

account of its quills, and of the fine soft feathers. The quills supplied all Europe with pens before steel pens were invented, and have not ceased to be in great demand. Geese must have free access to water, and when this is the case, they are easily reared, and rendered profitable. Two broods are sometimes produced in a season, ten or eleven in a brood, and the young geese are ready for the table in three months after they leave the shell. They live, if permitted, to a great age. Willughby records an instance of one that reached the age of eighty years, and was killed at last for its mischievousness. Great flocks of geese are kept in some places in England, particularly in Lincolnshire, and regularly plucked five times a year, for feathers and quills. Geese intended for the table are commonly shut up for a few weeks and fattened before being killed. Great numbers are yearly imported from Holland and Germany to England, and fattened in establishments entirely devoted to this purpose. *Goose-hams* are an esteemed delicacy. The gizzards, heads, and legs of geese are also sold in sets, under the name of giblets, to be used for pies. The livers of geese have long been in request among Epicures; but the *pâte de foie d'oie* or *pâte de foie gras* of Strasburg, is made from livers in a state of morbid enlargement, caused by keeping the geese in an apartment of very high temperature. Large goose livers were a favourite delicacy of the ancient Roman Epicures.

The Gray Lag Goose is the largest of the native British species. The next to it in size, and by far the most abundant British wild goose, is the *Bean Goose*, a very similar bird; the bill longer, orange, with the base and nail black; the plumage mostly gray, but browner than in the gray lag, the rump brown. The wings extend beyond the tail. The habits scarcely differ from those of the gray lag, but the bean goose is a

more northern species. It is common in all the northern parts of Europe and Asia; and great numbers breed in Nova Zembla, Greenland, and other most northern regions. Large flocks are to be seen in many parts of Britain in winter, particularly during severe frosts, but a few also breed in the north of Scotland, and even in the north of England. The Bean Goose is easily domesticated, but generally keeps apart from the ordinary tame geese.

The *White Fronted Goose*, or Laughing Goose, is a frequent visitant of Britain; a native of Europe, Asia, and America, breeding chiefly on the coasts and islands of the Arctic Seas. It is only about 27 inches in its utmost length. The plumage is mostly gray; there is a conspicuous white space on the forehead. It has often been tamed. Similar in size is the *Pink-Footed Goose*, a species which has a very short bill. In England it is rare, and a mere visitor, but it breeds in great numbers in some of the Hebrides. The *Snow-Goose* is found in all the regions within the arctic circle, but most abundantly in America, where it migrates southward in winter, as far as the Gulf of Mexico. It is somewhat smaller than the Bean Goose. The general color of the plumage is pure white, the quill feathers brownish black. The feathers exported from the Hudson Bay Territories are in great part the produce of this beautiful species, and probably many of the fine white goose feathers exported from Russia. Its flesh is greatly esteemed.

GAME BANTAMS.

BREEDING BLACK REDS.

To breed the best colored Black-breasted red cocks there are two ways often tried with success. First, take a Black-breasted red cock, of the color you require, and put him to a