

WILLAMETTE VALLEY FARMER

News and Views of Farm and Garden —By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Black Swans, Emperor Geese Raised Near Woodburn

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Farm Editor, The Statesman

A goose—even the rare Emperor Goose—is just a goose to most people. To Edward B. Butcher, a goose—aside from the domestic kind—spells hours of patience, not only for him but for many others. It spells money invested, and considerable pleasure, not only to himself but to Mrs. Butcher, who is also interested in the hobby which is rapidly becoming a business, and to the three little Butchers, Sue, Mary and Junior.

The first time I visited the Butcher farm, just south of Woodburn, along Highway 99-E, Butcher showed me a pair of beautiful silver-grey geese weighing perhaps three or four pounds, they were not so large as the domestic geese, Emperors, he said.

"We are trying to make them nest in captivity, but so far we haven't been able to do so," he explained.

That was three years ago, and

watching the great variety of geese in the field near the highway, I kept remembering the Emperors. Curiosity got the best of me. This week I stopped to ask if Butcher had succeeded in his effort.

Butcher smiled but said nothing as he led me at once to three small coops, with small wire-enclosed pens. Here I viewed, in three different sizes, the most attractive little balls of grey fluff. There were 12.

"You did it. They are Emperors," I exclaimed.

"They are Emperors, but I didn't do it," he answered. Then he explained: "We found the captured wild ones simply will not nest in captivity. These little fellows came from Hooper Bay, up in the Aleutians, 2,000 miles away."

"One can't get all the eggs one wants, I was told. The government allows only 14 eggs per person. But this isn't all. There's quite a bit of expense attached which is borne by the person who gets the eggs. Eskimos spot the wild nests

and gather the eggs. They receive \$20 apiece.

But the eggs aren't picked as soon as found. They are left to partially incubate as they travel best that way. Then they are packed carefully first in down from the nests and then in wool, which is sent from the states. A bush plane, at \$25 an hour brings them out to the regular plane and they arrive here 24 hours later. These arrived on June 17 and were hatched one week later. Out of the 14 eggs, there were 12 goslings, but only 11 Emperors. The one is a straggler, some one "must have got into the house or else the Eskimo collected from the wrong nest," Butcher explained. Even I, not a goose expert, could see that the one was an "ugly duckling" in so far as resembling the other 11.

There is quite a demand for these as well as other rare and odd geese and water fowl, Butcher said. Some of the demand comes from park boards. More comes from retired business men who have acquired a piece of wild of their own, or a small lake which they want stocked. A hand-raised pair of Emperors bring \$350.

We stood quietly near the posts of the wire enclosure where more than 100 pinioned wild geese from far off countries quacked, single file, past us and the camera, as Butcher pointed out the different breeds.

There's the Pacific Coast Black Brandt, which no efforts have brought about nesting in captivity. Also eggs have not been obtainable as egg hunters report they haven't found any.

The Barnackle goose, a black one with a peculiar white ring around its neck, nests in Spitzbergen, northeast of Greenland in northwest Siberia. It, too, refuses to breed in captivity. The Indian Bar Head, with odd bars across its head, nests in the rice fields of India and also winters in Europe rather than in this country.

The Richardson, the Hatchins, the Lesser Canadian, the White Cheek, the Snow Goose, the Lesser Snow Goose, the Blue Goose, the White Front, the Cackler, the Ross, the Canadian Honkers (of which there were some 20) filed past. Then along came two big black swans.

These Australian Black swans, Butcher told, were bought as cignets two years ago and this year they laid six eggs, two of which were hatched. January is their laying time and frost caught four of the eggs. The other two, when almost grown, brought \$200 from a bird fancier. The tall, graceful swans were perfectly at home and did not appear to be frightened even of strangers.

Following the swans and geese, were the ducks—Common Teal, the Green Wing, the Red Head, the Wood Ducks, the Pintail—and then we turned our attention to the pheasant pens. Running loose was a gorgeous Silver pheasant.

"Won't he get away?" I wanted to know.

"No, he doesn't know there's any 'away'. We raised him, you see," Butcher explained. Then he pointed out a comparatively new addition to this section, a Swinehoe, a purple jungle bird from the Asiatic region. It was difficult to spot it, as it darted in and out beneath the rhododendron and other bushes growing in its pen. It must have brush and shade to survive, Butcher said.

There were also the Reeves, the latest flying of birds—clocked at 70 miles an hour—and the Ring-necks, the odd looking Lady Amhurst, the Mongolian and the Golden.

There will, he hoped, be more. He had been interested in wild life since a youngster, and when he came up to Oregon State College from his Portland home, to enter the school of agriculture, he took all the wild life and forestry he could get "on the side." Following college and the war, he worked as naturalist under the Portland Park Bureau, where he also served as co-director of the Junior Art Museum.

But there wasn't enough room to raise all the birds the Butchers



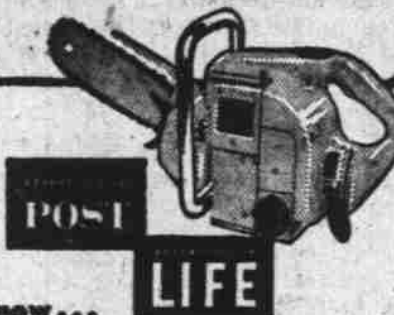
Mary and Sue Butcher aren't permitted to hold \$350 in their hands everyday but that's just what they are holding here. This little pair of Emperor Geese will bring that from purchasers, their father, Edward B. Butcher says. Another \$350 is playing at their feet. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

wanted, so they bought the old historic Belpassi farm where a century ago, the stage coach stopped and travelers were fed.

