

two hens, and so on till I have all I want set. These hens usually have to sit about two weeks before turkey hens are ready. But as soon as I get a turkey hen to sit steadily I give her the first sitting of eggs, the next turkey gets the next sitting, and so on. A turkey hen should not get more than fourteen eggs.

This plan gets the young birds out a little earlier—at least the first two broods are ten days earlier than if I waited on the turkeys to sit. There is no disadvantage in this system, except that the turkey hens may lay a second batch—perhaps a third—while they are rearing their brood. I try to prevent this by giving the hens only a very little food while sitting, but they must get it regularly every day. I give them boiled potatoes only when they have less than three weeks to sit, and when their broods come out I feed them in the same way.

Some will not object to hens laying while rearing their broods. I do. One thing is enough at a time, and when they lay they are certain to sit before very long, and the birds are not so well cared. Sometimes the hen beats them, though she will not desert them. I say try and prevent the hens from laying while rearing their brood. This may seem a small matter, but success is attained by seeing to the small things.

The period of incubation is twenty eight days. Hens usually bring the turkeys off in this time, but a turkey hen, if she sits closely, will bring them off two days earlier. However, the time is twenty eight—some say thirty, others twenty-six. Both are sometimes right, but this happens through the care the eggs get. If very closely sat upon they will be a day or two earlier. If the hen is worn out towards the close of the period, and leaves the nest frequently, they will be a day or two after their time.

Incubators are very rarely used for hatching turkey eggs, though they will hatch them well. The rearing with artificial mothers, however, would be a failure. An incubator would be very useful to hatch eggs with thin shells, from imported hens, which those who import have always the painful experience of. When the young birds are hatched, remove the shells, put a board round the nest about a foot high, and leave them alone till they are twenty-four hours old

#### FEEDING AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

When turkeys are about three months old they may be allowed to roost, though if properly prepared perches are provided they may be allowed to roost a month earlier. A great deal has been written on crooked breasted turkeys, and the general opinion is that crooked breasts are heredi-

tary. A greater mistake could not be made. Any heavy fowl will get deformed in the breast bone if allowed to sit on a hard perch too early. I have noticed every variety of fowls deformed in this way, though I have never known a young bird to be deformed in the breast bone before it was allowed to roost. If turkeys have a good bed of straw for the first two months and a perch made of a board  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep, covered with a bit of old carpet nailed on loosely and packed with fine hay between the carpet and wood, I am quite certain no turkey ever will have a crooked breast, though the parents be ever so badly deformed.

I would advise all who go in for rearing good turkeys to carefully look after their perches—not to make them over  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, and cover the hard wood with hay and carpet, so as to form a cushion. This is better than covering the roost with straw ropes and more easily done. The perches should be three feet apart and not over two feet high. Mine are about 16 inches high. I don't like to have high perches for any heavy fowl; when they have to come down off high perches, it is a half fly-half fall, which does them harm. Valuable turkeys which are to be retained for stock purposes should have the floor of their roosting house covered with straw or peat dust. Both cocks and hens are very liable to get corns from lighting on hard ground.—BREEDER in *The Kennel, The Farm, The Poultry Yard, etc.*

(To be Continued.)

#### THE BLACK-BREASTED RED GAME.

WHEN judges are awarding prizes for a hen of this variety they do not go by the color so much as by the length and shape of the bird. At the same time, as Mr. Cook tells us in the course of a customarily practical article on this variety, which he recently contributed to our contemporary, the *Farm, Field and Fireside*, color is looked upon as a matter of first importance among admirers of the breed. The feathers should be clear in their markings, and many of our best breeders, in order to get good colored hens, cross the with the duckwing Game. That brings the progeny of a paler color, and they seldom show any rusty brown across the shoulders and back. If breeders did not cross in this way it would be a difficult matter to get good colored black-breasted red Game hens;