

This year we raised twelve geese.

These are white Embden geese.

They are five months old.

Geese are long-lived birds.

They can live 20 years or more and require 2 to 3 years to reach maturity.

Notice that one goose has grey feathers on its wings and sides.

Those grey feathers will be replaced with white when the bird matures.

All European breeds of domestic geese are descended from a wild goose species named Greylag. The wild ancestors have grey plumage.



The occasional grey feathers in a young Embden goose are a remnant of that.

Collectively, geese are called geese.

A single bird of either sex can be referred to as a goose.

A male goose can be called a gander.

A female goose is just a goose.

It gets worse.

Five or more geese on the ground are a gaggle.
Geese in flight are a skein, a wedge, or a flight, unless they are flying very close together, in which case they are a plump.
It is OK to call a group of geese a flock.
I am sticking with that.
We have raised geese for many years.
They are beautiful birds.
Geese are very hardy, and almost disease free.
They grow quite rapidly and are easy to raise.
They graze like cattle.
They can get a high percentage of their dietary needs from good grass and plants that grow in shallow ponds.
They are mainly herbivores, but they gobble frogs and tadpoles with delight.
Geese are territorial and aggressively defensive.
When excited or when defending their territory, the ganders have an especially unpleasant honk.
If allowed to roam the farmyard, they will defend it as their territory.
The ganders can become quite unpleasant about it.
Even to the point of harassing and frightening small children.
This year we gave the geese a nice home in a small pasture with a pond.
The pasture is about 100 yards from the farmstead.
That location provided an excellent home for the geese and eliminated the bad behavior.
We pastured the 70 ducks that we raised with the geese.
They got along well.
The pasture was double fenced to keep out ground predators.
The outer fence was a common woven wire fence.
The inner fence was electrified mesh.
The electrified mesh is lightweight, portable, and easily reconfigured.
None of the twelve geese or seventy ducks was lost to predators.
We have two pasture ponds like the one the waterfowl inhabited this year.
Next year we plan to rotationally graze the geese and ducks between those two ponds.
That will give the grasses and the pond life, time to recover between grazings.
That will allow us to increase the flock size.
Tom