

G O O S E.

These are valuable and productive denizens of the poultry-yard, furnishing a large amount of food for human consumption, and supplying choice feathers always a

marketable article. The goose, if properly cared for, lays early, the goslings grow rapidly, and, with access to pasture, require but little feeding to make them fit for the table by Christmas time. Their yield of feathers and down is sufficiently liberal, without resort to the cruel practice of plucking the poor creatures alive, once or twice a year. There are many varieties of those Goats of the poultry-yard, most of which, however, are chiefly prized as fancy birds, possessing as they do no peculiar excellencies of size, meat, feather, or productiveness.

The common goose is well known to every one. Like most of our domesticated animals, it originated with some wild species, but its pedigree cannot be traced. Some think the Gray-lag the type and

source of our domesticated sorts, but many naturalists doubt this, and others wholly disbelieve it. The goose is a bird of extremely remote antiquity, and it is impossible to say what wild tribes may have had a share in the production of our established stock.

neck, are decidedly swan-like, but in its general contour it is a goose. Wild geese migrate from August to October, and may be shot at that period of the year in the vicinity of rivers and lakes in large numbers. The servants of the Hudson's Bay

The Embden, or Bremen geese, are originally from Holland. They have several points of superiority over the common goose, such as their great size; the higher value of their down and feathers, from their being perfectly white; the excellence of their flesh; the fact that they lay earlier, and frequently rear two broods in a season; and lastly, their quiet habits, which incline them to lay on flesh rapidly. Mrs Ferguson-Hair, in her "Hen wife," briefly enumerates their characteristics to points thus: "Blissom—white plumage; bills, flesh-colour; legs and feet, orange." The same high authority says in reference to raising geese:—"I find the turkey an excellent mother for goslings." Even a large common hen she thinks preferable to the natural mother. A good-sized hen will cover three eggs; a turkey seven; the period of incubation is thirty days. Goslings require high feeding; they can hardly be fed too well. They should be furnished with a dry bed, under cover, and protected from rats, which are deadly enemies to them.



COMMON GOOSE.

WILD GOOSE.

EMBDEN, OR BREMEN GEESE.