

## The Poultry World.

### Toulouse Geese.

The Toulouse goose is the largest variety of the domestic goose known, and as its name indicates, was brought from Toulouse in France, it is stated by the late Earl of Derby. They do not stand, perhaps, quite so tall as the Embdens, but are more compact of shape, whence they are by many preferred. Carriage erect, bodies nearly touching the ground. Color of the body and breast light grey; back dark grey; neck darker grey than back; wings and belly shading off to white, though but little white visible; bill pale flesh; legs and feet deep orange inclined to red. The large orbit which surrounds the eye, and the singularly early development of the abdominal pouch, are also striking characteristics of this variety. This last characteristic occurs at a short period after they have emerged from the shell, the goslings then beginning to assume this ordinary feature of grown birds when not ten days old, and at three months it will be seen almost touching the ground.

In weight the Toulouse geese have generally surpassed the Embdens, but in 1872 the Embdens at the Birmingham Exhibition stood first in this respect, the weights of the prize pair of old birds being 56 lbs., 2 ozs., and again in 1873 56 lbs., 6 ozs., while the Toulouse in the same years weighed only 53 lbs. The treatment of the Toulouse geese is in all respects similar to that of the Embden, both as to goslings and grown birds.

There is however one peculiarity inherent in the Toulouse geese exclusively its own and to which the fashionable world owe that favorite delicacy of the luncheon and supper table, the famous Perigord pies, or *pate de foie gras*. For this purpose the geese are shut up in a very hot chamber and there fed well. They are so kept until their livers swell to an enormous size, when they are killed, and the diseased organs being taken from them, are potted with truffles, and the epicurean dish of *foie gras aux truffes* is thus made.

Toulouse geese are not good sitters, and their eggs are generally set under hens, but these must be large and heavy, or they do not do well, but the Embden and domestic geese sit well. When these are set on their own eggs, they will not brook much interference, nor is this necessary, as they are almost invariably good sitters and patient and steady mothers. The goose, when leaving her nest, covers her eggs like the duck. Neither is it needful to take any precaution with the gander who takes the greatest interest in the process of incubation, and if the sitter happens to be his favorite mate, will often go and sit beside her for an hour or more.

In writing of geese as market poultry, Mr. Hewitt says. "It will be pretty generally admitted that, with the exception of some breeds of highly plumaged foreign and two or three varieties of native wild geese, all other geese are usually kept more with a view of profit than being strictly ornamental. It may therefore here benefit others to make a few suggestions, the result of experience gained long prior to poultry shows being in vogue, and when the matter of breeding geese was pursued simply from rivalry and its utility. I am convinced beyond question, after many trials, that the finest geese are those procurable from a "cross" between the Embden and Toulouse; and I much prefer the whole of the geese to be thoroughbred Embdens and the gander an equally pure Toulouse. By this first cross, birds of great frame are procurable, and, under constant high feeding, of weights very far beyond those of either of the parents producing them. I have as a rule, between Michaelmas and Christmas, killed birds of the same year thus bred, the geese being from seventeen to twenty pounds each, and the Ganders from twenty-two to twenty six pounds. It must be kept in mind such goslings were not excessively fattened, as the weights might suggest to some persons, but rather like Shropshire sheep, more remarkable for the immense quantity of flesh they carried than their obesity. The flavor of these cross-breeds is remarkably mild and fine. These first cross goslings must, however, not be retained as future stock birds, for they themselves produce young of very inferior size, by throwing back. The rule to be observed is breed continuously (year after year) from the same old stock which are purely

descended, and kill off annually all the cross produce for table or market purposes. If the old birds are truly bred of their respective kinds, the goslings almost without exception will be saddle-backed in the feather, with the head and upper portion of the neck grey, and a patch of the same color on the thighs, the whole of the remainder of the plumage being white. Singularly enough the majority of the young Ganders and a fair proportion of the geese thus bred are slightly crested, though this peculiarity is not possessed by either parent. It will be found much preferable for the gander to be a Toulouse and the geese Embdens than reversing the sexes, as they breed larger framed and heavier-fleshed birds, which is a most important feature. It also affords some amusement to the owner, as it altogether upsets at once the theory of many old farm mistresses, that the gander is the white bird and the geese parti-colored."

The above remarks are very valuable to breeders of geese, and considering how general among farmers in Canada is the rearing of geese, it would be well if they would adopt the course of crossing recommended by Mr. Hewitt. Once pure stock is obtained, the difficulty is overcome, as geese are proverbially long livers if proper care be taken of them.

### Endeavor to Avoid Disease.

It is said a gentleman once waited on the celebrated Sir Astley Cooper. When asked his malady, he said he had none. His motive for coming was of a preventive nature, but it could be attained only by consulting a competent medical authority, and he had therefore sought the most eminent. He wished to know when, in this climate, a man might safely leave off flannels, and when to take to them again? Sir Astley smiled and said "you ask me when you may safely leave off flannel, and when to take to it again. You may leave it off on the eve of midsummer day, and take to it again on midsummer morning."

The climate of our country is as trying for fowls as for human beings; and as after the long drought we may look for broken weather, we venture to advise our poultry correspondents, just as at certain times agricultural papers advise as to ploughing, manuring, &c. When the nights get longer, and when the white frosts succeed each other, it is always time to get the chickens under cover to roost. Warnings are not wanted in the way of incipient colds, of ominous sneaks and short outings at night when they roost out doors. Our chickens are reared some distance from the roosting house they occupy in the winter. Many of them still pass the night in the rips in which they lived while chickens. We shift these every night some three or four yards nearer to the house they are to inhabit. Those that roost on rails and in trees, we catch after dark and put them to roost in the house. This is not necessary when they are in good far a yards and safe sheltered places, but in the long dark nights it is not well to allow them to occupy exposed and dangerous places. It is often putting temptation in the way of those who are not scrupulous. Arrived at the equinox, and having to do with many that are not adults, it is most essential to feed at the last day light and first dawn. The food may be also rather more generous. The sun is hot, but the mornings and evenings are cold, and they feel the change more than they do in the cold weather, when they are seasoned to it.—*Journal of Horticulture*.

