

different individuals. The prongs are round, conical, sharp, and directed upwards. Situated partly on the inside of each horn near the base there is a short brow antler on most of the specimens. A large pair of horns weigh about six pounds, but there are few over four or five pounds in weight.

The colour of this animal varies with the season; in the autumn and winter it is bluish gray, in the spring reddish, becoming bluish in the summer. Beneath the chin, throat, belly, inner surface of legs, and under side of tail, white. The fawns are at first reddish brown, and spotted with white along the sides. In the autumn of their first season they lose the white spots, and thereafter are the colour of the old ones. The hair is flattened and angular, that upon the under side of the tail long and white.

The average length of this species is, from the nose to the root of the tail, 5 feet 4 inches; length of tail without the hairs, 6, or 7 inches; with the hairs, a little more than one foot.

The females bring forth in May or June, one or two, rarely three at a birth.

In Canada this deer spends the winter in the cedar and spruce swamps, where, like the Moose, it "yards," as it is called in considerable herds. The yard is simply that tract of the swamp, where a herd of the deer have taken up their quarters, and is marked by a multitude of paths through the snow in all directions. At this season their tracks are seldom seen on the hard wood lands, but in the spring as soon as the snow has thawed away they leave the swamps and thereafter during the summer and autumn they reside in the uplands, and frequent the fields during the night. In the swamps their food consists principally of the buds of the birch, cedar and spruce, with some of the mosses. In the summer they feed upon leaves, tender grasses, berries, peas, turnips, and even commit extensive robberies upon the potatoe fields. They seem to prefer peas and turnips to all other agricultural productions. They are fond of lingering all day in the neighbourhood of the fields. The buck generally makes a comfortable bed for himself in a clump of low bushes where there are plenty of soft leaves or grass, and there sleeps

**NOMENCLATURE** —(*Cervus*.) Latin, a deer. The Virginian or Common Deer has been variously described by authors and travellers under the names of (*Amerikanischer Hirsch*.) German, American Deer; (*Virginischer Hirsch*.) German, Virginian Deer; (*Cerf de la Louisiane*.) French, "the Stag of Louisiana," Fallow Deer and American Stag. The appellation (*Cervus Virginianus*.) Virginian Deer, is that bestowed upon it by the American Naturalist (SAY.) whose name is appended above. In the new classification of the deer given in the English Cyclopædia, this species is called (*Capreolus Virginianus*.) We shall give this new arrangement of the *Cervidae* entire at the end of the next article.

The following are the differences between the four Genera of Deer described in this work:—

1st. Genus (*Cervus*) The males only have horns, and there are no canine teeth in either sex.

2nd. Genus (*Elaphus*.) The males have horns and canine teeth, the females have neither.

3rd. Genus (*Tarandus*.) Both the males and the females have horns and canine teeth.

4th. Genus (*Alces*.) Horns and teeth the same as in the genus (*Cervus*), but the horns are very broadly palmated, and the whole anterior of the animal, including the head and the neck, very different in structure from any other Deer. We have met with no description of the genus (*Alces*.)