

Pekin Ducks.

This magnificent breed of ducks was introduced from China in 1873, and has become very popular, fully maintaining its high reputation. For the first two or three years they were sold for high prices, \$20 a pair or more, but they are now widely disseminated and within the reach of all.

Pekins are among the largest ducks known, their white, or creamy white plumage, brilliant yellow bills and feet, erect bodies and carriage are characteristic. Their bodies are long and thick, and when startled they erect their short tails in a peculiar manner, and in many respects resemble small geese in appearance.

Pekins are exceedingly tame and quiet, easily reared and controlled, very hardy, and seem large and strong when they leave the shell.

They should always be hatched by hens, confined to a small yard for the first five or six weeks, with water to drink only, not to swim in. Their early maturity is remarkable; very prolific, laying a large number of eggs in a season.

I am able to speak of them personally as layers. During the last season mine lay almost daily for from three to four weeks, when they appear to take ten days rest, and go on again. The eggs are white, large and rich. The birds are as docile as lambs, and their feathers are very valuable. Good feeders and refuse no recognized food. I can recommend them for early market purposes to villagers and farmers, who, with good facilities, can breed them with more profit than any other variety.

F. J. GRENNY.

Brantford, Oct. 5th, 1881.

We are often asked by young fanciers to give the standard description and scale of points of different varieties. To do so would be an infringement of the copyright of the *American Standard of Excellence*. The fancier's first duty is to provide himself with a copy of this work, as without it he cannot buy, sell or breed intelligently.

A new beginner requests us to give the *Standard's* description of Pekin ducks, and we do it, hoping that when the case is known we will not be asked to do piracy again, and also that the guardians of the *Standard* will forgive us this time.

DISQUALIFICATIONS.

Birds not matching in the show-pen; crooked backs; birds so fat as to be down behind; bills marked with black; plumage any other color than white or creamy-white.

DRAKE AND DUCK.

HEAD: Long, and finely formed,—color of plumage, white.—Eyes, deep leaden-blue.

BILL: Of medium size, deep yellow, and perfectly free from marks of any other color.

NECK: Rather long and large in the drake; in the duck, of medium length,—color of plumage, pure white or creamy-white.

BACK: Long and broad.—color of plumage, white or creamy-white.

BREAST AND BODY: Breast, round and full.—Body very long and deep, and in adult birds approaching the outlines of a parallelogram; color of plumage, white or creamy-white throughout.

WINGS: Short, and carried compactly and smoothly against the sides,—color of plumage, white.

TAIL: Rather erect, the curled feathers in the drake being hard and stiff,—plumage white.

LEGS: Thighs, short and large. Color of plumage, white.—Shanks, short and strong, and of a reddish orange color.

PLUMAGE: Downy, and of a faint creamy-white.

POINTS IN PEKIN DUCKS.

Symmetry,	-	-	-	-	10
Size and Weight,	-	-	-	-	30
Condition,	-	-	-	-	10
Head,	-	-	-	-	5
Bill,	-	-	-	-	5
Neck,	-	-	-	-	5
Back,	-	-	-	-	7
Breast and Body	-	-	-	-	15
Wings,	-	-	-	-	5
Tail,	-	-	-	-	5
Legs,	-	-	-	-	3
					100

Artificial Incubation.

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No. XIII.

(Continued.)

When the chicken has at length been able to turn up or heave sufficiently the forepart of the shell, he has thereby procured to himself a door or means to go out of the hind part. He stretches out his legs, as yet weak, their motions are still insufficient [to carry him, but their stretching throw him forward; being then almost entirely out of his shell, he draws his head from under that wing where it had kept constantly; he stretches out his neck, but is not as yet strong enough to raise it, and he is often several minutes before he can do this. When we see a chicken for the first time in that condition we think him almost ready to expire; some time after, which commonly is very soon, he appears quite another creature, all his parts gather strength. After having dragged himself on his legs for a little while he becomes able to stand on them, to lift his neck and give it