**FEEDING TURKEYS.**—Our rule is to feed very little while the turks are young and nothing the first twenty-four hours after hatching. They give hard boiled egg in small quantities, crumbled fine. A very little of this will do. Later, feed curdled milk, and still later, corn and oats ground together. This is better than clear corn meal which is too heating. Encourage the hen and brood to go off and get their own living as early as possible. If the season is dry, the brood will keep itself, only giving a feed once in a while at night to bring them home. More turkeys are lost through over-feeding than from starvation. This is true of all young fowls excepting ducks, which can hardly be fed too much. On no account give young turkeys or chickens salt.—*Rural New Yorker*.

**GAPES.**—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says:—I have lost three chicks with the gapes this season. I tried this experiment: In a brood of fifteen chicks, I made an application of kerosene oil and lard to the head and under the wings of every chick but one, doing this at night, and not allowing the chicks to run out again until the next morning. The one exempted from the application died of the gapes. I am satisfied, as I believe all poultry breeders are, that this disease is caused by lice on the head. The other cases of gapes were where I applied sulphur instead of the mixture of oil and lard. I must say I have not had the success of ridding my fowls of lice by the use of sulphur, which some breeders write they have.

**CAPONIZING.**—Caponizing fowls is practiced to some extent in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Its effect upon the fowls is that they grow one-third beyond their otherwise natural size, fatten more easily and rapidly on less food, and their flesh is of finer quality, the price they command in the market being fifty per cent. higher than that of ordinary fowls of the same age. As an illustration of their superiority we quote from an exchange of recent date the statement that "a man in New Jersey has just sold a lot of 250 capons, averaging ten and three-fifths pounds each; the heaviest pair weighing twenty-eight pounds. The price obtained was thirty eight cents per pound, making over \$4 a head for the fowls."

**ROAD DUST AND POULTRY DUNG.**—Road dust is worth many times its cost as an absorbent. Those who keep poultry may secure by its use a valuable fertilizer, nearly as strong as guano, with none of its disagreeable odor. Place an inch or two of road dust in the bottom of a barrel; then, as the poultry house is regularly cleaned, deposit a layer an inch thick of the cleanings, and so on alternately, layers of each till the barrel is full. The thinner each layer is, the more perfect will be the intermixture of the ingredients. If the soil of which the road dust is made is clayey, the layers of each may be of equal thickness; if sandy, the dust should be at least twice as thick as the layer of droppings. Old barrels of any kind may be used for this purpose, but if previously soaked with crude petroleum or coated with gas tar, they will last many years. If the contents are pounded on a floor into fine powder before applying, the fertilizer may be sown from a drill. Road dust is one of the most perfect deodorizers of vaults—converting their contents also into a rich manure. Place a barrel or box of it in the closet, with a small tupper, and throw down a pint into the vault each time it is occupied, and there will be no offensive odor whatever. This is simpler, cheaper and better than a water-closet, and never freezes or gets out of order. Mixing the road dust with an equal bulk of coal ashes is an improvement, making the fertilizer more friable.—*Country Gentleman*.

## The Apiary.

### September Management of Bees.

Bee-keepers in our latitude (Philadelphia) do not calculate on their bees securing much honey or pollen during this month. But we have had large quantities of surplus honey gathered this month from late buckwheat, golden rod and other wild flowers, which bloom in low, wild lands during the fore part of this month, and when "Jack Frost" does not show himself, both honey and pollen has been gathered largely up to the first of October. The honey harvest as a general thing terminates this month.

As soon as the honey season is over, plundering and robbing commences. Great care must be taken to guard against it by closing the entrance of the hives of all weak or small swarms; and it often does not come amiss to contract the entrance of the strong also, for we have seen some strong swarms robbed. Bees are like mankind in this respect: some will defend their stores fiercely, while others will make no resistance. If a colony retains its drones long after those of other stocks are destroyed, it will most invariably be found queenless, and should be supplied with brood from which to rear a queen. Look often to your colonies and if any weak ones are found feed them up, and they can be as strong as any by spring; but will be worth comparatively nothing if left to themselves.—*Practical Farmer*.

### Ages of Bees.

The queen passes the period of about three days in the egg and five as a worm; the workers then close her cell, and she immediately begins to spin her cocoon, which takes her from twenty to twenty-four hours. On the tenth and eleventh days, and perhaps a part of the twelfth day, she seems to be exhausted by her hard labor. She now remains in almost complete repose; she then passes four or five days as a nymph, and on the sixteenth to the sixteenth day a perfect queen is attained. Much depends upon the strength of the colony and the heat of the season, which will vary it from one to two days.

The drone passes three days in the egg and about six in the worm, and changes into a perfect insect on the twenty-fourth day after the egg is laid. Much depends on the strength and heat of the colony, which should be about 70° Fah., for their speedy development. They lay in rather a diuturn state for several days after they hatch, before taking wing.

The worker bee spins its cocoon in thirty-six hours. After passing three days in the egg in this state of preparation for a new life, it gradually undergoes a great change, and becomes armed with a firmer body with scales of a brownish color and somewhat tinged with light hairs. On its belly it has six rings or scales. After it has reached the twenty-first day of existence—reckoning from the egg—it comes forth from the cell on the twenty-first to the twenty-second day a perfect insect, and is termed an imago.—*Practical Farmer*.