

enough to provide a permanent supply throughout the season makes the most desirable place for keeping geese, they are not entirely dependent upon it. Water may be supplied in tubs, or barrels, sunk in the ground during the breeding season, and through the fall and winter a supply of water in pails or shallow tubs to serve for drinking, will be quite sufficient. In the keeping of Canada geese, however, a natural body of water, pool, pond, or stream appears to be quite essential to successful breeding.

A colony of geese may often be confined in a field fenced with an ordinary stone wall. Fences, however, must be tight at the bottom, that they may find no openings through which to crawl, as they are much more likely to creep out than to fly over a fence or obstruction.

In many mild climates, where snow remains for only a short time on the ground, and where the temperature does not often go below zero, geese will frequently ignore any shelter whatever, requiring only barrels or boxes in which to make their nests. It is always well, however, to have some shelter, as an open shed or cellar, into which they can go in the severest weather. A rough shelter of poles, thatched with straw, and provided with a bed of dry straw, serves a good purpose, and is all that they require. A comfortable shelter in the most severe weather of winter will doubtless help to increase the egg production later in the season.

No kind of poultry keeping can be carried on at so little expense for buildings and equipment as goose raising, because of the hardiness of the birds, and their desire to remain in the open air. Geese dislike confinement, and the successful breeder endeavors to so locate his colonies of geese as to have them realize their confinement as little as possible. The more freedom they have, the better they are likely to thrive.

A piece of low swampy ground in which pond holes exist, or may be artificially made, is an excellent place for geese, and when a piece of dry upland can be also utilized for the same flock, it makes an ideal location. The geese delight to rest on a sunny side hill after their swim and exploration of the pond or brook. The short green grass of the upland is also relished by them, and promotes more rapid growth than the coarser and less nutritious grasses of the swamp.

(To be continued).

## THE BLACK EAST INDIAN DUCK.

BY H. S. BABCOCK, PROVIDENCE, R.I.

ONE of the most beautiful of the small ducks is the black East Indian. In size it is a counterpart of the Call duck; in shape there is a strong resemblance, but in color it is one of the loveliest green blacks that ever the eye of mortal man rested upon.

I used to breed these little beauties, and from my experience I think it strictly within the line of possibilities to rear fifty from a trio in a season. With me the eggs proved remarkably fertile, and the little ducks good layers.

I sold my stock of East Indians to a New Jersey fancier. I saw him not long ago and he told me how much pleased he was with them. In the course of the conversation he said, "I always objected to ducks because I thought they were nasty, but I find nothing of this to complain of in the East Indians. They seem to be as neat as any fowls can be."

If a fancier wished to have a lovely contrast in colors, let him keep a pen of black East Indians and a pen of white Call ducks. Each would heighten the beauty of the other, and it would be difficult for one to declare which was the lovelier. I think many would cut the gordian knot by selecting both kinds.

Black East Indians, however, have one advantage over white Call ducks, they can be kept where the latter would grow dingy. Take a city like Cincinnati, Ohio, where soft coal is quite generally consumed. The air gets filled with the soot, and it comes down to blacken and stain all things white. In such a place the East Indian would remain presentable, while the white Call would look as if it needed a good scrubbing with Soapine. In Indianapolis, Ind., a city where similar conditions exist, I observed that the Sparrows were much blacker than here in the East. At first I thought it was a variation due to climate, but after reflection I discovered that soft coal soot was the reason.

In such places no duck will better suit a fancier than the East Indian. Here is a field where it alone can enter without a handicap. The gray Call would look nice, but even this variety would show the stain more than the East Indian.

I can thoroughly recommend the black East Indian as a suitable variety for a fancier, as a variety that lays well, produces admirable, though small, birds for the table, and is withal extremely beautiful. If that is not a sufficient recommendation, I am at a loss to know what is. May these little black beauties increase and multiply till they shall become as common in our exhibitions as they now are rare.