

sufficient quantity of cut straw or other material for comfort and to protect the eggs. It is better to have enough nests so that each goose can have one, as it is more convenient when they want to sit.

It is better for the colony during the breeding season, and more of the eggs will prove fertile, if they can daily have access to a pond or brook of water in which they can swim, but if such a place is not available, a large half barrel sunk in the ground so that the top is on a level with the surface, will answer the purpose. If the barrel is deep, it is well to put into it, at one side a flat stone, reaching within five or six inches to the top, upon which the geese can step in getting out. This is particularly important if the barrel remains in the yard after goslings hatch, as they frequently drown from getting into barrels or tubs where they are not able to get out.

If possible they should have opportunity to roam in the pasture or field, so as to get some exercise, and as the season advances, pick up some grass and green food. This exercise helps not only to stimulate the egg production, but a larger proportion of the eggs are more likely to be fertile.

A goose usually covers her eggs when ever possible, and they will be found buried in the straw in the nests. When geese are laying in cold weather, the eggs should be gathered frequently to guard against their becoming chilled; as they frequently lay during the night, it is almost impossible to prevent some from getting too cold.

Where more than one colony is kept, they may be located a little distance apart, and each colony should be fed on its own grounds and taught to recognize that spot as its home. The ganders may occasionally meet and have a little battle, but on such an occasion there is usually such a commotion and confusion of voices that the owner can soon separate the combatants, and they return each with his flock, to his own domain.

For the best results, especially in the breeding of thoroughbreds, each colony should be lettered or numbered, so that a record may be kept of the laying qualities and fertility of the eggs of each bird. This is not a difficult matter when nests enough are furnished so that each goose has her own, and is taught to lay in it. The eggs when gathered can be marked with the name and letter of the colony, and the num-

ber of the goose; also the date. In this way it is possible at the end of the season to tell how many eggs each goose has laid, and the date enables one to always guard against keeping the eggs too long before setting. Carefully kept records of the number of eggs produced by the various birds kept will enable one to select for future breeding stock descendants of good layers of fertile eggs, and where this system of selection is followed for a series of years, considerable improvement in the stock results.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT.

After the breeding season, during the summer and fall, geese can obtain a sufficient living upon good pasture provided with never failing water. The flock can be placed upon the grain stubbles, or in meadows after the hay has been cut, and will pick up from the field many injurious insects or scattered grain. They have been observed to be fond of the army-worm, of which they devour large numbers when they have an opportunity. They will eat large quantities of wind-fall apples, and when sufficient numbers are kept in an orchard, will keep the ground as free from fallen fruit as a flock of sheep. The benefit of the orchard by the destruction of insects and larvae is difficult to estimate. The late windfalls and second-class apples can be gathered and used later in the season for feeding to geese with good results. They eat them raw, without cutting, unless extremely hard.

As cold weather approaches, geese for the Thanksgiving or Christmas market should be shut up and fattened. The breeding geese should receive some grain, but not sufficient in quantity to cause them to become too fat. Turnips, beets, or potatoes may be boiled and mixed with wheat bran, and a little Indian meal for the morning feed. At night, whole grain, oats, wheat, barley, or corn may be fed to them. It is better that not more than one-third of the whole grain fed at night should be Indian corn.

When the ground is covered with snow, so that no grass can be obtained, a few cabbage leaves, apples, or a sugar beet cut in two, are relished by them. They should always be provided with drinking water, which may be given to them in a butter tub or pail. Unless the soil of the pen where they are confined is gravelly, a heap of sand or gravel in the yard is appreciated by the geese. Oyster shells should also be provided, and a piece of rotten wood or an old stump