

APPENDIX No. 2

The case recommended is six feet long by twenty inches wide, and from seven to eleven inches deep. Top, bottom and sides are made of half-inch lumber, with a strengthening piece in centre, one-half inch thick.

The cocks and hens should be packed in separate cases.

The weights of the birds and their sex should be marked on the left-hand corner of both ends of the case.

A quantity of clean straw or wood pulp should be put on the bottom of the case and on top of contents, with wrapping paper between the birds and packing material, to prevent any possibility of injury.

SHIPPING BIRDS IN FEATHER.

In shipping birds in feather the following directions should be followed:—

Kill birds by cutting in roof of mouth as described in previous page.

Before being packed the birds should be thoroughly cooled. Pack in air-tight barrels.

In packing, the heads of the birds should be on the middle of their backs. The barrels should be marked so as to describe contents.

DUCKS.

	Lbs.		Lbs.
Pekin Drake.....	8	Pekin Duck.....	7
Young Drake.....	7	Young Duck.....	6
Aylesbury Drake.....	9	Aylesbury Duck.....	8
Young Drake.....	9	Young Duck.....	7
Rouen Drake.....	9	Rouen Duck.....	8
Young Drake.....	8	Young Duck.....	7

Early in the season three to five ducks are allowed to a drake. Later in the season when running outside, eight or twelve. The drake should not be over two years of age.

Ducks lay from 100 to 140 eggs in a season. The eggs take twenty-eight days to hatch. Duck eggs are hatched by hens or ducks. They hatch well by incubator.

RATIONS.

For first three or four days, mash of cornmeal, a little hard-boiled egg chopped fine, ground wheat or oats, or granulated oatmeal, the whole being mixed with boiling milk. The young birds are very fond of cabbage, lettuce or clover, which should be chopped fine and may be mixed in mash. Make mash crumbly. Skim-milk for drink.

Later on a mash may be made of cornmeal, bran and oatmeal, with chopped green stuff, and mixed with skim-milk boiled.

Feed the young ducks five times per day. Keep them in dry quarters, out of the hot sun and supply water in limited quantity in shallow dishes, so as to prevent them ducking into it.

After three or four weeks reduce the rations to four per diem. As the ducklings grow the rations may be added to by house-waste, ground bone, beef scraps or cooked meat. Small pieces of charcoal are aids to digestion.

FATTENING.

To fatten, feed on ground grain, meal, beef scraps, &c., made into a mash. Barley meal is excellent in the soft food. Nothing should be fed that will give the flesh a bad flavour.

In nine weeks the ducklings should weigh four and a half pounds each and are ready for market. They should be marketed before the pin feathers begin to grow, which is likely to occur after ninth week.