"And where travelers are still fed," Butcher said as he told of banding migratory birds for the federal government (not a salary job, he added) to which birds return annually.

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Reitsma Says South Likes Oregon Eggs

Virginia, now second largest turkey producing state, is definitely a small-type turkey area.

This is the word brought back to Oregon by Earl Reitsma, supervisor of the Oregon Turkey and Poultry Improvement plans, following a trip into Virginia.

He made this side trip while in Washington, D.C. to attend the biennial meeting of the National Poultry Improvement Plans Conference.

Reitsma found 50 hatcheries—both poultry and turkey—operating in five Virginia Counties. Two of them had a capacity of more than 1,000,000 eggs.

Most of the turkeys raised in Virginia are Beltsville White, though some Bronze are raised, though some man said. Growers make no attempt to keep Bronze breeding stock; instead they buy most of their eggs for heavier turkeys from Oregon.

Reitsma is of the opinion that this situation will not change in the foreseeable future. Virginia breeders also buy some Beltsville White eggs in Oregon, but are raising a good share of their own. Demand for Virginia turkeys is so great the state cannot keep enough to supply all the eggs needed, he found.

Breeders in this southern state are pretty happy with the turkey eggs they found from Oregon, Reitsma reports.

JERSEY WINS AWARDS

A Ton of Gold Certificate has been awarded Westwood Lad Pauline, a Jersey cow owned by H. Mikkelsen & Son of Westwood Jersey Farm, Woodburn. Pauline produced 2,147 pounds butterfat from 36,833 pounds of milk in four years. The award came from the American Jersey Cattle Club.

Farm Calendar

- July 8—Grain Fertilizer Tour, Miller Bros., Farm, McMinnville, 10 a. m.
- July 10-12—Western Division American Dairy Science Association meeting, Corvallis.
- July 12—Marion County Cereal Tour, Robert Clark farm, Waconda, 10 a. m.
- July 15—Marion County Wheat Farmers, 8 p. m. Veterans—of Foreign Wars Hall, Salem.
- July 16-17—National meeting and show of North America Lily Society, Seattle, Wash.
- July 18-22—Annual Conference of American Association of Nurserymen, Minneapolis, Minn.
- July 18—Marion County Jersey Cattle Club, Warren Gray home, Marion.
- July 23—Oregon State Jersey Cattle Club picnic, Tillamook.
- July 27-31—Santiam Bean Festival, Stayton.
- Aug. 4-8—Silverton Centennial Observance.
- Aug. 6—Annual Strawberry Industry banquet, Multnomah Hotel Portland.
- Aug. 7—Willamette Valley Ram Sale, Albany.
- Aug. 23-25—Clackamas County Fair, Canby.
- Aug. 27-29—Polk County Fair, Rickreall.
- Sept. 4-11—Oregon State Fair, Salem.
- Sept. 16-18—Pendleton Round-Up.
- Sept. 17—Oregon Turkey Improvement Association annual meeting, Withycomb Hall, Corvallis.
- Sept. 23-25—North Marion County Fair, Woodburn.
- Sept. 25—Oregon Shorthorn Breeders Association, State Fairgrounds, Salem.
- Oct. 9-16—International Dairy Show, Chicago.
- Oct. 9—Second Annual Willamette Valley Hereford Sale State Fairgrounds.



The idea that one would want a "neck like a swan" is perhaps dispelled after one look at these two Black Australian Geese, raised from cygnets on the Butcher farm south of Woodburn. However, these necks are quite valuable, Butcher claims, as he recently disposed of a pair, offspring of these, which were about eight weeks old, for \$200. (Statesman Farm Photo.)

Tomatoes Pay Off in Large Or Small Plot

To stake or not to stake tomato plants is a question settled only by inventory of available space, time and personal preference. D. L. Rasmussen, Marion County extension agent, said Wednesday.

Plants grown without staking and pruning require less labor but more space per plant. Staking tomatoes involves additional time, less space per plant, and materials for securing the plants.

Most growers have observed that staking and pruning result in earlier fruiting. However, tomatoes grown without staking and pruning usually out-yield staked tomatoes during the season.

Gardeners agree that tomatoes kept off the ground are easier to pick. In western Oregon, staked tomatoes show less rotting of fruit after rains begin. In some seasons, staked tomatoes may show more damage from sunburn.

Staked tomatoes must be pruned so that only one or two stems are allowed to grow. Without pruning, a tomato plant forms

a primary or main stem. The stem is tied to a stake with strips of rags, used stocking or special materials obtained through feed and seed stores and other stores handling garden supplies.

A compromise between staking or no staking is trellising. Trellises vary from lettuce crates or boxes with the bottoms knocked out to special frames for each plant. By erecting trellises before the plants get more than a foot high, the gardener permits his plants to grow naturally in the trellises.

As tomatoes form, trellises help support the added weight and keep the plants within bounds. The ripe tomatoes are within

reach and are kept off the ground.

Regardless of the way they are grown, tomatoes are among the most productive vegetables in any garden, large or small.

Scientists estimate that if there were no control programs insects would destroy half of U. S. farm production.

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