers, remarks:—

"The cubs are born with their eyelids closed, they open after eight or nine days. The incisors and canine teeth cut through the gums in eighteen days. The body is at first spotted; the spots disappear in about six months. They are weaned when three months old. The mother carries the young about in her mouth in the same manner that a cat does." (Merriam.)

As I intend to adhere as closely as possible to scientific facts, I shall make no apology for presenting you with a few admirable extracts* from a work, entitled, "The Mammalia of the Adirondacks," by Dr. Clinton Hart Merriam, of Locust Grove, in the State of New York—a volume which those who have had an opportunity of reading will readily acknowledge to be an able and valuable contribution to the Natural History of America. * * * *

*These extracts giving a very full account of the habits of this animal are, for want of space, omitted, and the reader is referred to Dr. Merriam's splendid work.