

CHAPTER VIII.

DUCK—GOOSE—PEACOCK—TURKEY—GUINEA-FOWL—CANARY-
BIRD—GOLD-FISH—HIVE-BEES—SILK-MOTHS.

DUCKS, SEVERAL BREEDS OF—PROGRESS OF DOMESTICATION—ORIGIN OF
FROM THE COMMON WILD-DUCK—DIFFERENCES IN THE DIFFERENT BREEDS
—OSTEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES—EFFECTS OF USE AND DISUSE ON THE
LIMB-BONES.

GOOSE, ANCIENTLY DOMESTICATED—LITTLE VARIATION OF—SEBASTOPOL
BREED.

PEACOCK, ORIGIN OF BLACK-SHOULDERED BREED.

TURKEY, BREEDS OF—CROSSED WITH THE UNITED STATES SPECIES—
EFFECTS OF CLIMATE ON.

GUINEA-FOWL, CANARY-BIRD, GOLD-FISH, HIVE-BEES.

SILK-MOTHS, SPECIES AND BREEDS OF—ANCIENTLY DOMESTICATED—
CARE IN THEIR SELECTION—DIFFERENCES IN THE DIFFERENT RACES—IN
THE EGG, CATERPILLAR, AND COCOON STATES—INHERITANCE OF CHA-
RACTERS—IMPERFECT WINGS—LOST INSTINCTS—CORRELATED CHARACTERS.

I WILL, as in previous cases, first briefly describe the chief
domestic breeds of the duck:—

BREED I. *Common Domestic Duck*.—Varies much in colour and
in proportions, and differs in instincts and disposition from the
wild duck. There are several sub-breeds:—(1) The Aylesbury, of
great size, white, with pale-yellow beak and legs; abdominal dermal
sack largely developed. (2) The Rouen, of great size, coloured like
the wild duck, with green or mottled beak; dermal sack largely
developed. (3) Tufted Duck, with a large top-knot of fine downy
feathers, supported on a fleshy mass, with the skull perforated
beneath. The top-knot in a duck which I imported from Holland
was two and a half inches in diameter. (4) Labrador (or Canadian,
or Buenos Ayres, or East Indian); plumage entirely black; beak
broader, relatively to its length, than in the wild duck; eggs slightly
tinted with black. This sub-breed perhaps ought to be ranked as
a breed; it includes two sub-varieties, one as large as the common
domestic duck, which I have kept alive, and the other smaller and
often capable of flight.¹ I presume it is this latter sub-variety
which has been described in France² as flying well, being rather
wild, and when cooked having the flavour of the wild duck; never-

¹ 'Poultry Chronicle' (1854), vol.
ii. p. 91, and vol. i. p. 330.

² Dr. Turral, in 'Bull. Soc. d'Ac-
climat.,' tom. vii. 1860, p. 541.