

Having determined on the breed or breeds which are to be kept, secure well developed and perfectly formed, healthy, vigorous stock, and it is well to get the geese from one breeder and the gander from another who has an entirely different strain of stock, so that the two will be entirely unrelated. One should not forget that in buying breeding stock he is purchasing for several years to come; it will therefore pay to exercise care in the choice of stock. Let the birds be as nearly perfect specimens of their breed and type as can be obtained. Secure, if possible, those from good laying stock, as there is great difference in regard to the egg production in different strains of the same breed. The number of eggs a goose lays, measures, to a large extent, the profit obtained from her keeping.

Three geese to one gander of the common domestic breeds is about the right proportion. In breeding mongrel geese, where the wild gander is mated to a domestic goose, there must be as many ganders as geese. By arranging with some goose breeder in the early part of the season—May or June—breeding stock can be selected from the number raised during the season, and in that way better birds obtained than later in the season. If neglected at this time, the birds may all be sold as green geese, and later, when one wishes to buy breeding stock it cannot be obtained.

If the young geese can be brought to their new home in the autumn they will become well acquainted with their surroundings and feel quite at home before spring and there will usually be no difficulty in mating.

If, for any reason it is desirable to separate birds already mated, they should be removed from each other's company, and so far removed that they cannot hear one another. Any changes in the mating of geese should be made in the fall, or certainly before January, if the best results are expected.

More care is necessary, and more difficulty is experienced in the mating of wild than domestic geese. We have heard the following course of procedure given where it was desirable to remove a goose from a wild gander and substitute another for a mate toward the beginning of the breeding season. The goose and gander are first confined in a yard for a little time; the gander is then removed to such a distance that

he cannot hear the sound of his mate's voice; the new goose is then confined in the pen with the old goose—the former mate of the wild gander. They are kept together for perhaps two weeks, until they become accustomed to each other and the new goose learns the notes of the old one. After two or three weeks the old goose is removed entirely out of sight and hearing, and the wild gander is returned to the pen. He will generally accept his new mate after a little time.

#### HANDLING.

Breeding geese should not be frightened or disturbed, and the feeder should always treat them kindly and be on the best of terms with them. The more gentle and tame they are the more profitable they are likely to be.

In handling a goose it should be taken by the neck, and when lifted from the ground the body should be turned with the back toward the person handling it. In that position it cannot strike, and will remain quiet and docile. The body can be partly supported by seizing the first joint of the wing by one hand. If the goose is held facing you, it will strike hard blows with its wings or scratch with its feet.

#### BUILDING AND CARE.

Having obtained the breeding stock, each colony, consisting of a gander and from one to three geese, should be given a location. This may be a yard 60 to a hundred feet square, the larger the better; and if so arranged to form part of a pasture, or large lot where geese can wander without damage to crop or grounds, so much the better. They should be allowed to think that they are not confined, if possible.

If heavy snows or extreme cold weather are liable to prevail, a small, partially opened shed, six feet by eight, or larger, is desirable for shelter. This can be provided with dry litter, which will furnish them a comfortable place in case of severe or inclement weather. In any ordinary weather they will prefer to stay out of doors, and even on a snow bank, to remaining in the building; but if accustomed to the shed they will utilize it when the weather becomes severe, and it may save them from having their feet frost-bitten, which usually results in lameness.

Boxes or large barrels make good nests, and should be supplied by February 1st, as geese are very apt to continue laying in the place which they select for depositing the first eggs. The nests should contain a