

theca extends along the abdomen to within three inches of the umbilicus, and has no pendant prepuce, almost precisely as is observed in the Bos family. In the three smaller species named the theca is suspended from a point so near the scrotum that when the animal is standing it occupies a vertical position within half an inch of it, the posterior measurement of which is three to four inches, anterior measurement half that length. The lower half may be described as an exaggerated prepuce, which is entirely wanting in the elk. In this regard but little difference is observed in the three smaller species.

It would be interesting to know to which of these species the moose (*C. alces*) most conforms in this particular, and I hope that you, or some of your correspondents will be able to inform us. — J. D. CATON, *Ottawa, Ill., Nov., 1870.*

OCCURRENCE OF KIRTLAND'S OWL IN MAINE. — A characteristic specimen of the *Nyctale albifrons* Cassin, was shot at Norway, Me., September 14th, by Mr. Clarence M. Smith, and by him presented to the museum of Yale College. It has not been hitherto recorded from New England. So far as known to me, the specimen taken at Racine, Wis., by Dr. Hoy, is the only one previously recorded from the United States. Prof. Baird mentioned another specimen collected by Dr. A. Hall, near Montreal, and in a recent number of the "Canadian Naturalist" (vol. v, p. 103) a specimen is recorded as obtained near Quebec, by Rev. D. Anderson. The early date would indicate that the specimen taken at Norway was resident there, as it was before the southward migration had commenced. In a recent letter Prof. Baird expresses doubt whether the *albifrons* may not prove to be the young of *N. Acadica*. But if so, it is singular that the young of the latter has not oftener been observed in localities where it is common, as in many parts of New England. This question is well worthy of thorough investigation. — A. E. VERRILL.

SPAWNING OF THE CAPELIN. — The Capelin (*Mallotus villosus*), an inhabitant of the northern seas of the Atlantic coast of America, is well known as a bait for cod-fish. It visits the shores during August and September, for the purpose of spawning, when it is so abundant as to darken the sea for miles. There are some peculiarities about the method of its spawning; the females, on approaching the beach, being attended by two males, who hold



the female between them, by means of the ridge of closely set, brush-like scales with which the males alone are provided, so that she is almost entirely concealed. In this state the three run together with great swiftness upon the sand, and in this act the spawn issues from the female, which is simultaneously fertilized. An immense business is carried on in the capture of the capelin as bait for the cod; the French fishermen alone obtaining from the fishing ground off Newfoundland, from sixty thousand to seventy thousand hogsheads annually for this purpose.

ORNITHOLOGICAL NOTES. — In J. A. Allen's "Notes on Some of the Rarer Birds of Massachusetts," in the NATURALIST for January, 1870, he says of the Glossy Ibis (*Ibis Ordii*), "It was also taken, as I learn from Mr. Vickery, in New Hampshire, in October, 1858, by Dr. Palmer." I have the specimen in my collection now, an old bird, in full plumage, taken near Lake Winnipiscogee, in the town of Alton, N. H. I have also the Canada Jay (*Perisoreus Canadensis*), and Black-backed, Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*), both taken in Strafford, N. H. The jay I shot in winter, and the woodpecker was taken late in the fall. I believe the Canada Jay is not mentioned by Mr. Allen as occurring in Massachusetts. It is not improbable that it may be an occasional winter visitant. The Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola Canadensis*) has appeared in Ipswich during the winters of 1867-68, and 1868-69. I secured one in red plumage, but they were mostly young birds. — CHARLES PALMER, *Ipswich*.

MIMICRY IN INSECTS. — At a recent meeting of the Scientific Committee of the Horticultural Society, a remarkable paper was read by Mr. Andrew Murray, on the subject of Mimetism, especially as exhibited in the instances of the South American butterflies, which have already been discussed in our columns. Mr. Murray adduced a number of arguments which he considered told against the theory that the mimicry had been produced by Natural Selection, and attributed it to hybridization. — *Nature*.

PARASITE ON THE WASP. — Mr. F. Smith exhibited to the Entomological Society of London, *Phora florea*, a dipterous parasite in the nest of the wasp. We have figured and noticed in the NATURALIST, vol. 2, p. 196, a similar parasite in the cells of the honey bee living in Europe. Similar flies should be looked for in this country by our enterprising bee keepers.