

Goslings should not be plucked before they have passed the critical period of their youth, that is, before the wings fold over each other on the rump.

Geese which have just been stripped of their feathers should be protected from cold. Keep them under shelter when it rains and do not let them go to the water.

SEXES.—When just hatched, goslings of the Embden breed are gray or bright yellow on the back; the former are generally females, the latter males.

It is fairly easy to tell the sexes in adult birds of all breeds; the male is a little larger than the female and his cry is shrill while that of the female is harsh; the neck is a little longer and a little thinner in the male than in the female; the cheeks (between the eye and the jaw) are less prominent but the posterior part of the upper mandible, which is generally of orange colour, up to the skull, is more prominent than in the female. As two indications are better than one, it is best to inspect the sexual organs which furnish absolute proof. In the female the sphincter or muscular tissue closing the anus, is folded and sinuous when stretched with the fingers; in the male, on exerting a light pressure over the same place, the penis soon appears. It protrudes more quickly in warm weather, and in a mature male.

DISEASES.—Geese are like ducks, subject to certain diseases, most of which, however, can be avoided by proper handling and clean surroundings.

VERTIGO.—The bird drags his wings, turns in a circle, falls to the ground, throws his head back and has convulsive motions. Bleed at the vein under the wing or on the membrane of the toes. Throw cold water over the head; put on half diet; give herbaceous food or bran moistened with milk.

POISON.—Geese are sometimes poisoned by eating henbane or water hemlock in which case they fall flat upon the ground. Give twenty centigrams of lime in a half tumbler of warm water.

Issued by direction of the Honourable Martin Burrell, Minister of Agriculture,
Ottawa.