

**RABBITS -LOP-EARED, SPANISH, ANDALUSIAN AND PATAGONIAN.**—The lop-eared rabbit is the variety, the point of which is length of ears, and the longer the better. The Andalusian is a native of Spain, of large size, weighing from 12 to 18 lbs., colour grey, hair glossy and smooth. The ears are generally long and dangling, as if inclined to be half-lop—at least, longer than in all other varieties, lop-eared excepted. This is at times also designated the Ram-Rabbit. The Patagonian is another large variety, more frequently found in France, and the sort seeming to be the greatest favourite is of a light yellow, or almost cream shade, so-called; weight, about from 12 to 15 lbs; ears shorter and more erect than those of the Andalusian. The last two varieties are scarce, but they are valuable for the table.

**PERCHES FOR CHICKENS.**—Chickens, especially of the larger breeds, should never be allowed to perch until they are fully six months old, as the breast bone will become crooked. There is no cure for it, and it is a disqualification everywhere. After chickens are deserted by their mother they should be allowed to roost in their rip or pen for some weeks; they huddle together and keep themselves warm, and it is better for them while their bones are forming; whereas, if they perch they will have cartilage instead of bone, their legs cannot support them, and their breasts rest on the perch. The bone is soft, and takes the impress of it.

**DUBBING GAME CHICKENS.**—Game chickens may be dubbed at six or seven months old, but care must be taken not to perform the operation while feathers are forming. They are then, in cockers' parlance, in "bloody stub," and cannot bear the operation. Scissors used by grooms in clipping horses are good for dubbing; they are curved. The gills are taken off close, and the deaf ears. The cuts are black the next day, and they soon cicatrise. The birds suffer so little, that if all that is removed be chopped up, they will eat it directly. It takes two persons to perform the operation.

**BREEDING TURKEYS.**—Most breeders

prefer breeding from early-hatched young hen turkeys, and seldom keep them after the second or third year. Young cock turkeys are preferable, especially if the hens are old ones, but there is little objection to using a three-year old bird.

## GAME FOWLS—No. 1.

### CUP AND PRIZE SORTS AND COLOURS.

**1. BROWN REDS.**—These are essentially the Dark Reds, and are often so termed.

**Cock.**—General colour a rich dark brown red. Beak dark; upper mandible darkest. Comb, face, wattles, and deaf-ears all of a darkish gipsy-red colour. Eyes large, bold, full, and of a very dark blackish brown; the pupil not visible in the eye. Neck-hackle, or mane, rich dark brownish red, thickly striped with dark stripes under the outside feathers. "cut-out" dark. Shoulders generally of a dark brown maroon red, but often of a rich orange red. Back a rich dark brown red, darker than the other parts of the plumage. Upper wing dark brownish purple red, or of a rich orange red in the lighter birds. Lower wing invariably of a dusky, smoky, very dark brown. Breast and thighs either red brown, streaked with darker brown, or of a clear red brown: any black streaks or markings objectionable. Tail dark greenish black, with dark fluff or down at the roots. Legs, feet, and talons, or nails, of a dark brown red iron—brown or blackish bronze.

The wing often has a greenish bar, but the hardest birds are without this as a rule.

**Hen.**—General Colour dark blackish brown, streaked, grained, and pencilled with a lighter brown on the dark ground. Comb, face, gills, and deaf-ears of a dark grey gipsy colour, never red. Eyes large, bold and full, as the cock's. Neck-hackle a golden coppery dark red, thickly striped with very dark stripes. Breast and thighs dark; the former streaked with lighter brown on the dark ground. Legs, feet, and claws, talons, or nails as in the cock.

Light nails or talons are very objectionable in this breed, as is a light beak or eye.

**2. BLACK-BREASTED REDS.**—These should be essentially the bright reds,