

so that the heat will loosen the feathers and yet not scald the skin so that it will break in picking. Experience is required to perform the operation successfully. Where birds are scalded all the feathers are removed, including those on the neck and wings left on when the bird is dry picked. This allows the housewife to use the whole neck and wings in cooking, so that the shrinkage in drawing would be a little less from this method of picking than from dry picking. Scalding is seldom practiced where birds are to be shipped and kept for some time before being sold; but where birds are slaughtered for immediate sale in a nearby market, the picking is made very easy by scalding. The feathers, however, are of no value.

THE PRODUCTION OF MONGRELS.

The Canada goose, mated with the domestic goose, produces goslings commonly called mongrels, and sometimes termed "mules," because of the fact that they are sterile. It is occasionally true that a mongrel goose when kept for two or more years will lay a few eggs, but we have no knowledge that goslings have ever been hatched from eggs laid by a mongrel goose. The progeny of the cross mating is usually sold the same season it is produced, and because of its delicacy, brings a much higher price in the market than other domestic water-fowl. As the Canada females lay but few eggs, it is not customary to raise mongrels from them. They are more often used for breeding pure Canada geese. The mongrel is generally the product of the Canada gander mated with some dark colored domestic goose, usually an African or Toulouse. The gander

will mate equally well with a white or light-colored goose, but the progeny would be very liable to be marked with more or less light colored feathers, which might cause doubt upon the part of the dealer as to the genuineness of the breeding, and thus injure the sale when the bird came to be marketed. The gander has usually to be kept until two or three years old before he will mate, and probably for this reason the ganders bring a comparatively high price, good breeding birds ranging from ten to fifty dollars or more each. When a gander has reached the proper age for mating, a good sized, well bred African or Toulouse goose is usually selected for his mate. A goose two or three years old, which has already proven to be a satisfactory egg producer and good mother, is preferred, and the two should be confined together in some roomy yard provided with water and grass. It is better to get them mated during the autumn months, and to confine them in the field or yard which is to be their future home. This should contain a natural supply of water, as a spring-hole, small pond, or portion of a stream, if possible. Canada ganders have a very strong attachment for their mates, and will fight other ganders severely, especially during the breeding season. It is best, therefore, to have the different pairs sufficiently well separated so that their interests do not clash, as they are liable to injury in fighting. The eggs produced can be set under hens or other geese, so that as many eggs as possible may be obtained from the Canada gander and his mate.

Canada ganders are valuable as breeders for a much longer time than the ganders of domestic

breeds. One instance was brought to our attention where a Canada gander forty-five years old was still serviceable and in one season his progeny sold for the sum of seventy-five dollars.

Mongrel geese are almost never sold as green geese, being reserved for the Thanksgiving and Christmas trade. It is difficult to fatten them properly until the cool weather of fall, when they fatten readily, about the same course being pursued as in the fattening of other goslings. As a rule, they pick quite easily, and the flesh has a very handsome appearance, contrasted with the dark feathers. The feathers on the neck and wings are left, as in the dressing of green geese, and those upon the tail should also be left. If the wings are tied up with braid or tape, and the legs tied together underneath the tail, as the bird lies upon its back, the appearance is improved and the bird perhaps rendered more salable. Considerable skill is required, as well as patience and an abundance of natural facilities in the way of space and water supply, to successfully produce mongrels. The breeding stock is also an item of no inconsiderable amount, where large numbers are produced. It is a business which has to be gradually acquired and the details learned by experience in most cases.

(To be Continued.)

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