

Ducks are naturally deeper in keel than drakes, so that it is necessary our breeding ducks must show more or less keel, and this underline should be perfectly straight, and not tucked up midway, as some keels are very apt to be. A high back is as much to be condemned in a waterfowl as it is in a Dorking.

With all these faults and failings in mind, we have sorted out a large surplus, besides many even-colored ducks which are either too light or too dark to mate with any of our selected drakes, until we have reduced the number in the two runs to twenty, which comprise twelve ducks hatched in 1891 and eight older ducks. These are all large and well-shaped, very even in colour individually, but they differ in shade, principally medium, but some are darker and others lighter.

We will mate the drakes in the order we previously selected them, so we will now pick out five ducks for our large bright-coloured drake "Hero." We are anxious to have a good number of ducklings from this uncommon good drake, so we will give him four young ducks and our two-year-old cup-winner. The young ducks are the darkest we can find among the twenty, but they are only two shades over the medium colour; they are well pencilled on their backs too, but we know if they were again crossed with a dark standard coloured drake most of the female progeny would lose pencilling on their backs and be too dark; they have all well-pencilled throats and correctly marked bills, but the orange colour on three of their bills is not so bright as it should be; the drake, however, can be depended on to counteract this slight defect. We may expect them to throw exhibition ducks of the best quality, and also some standard drakes. Our two-year-old cup duck for this pen, the best duck we have, is a sharp-pencilled

medium, like the fourth young duck, she is very perfect in bill, the saddles of which are very black and bright. We may expect her female progeny to be of a light medium, but beautifully-pencilled; some of them may be rich enough in ground-colour for the show-pen, but all of them will be very valuable stock ducks to mate with rich-coloured standard drakes; we also expect this duck to throw her sons exactly like the drake. No Rouen fancier should be without a pen of this description, if he wishes to uphold a high position.

We will now select five ducks for the second two-year-old drake we called "Conqueror." We described him as a rich-coloured standard drake, well marked and of large size and depth. We will also give him four young ducks and one old one. The four young ones are very bright, prettily-pencilled ducks throughout; they were bred from medium-coloured exhibition ducks, and by a bright drake like "Hero." They are all a shade or two lighter than the medium colour, although their ground-colour is bright, golden brown. They have good bills, showing plenty of orange; they are also of fair size and depth. We may expect them to throw a large proportion of their drakes and ducks a standard colour. The old duck for this pen is a very large, masculine-looking bird, with fine length of head and bill, great length of body, but rather too long in leg, which takes off her appearance in depth, which, however, by measurement she does not lack. In colour she is a good medium, distinctly pencilled; the colour of her bill is almost orange throughout, there is a slight indication of a saddle on it, and that is all. Our object in placing her in this pen is to produce some very large-framed, rich-coloured drakes, with sound, clear coloured bills, most of

them, we expect, qualified for exhibition, although they will be a shade or two darker in plumage than the drakes from the young ducks in this pen. Her young ducks may be large and valuable for breeding purposes, but the most of them will be too dark for exhibition. Altogether we expect to breed a large proportion of show-birds from this pen.

Our third drake, Emperor, a young one, which we previously described as correct in markings, but the darkest in colour of the four selected; about fifteen years ago we would have given almost anything for such a sound, dark-coloured, clear-billed drake as this to breed from, but since then they have been more plentiful and greatly used, and they have done good service, too, in changing the light clay ground colour of our old-fashioned ducks to the golden brown of our modern favourites. Of late years, however, we have noticed this richness of colour may be carried too far, and result in a sacrifice of pencilling, so that we recommend the use of very dark-coloured drakes only when occasion requires. Having three immense old ducks of splendid shape, but a shade lighter in colour than we usually breed from, is our reason for using Emperor. Such mating as this cannot be avoided occasionally with small breeders, but remember that "like produces like," and therefore our light and dark strains should be brought together in a modified equality of form and colour, otherwise there is no certainty. Crossing very dark and very light birds together of any breed is a haphazard way of breeding; such crossing has, and will, throw an occasional uniform coloured bird, but the percentage of such is very small. These remarks, however, do not refer very pointedly to the breeding we are at present selecting; as may be noticed from our description, neither the drake