

they are well mated, three geese with one gander, as a colony, then give them a place where they are not confined, give as large liberty as you can, but locate them. Place some nests for their use, some covered boxes about two feet square; put in some fine cut straw, and a nest egg in each box; have each goose lay in her own box, then you have one colony fixed. Your next colony you will place somewhere remote, at some distance, and teach them to run together, and separate from the others. You can breed as many colonies as you can accommodate, no matter if the Ganders do come together once in a while and have a little sparring match, it is something practised by geese of high culture.

*Feed each colony near their nests to teach them that is their home, and when there they are not to be molested.* The way I feed them is to boil cabbage, turnips, or potatoes and mix with corn meal. Give them all they will eat of this with a good feed of corn once a day while laying. Keep ground oyster shells by them all the time. When they begin to lay take their eggs as soon as convenient and with a pencil write on the egg's date, colony, explain goose, and number, as No. 1, 2, 3, and so on, so at the end of the laying season you know how many eggs your goose lays, and then should she be very productive mark her as one you want to preserve by punching a hole in the web of the foot, colony 1, one hole, 2, two holes, and so on; with this method after a few years you will secure for yourself a lot of first-class producers. Should you happen to lose any of your flock always replace from the best laying goose you have and your Ganders from the same class of goose. I always raise from geese of highest register. Thirty years ago I rarely had a bird that would lay over thirty eggs, now they often lay sixty and occasionally more.

Now, having your early eggs, take good care of them, they are the valuable ones, every one hatched is worth one dollar, and with a good market more. Set them just as soon as you can. Should I have to wait too long to fill a drawer in my incubator I put them under hens, giving from five to seven each, according to size of hen, for goslings from fresh laid eggs are more vigorous. Keep your geese laying; should you see one line her nest to set, take her and shut her up for a few days and she will forget it and soon commence another litter. Always have them lay two litters, letting them set on part of the last litter. After the hens set about two weeks I take out all the unfertile eggs, noting on my book from what colony they are taken and the goose, so any mistake in mating is readily discovered. If not in time to correct this year, I am prepared for the next. In this

manner I get at the product of each goose. One making a low average I discard. After getting a good goose keep her, I never knew one too old, my oldest are my best. I prefer young Ganders, say from one to six years old. After my goslings hatch I do not take them from the nest until they are thirty-six hours old, then put them on a green plot where the grass is young and tender, give them all the meal and shorts or feed mixed with little scraps they will eat.

I set three boards on edge round their coop for the first day or two, then let them run. I usually wire off about half an acre for my early goslings, careful not to let them get into deep water. Give all the grain they will eat, with good grass, until the flight feathers reach the root of the tail. I then drive them into a small bare enclosure with some shade to fatten. Do not frighten them, always be mild and kind, your success now depends upon their quietness and their want of fright. Should you get them churning or running from one side of the pen to the other they will not take on flesh fast. They are a very sensitive bird and will always remember ill treatment.

Now, I feed them from seventeen to twenty days all the corn meal they will eat mixed with one quarter scraps with corn at night. To prepare my food I boil water and put some meal into my mixing trough and mix the scraps with the meal dry. I then pour on some boiling water, and stir it up. Now, give them all the water they will drink and a box of clear sand, also a few old rotten stumps of wood for them to pick upon. After twenty days they are fit for market. I now take them to my room, stick them in the mouth to bleed them, then pick them very carefully, leaving only the flight feathers and about one-half of the neck unpicked. I then put them into a tub of cold water as fast as picked and let them remain till all the animal heat is out of them. I then wash out their mouths carefully and repack them in cold water and ice and let them remain all night. Early the next morning I pack them in a shipping box and ship them on the earliest train for market. Should you find any in the lot not fat enough to kill throw them out to grass and let them run for a month or so and fatten them with a later litter. You must be sure and kill before they begin to shed for then they will stop fattening and get poor in spite of you, such should be thrown out and re-fattened.

Now, after all this care what is a fair profit?

With the proper conditions geese are very profitable. It is safe to calculate on 75 per cent. of your eggs produced, to hatch, now should your geese lay 40 eggs each in two litters, you get from your colony 120 eggs or 90 goslings, and we should about as soon think of losing a colt as a gosling.