WILD TURKEY CROSSES.

Their Desirability as Explained to a Illinois Island Station Business.

Where wild turkeys are plenty, crosses between wild and domestic birds are quite some willport design on the part of the owner of the farm. The results of such a cross have been so satisfactory that such matings are made the coming fall turkey raisers to have on hand and young wild birds are caught for the purpose and brought up with domestic young turkeys. Often some of wild turkey eggs are found in the woods and hatched on the farm. The domesticated wild birds usually prefer to remain separate from the others, perhaps in the woods or on the top of some tree or barn. When raised from the egg they become more docile and tameer than the domesticated turkey, but if chased or frightened they become wild and habits very quickly.

Wild turkey crosses are hardier and healthier than common turkeys and rarely have disease. Half blood hens

AMERICAN WILD TURKEY GOBBLER.

are generally too wild, but half blood gobblers are not so wild, and are suitable for mating with domestic hens. A small proportion of wild blood improves the size, form and general appearance as well as the vigor, without being the disadvantage in any way. A quarter wild cross is better for practical breeding than a pure wild or half wild bird. Half wild crosses do well if allowed a large range, but are not well suited for woody countries or are easily kept on small places as the domestic turkey.

Wild turkey hens under domestication and will first cross hens often disappear in the spring and are not seen until fall, when they usually return to their own home with a brood of nearly full grown turkeys. Half blood toms make their young too wild. Half blood crossed by domestic turkey hens are not more wild than wild turkeys, or as