

and color, with the exception of his breast, which, since his last moult is all mottled with black. We know this may come all right again the next time he moults, so we will give him another year's run in hopeful anticipation.

The second two-year-old drake does not please us at all this season; he is very good in color with the exception of his wing-bars which are slightly defective. Last year he offered to be very deep; he has certainly dropped considerably in front, but his keel cuts up behind too quickly. This should not be encouraged. We like to see Rouens pretty square at each end, and well balanced on their legs. This drake we often notice resting on the front part of his breast, whilst his hinder part is elevated from the ground: they get out of form somehow. We have seen others like him, but those in our possession always have a happy knack of dying suddenly when the green peas are ready.

The third overyear drake is a surprise; he pleases the eye at once. What quality of color he has; his claret breast, his wing-bars, and the centre line of his back are all so sound and clear, sharp and clean cut, and perfect in form. His brilliant head rivals the peacock hue; his under-color, sides and wing-lines are perhaps a shade too light for the exhibition per, but not for our purpose; they are sound and clear up to rump, without any indication of white. The feathers of his dark tail, however, are very neatly laced with white on the outer edges; but in such a drake as this we consider it shows breeding and quality. His head and bill are long and straight, the latter almost bright orange; he is long in frame and of fair depth, although straight and decided in keel he is not so heavy in this point as some of his colleagues; but we know he is bred from heavily keeled parents. He weighs $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., but he is the most

active drake on his legs, which may account for any lack of keel and weight. He was from a rather light-colored but beautifully pencilled duck, and by our old Champion. We have always admired this drake, and we now decide to select him for one of our breeding pens. He will suit our darkest medium ducks admirably, and from his mother's side will give more pencilling on the backs of his daughters, an important point in which rich ground-colored ducks are apt to fail. His mother has also a clear bill, like a drake. It would be difficult to overestimate this drake as a breeder. For the object of further reference we will call this drake "Hero."

The fourth two-year-old drake is one we have long decided to use as a stock drake this season; he will take much less describing than the one previous, as he is a true standard drake throughout, a regular chip of our old champion—in fact, he is equal to him in every point with the exception of weight, and this we have purposely kept down, as it is, he weighs about 9 lbs.; he is at present rather too deep in keel, but he will soon lose weight and tighten in keel when the responsibilities of a lord of the duck creation are forced upon him. We will distinguish this drake by the name of "Conqueror."

We still require two more stock drakes, and these we will have to select from the six remaining young birds in this run. If any fancier is interested, perhaps he will run through the lot with me. One of these, although a novelty, is neither use nor ornament, so to speak, for the purpose under discussion, but a description of him may not only amuse, but go to prove that certain points may be carried too far in breeding. We call him "The Wobler," from his wriggling gait. He is the most striking drake in the run, and commands the special attention of

professionals and amateurs alike. He measures the extraordinary length 37 inches, but he is narrow and thin in condition, probably from the extra exertion he is required to use in his occasional walking excursions, and because he is the butt of the party. Keel is his most remarkable feature, and this is certainly in him carried to an extreme, as it extends from throat to paunch like that of the Toulouse goose. His color and markings are good, but he has evidently outgrown his strength, and his spine became affected, so, as I remarked above, he is not ornamental, and as I am afraid he would spoil the green peas, he is not useful.

The next we will examine is a first-rate drake in size and shape, but he is a bit defective in color, although previously selected by us we cannot recognize now as a breeding drake, he is throughout two shades too dark, this would not have been against him for crossing some ducks, had his markings been distinct, but like the majority of dark drakes he is cloudy on his back, he is the worst sort to breed good pencilled ducks from, and his sons would all have his fault. It would be safer to breed from a still darker drake if the markings were decided and clear. We at one time thought such drakes suitable to cross clear-marked ducks, but know now such stock drakes are a failure. Another most objectionable fault has shown itself in this drake lately, he had not the failing last year, and that is, a line of white between the under-color and the velvet black at vent, we must throw him out altogether, as to breed from faults of this kind is only to develop them.

Young drake No. 3, a large, deep, well-shaped bird, is a bit faulty looking in bill at present; he has a few yellow blisters on it, but this is no great eye sore to us, we know that his bill was previously clear and good, and that he has either damaged it in some