

advisable to have suitable nests prepared and accustom the hens to laying in their proper nests. This may be accomplished by confining them to their house during the morning until they have selected their nests.

*Incubating the Eggs.*—When the breeding stock has been properly cared for turkeys' eggs incubate satisfactorily, twenty-eight days being necessary for hatching. Incubators may be used successfully or the eggs set under turkey hens or ordinary hens. Turkeys usually lay from twenty to thirty eggs before becoming broody, and therefore incubators or hens are advisable, in order to have the eggs for hatching as fresh as possible.

*Rearing the Poults.*—The young poults (as turkey chicks are called), when hatched may be housed and cared for in a manner similar to other chicks. In the wild state they live largely on insects and green food, therefore animal food or milk and green food can constitute a good portion of their feed. Care, however, must be taken that the young poults are kept in sanitary quarters and free from head or body lice. When young they should be kept in a limited run and entirely free from dampness. When their run is in long grass the poults should be confined after a rain storm or heavy fall of dew until the grass becomes dry. As the young stock grow they may be given more liberal range and allowed on the grain fields in the fall. Suitable housing should be provided for young turkeys at all times and when young taught to return to their houses at night and enclosed. When this method is followed the losses from animals of prey are reduced to a minimum.

*Fleshing for Market.*—As the season for marketing approaches the turkeys should be confined to a more limited range and fed three or four times a day for three weeks on a mixture of finely ground oats and fine shorts mixed with skim milk or buttermilk, giving at each feed only such quantities as they will readily eat.

*Killing.*—Killing, plucking, and preparing turkeys for market should be in a manner similar to that recommended elsewhere in this bulletin.

## XV.—DUCKS.

Duck raising is a branch of the poultry industry that in recent years has grown rapidly throughout the province and considered a profitable undertaking.

*Housing Ducks.*—Ducks should be housed separately from the other fowl. It is also advisable not to allow them to run at large with other poultry. Houses suitable for ducks need not be as large as those intended for turkeys or hens. But little interior fixtures are necessary other than a feed trough. The floor of the house, however, should always be covered with good, clean, dry straw. Light, ventilation and sanitary conditions are equally as necessary.

All of the breeds mentioned may be considered good for market purposes with the exception of the Indian Runner Duck. This breed is a rather small duck and is noted more particularly for its egg-producing qualities, many of the strains being capable of laying as many eggs as the ordinary domestic fowl.