

under small bushes, or any other cover. Magellan, Andean, and Blue-Wing Geese prefer a box, 2' x 3' x 3', set back under some cover. Orinocos, Ashy Heads, and Ruddy Heads prefer to nest in a longer box, at least 12" x 12" x 4', or more. Occasionally, nesting can occur on the ground, in the tall grasses, or under plant cover.

Sheldgeese are Spring nesters, with the exception of Cape Barrens, who retain the instinct to breed in the Fall. This is perfect in climates with mild winters, but, it can be a problem in severe weather.

Many Sheldgeese are stimulated to nest by rainfall. I have used, and I know of other breeders who artificially simulate rainfall, using lawn sprinklers and irrigation in the paddock area. Many hens can be heavy with eggs, but fail to lay until rain has occurred, and some will even absorb the eggs without laying. I have overcome this by using simulated rainfall.

Incubation for these birds are as follows: Cape Barren Geese, 34-35 days; Orinoco and Egyptian Geese, 28-30 days, and, all others are from 29 to 30 days. I have used three methods of incubation — the parent, broody hen, and incubator. I much prefer using the parent birds for this purpose, unless foul weather or predators prohibit. Also, if I want to induce the birds to produce more eggs, I have to use the other methods of incubation, of which I have had equal success.

If the goslings are not left with the parents, broody hens make good "foster mothers". Care must be taken so the chicks are not seriously imprinted on the keeper, as I have seen Sheldgeese that were hand-raised and so hopelessly imprinted on humans, they were of little value as breeders.

Young Sheldgeese are fed largely on chopped lettuce and grass. Placed in a small 10" pie dish (1" deep), are dampened low-protein Crumbles and the chopped lettuce. I also put some of the lettuce in the drinking water. Most young Sheldgeese are easy to start eating, and can learn to graze in a few days. I always place their brooder on good, short cut, grass. Each day the brooder is moved to a clean spot. When the goslings are two weeks old, they can be released to graze in a paddock in the day and placed back into the brooder at night.

The most prevalent problem in rearing young Sheldgeese is leg deformity. This is caused by too much protein, lack of exercise, and rapid weight gain. It can be avoided by feeding goslings on lots of finely chopped lettuce and letting them graze on plenty of good quality grass. I never overfeed on prepared pellets or crumbles, only what they can clean up in

15 minutes, morning and night. Lettuce and grass may be fed freely. Most of the leg problems that occur, happen between 3-12 weeks of age.

Sheldgeese mature at 2 years, and as they get larger, they need more room for grazing and exercise. Most species start to breed at 2 or 3 years.

Sheldgeese have long been the favorites of aviculturists and zoo-goers alike. I believe they will continue to attract attention, for they are interesting in their color, have unusual habits, adapt well to captivity, and are good breeders. Following these simple guide lines, any aviculturist will find that Sheldgeese can be a profitable, interesting, and beautiful addition to their collection ■

L.A. RESIDENTS BATTLE TO KEEP ANIMALS

Originally scheduled for continuation in July, the L.A. Planning Commission hearing on animal keeping regulations was pushed back to September 16, 1975. At that time, speakers not heard at the June 24th hearing were given an opportunity to air their opinions.

An intra-neighbor feud, arising out of a complaint about a slaughterhouse operation in a backyard, has developed into a City Council attempt to numerically limit the numbers of animals kept on city lots. The new regulations call for one small bird per 500 sq. ft. of lot area and one gamebird or chicken per 1,000 sq. ft. of lot area. Further, these numbers apply only to half-acre lots or larger, suggesting that no animals, other than dogs and cats, will be allowed on the average size city lot.

Opposition to the proposed restrictions has been steadily increasing through the summer with animal-oriented groups obtaining desirable broadcast media coverage on local radio and television networks. Jerry Jennings, A.F.A. President and President of RURAL (Resident United for Residential Agricultural Lifestyle), appeared on KABC-TV in a half-hour debate with Mrs. Patricia Brown of Woodland Hills. Mrs. Brown, an officer and a principal of Prestige Escrow Company, filed the complaint responsible for the proposed restrictions and has been the focal point for the move to eliminate animals city-wide. Mrs. Brown has stated that animal-keeping hinders the sale of residential property, which interferes with business. She concludes, therefore, that animals belong in the country — not in Los Angeles ■

The Ohio National Color Breeders Club will hold its
28th Annual Show
November 1, 1975
 at the Bellaire Community Center,
 12302 Wanda Ave.,
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 Show Secretary: Y. Wacker
 24440 Nobottom Rd.
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The Southern California Bird Club
Annual Open Show
 will be held
November 14, 15, 16, 1975
 at the Alondra Park
 Community Bldg.,
 3850 West Manhattan Beach Blvd.
 Lawndale, California.
 Show Secretary: Neil Agricola
 1825 E. Abbottson
 Carson, California 90746.
 No Ship-ins.