

# Exhibition Poultry

The #1 Internet Publication For Information On Showing & Breeding Exhibition Poultry

Volume 10 No. 4 • <https://www.ExhibitionPoultry.net> • July/August 2021



On our cover this month is a gorgeous white Call duck, a young drake, owned by Amanda Maupin. This is just one of the original photos submitted by our readers for our duck photo competition last month.

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# Exhibition Poultry

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## Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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### **Exhibition Poultry Magazine**

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## From the Editor . . .

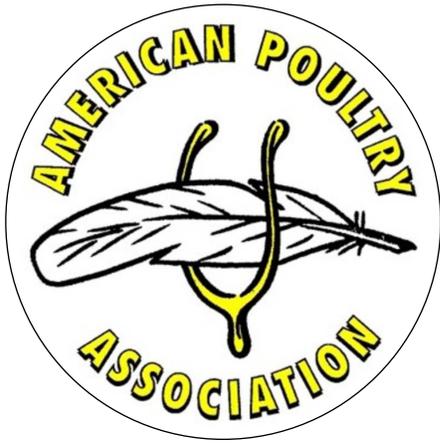
In stark contrast to last year, the 2021 Spring show season seems to have been pretty busy. Commitments at home kept me away from all of those shows but I have seen a lot of pictures of some truly gorgeous birds that deserved to be out and seen by others. Let's pray this return to normalcy continues into the Fall and Winter. I, like the rest of you, have some good birds that I am hoping to hit some big shows with them once the weather cools down.

On that note . . . we seem to always be talking about the weather these days. Locally, mother nature is giving us a break this year—so far. Our record rain fall and wet soil is supposed to be the reason our temperatures have been consistently below normal this summer. It's 1:00 PM, and 80 degrees outside—pretty much unheard of in Louisiana in July. After our first inland hurricane last year and the record freeze/ice storm in the winter, I can tell you that I much prefer the current weather, as do my birds. I wish you all the best if you are dealing with heat—especially those of you up North.

We would like to say a special thank you to all of you on our Exhibition Poultry Facebook Magazine group who submitted photos for the recent Nutrena duck photo. Plus, a big thank you to Nutrena for their generosity in supplying so many very nice prizes that went out to the top winners. We are hearing that some of you have already received your awards. If you are expecting hats, t-shirts or free feed coupons you should have them within the next few days. In the next issue we plan to include a few pages of the top duck photos that were submitted. Most of the photos were of excellent quality and it was really difficult to pick the winners.

Well folks—it's grow out time! We've all run out of time for hatching Fall show prospects. If you are looking down the line at late Winter or early Spring 2022 shows you still have time to hatch a few more.

See you all in the Fall—  
Ann Charles, Editor



## APA News • July 2021

When this appears in print it will be July, or at least close, and those hot muggy days of summer will be upon us here in the Midwest. I know many of you who are farther south have already experienced this and those farther north may get to wait a little longer but please remember to keep plenty of clean, fresh water for your birds. As I am sure you know, your birds cannot process the best feed without consuming enough water.

This fall promises to be an exciting time for the APA with the upcoming Canadian National and APA Annual meets. The Canadian National will be held at the 45th Annual Nova Scotia Fall Classic on October 23rd and 24th in Truro, Nova Scotia. I am sure the Nova Scotia Pure Bred Poultry Association will do an excellent job for the APA and their exhibitors. The Annual Meet this year will be hosted by the Heart of the Ozarks Poultry Association on November 6th and 7th in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I know this group is also hard at work putting together a great package for the APA. I have never been to Arkansas but I look forward to the trip and getting to meet some APA members for the first time.

Elsewhere in this publication you will find an advertisement for a new position with the APA. The Board of Directors has approved adding an Assistant Secretary position to take on some of the workload. The person who is selected will be responsible for all of the duties that do not involve financial matters. These will include keeping meeting minutes, managing the communications of the APA, storage of APA documents, and other clerical con-

cerns. I will still be handling the merchandise sales, processing new memberships as well as renewals, and the other financial matters of the APA. I asked the Board to consider doing this as the job has become a bit too much at times. My salary will be reduced by the percentage of time I devote to the duties that will be assumed by the new person so there will be no increase in salary expenses for the APA. If you are interested or have any questions about the position, please contact me here in the office or get in touch with APA President Mark Podgwaite.

Summer also brings the fairs in this part of the world. Many of us got our start because we showed or saw a few birds at our local fair. Please consider reaching out to your local fair to put a few birds on exhibit for the public to see. You never know when the next new master breeder might walk by and get drawn into this hobby that we all love!

David Adkins  
APA Secretary

### Assistant Secretary Position Applications Now Being Accepted

The Board of Directors of the American Poultry Association has created the position of Assistant Secretary. This position works in conjunction with the Secretary and reports to the APA Board of Directors.

Duties include, but are not limited to, managing daily correspondence, the writing of monthly columns for publication, newsletter development as well as the creation of meeting agendas and the recording of meeting minutes. The attendance at Annual, Semi-Annual meetings is required.

A complete job description, inclusive of compensation information, as well as an application can be found on our website. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Further information can be had by contacting APA Secretary David Adkins at [apasecretaryadkins@gmail.com](mailto:apasecretaryadkins@gmail.com) or 740-876-4845 or President Mark Podgwaite at [mppoultry13@gmail.com](mailto:mppoultry13@gmail.com).



## ABA News • June 2021

ABA Happenings Greetings to all – The 2021 ABA yearbook is in full process right now. If you have an article to contribute or still wish to take an ad – please email me directly at [bantamclub@gmail.com](mailto:bantamclub@gmail.com) and we'll see if we can accommodate. The mail date is always very fluid – but we hope that we can mail

before 8/15/21.

ABA 2021 leg bands are quickly depleting. These leg bands are available in sizes from Serama to Large Geese. Pricing is .42 each for ABA members - .60 each for non-members. .40 bulk rate pricing. If you want to try them out and are not fussy about the date on the band, you should visit the website – there are prior year bands available at a steep discount. (Please note the years will not match the age of your birds – but some use them purely as a numerical id option) please note that as of today – two sizes are out of stock.

Applications for the annual ABA scholarship program have recently been sent out. Deadline for applications is August 2, 2021. We will be awarding 4 (four) \$500 scholarships this year – in part because of a generous donation from the Old English Game Bantam National Club. The application is available on the ABA website. Applicants must be a current member of the American Bantam Association. One of the four awards will be awarded to an applicant that is currently breeding and/or showing Old Eng-

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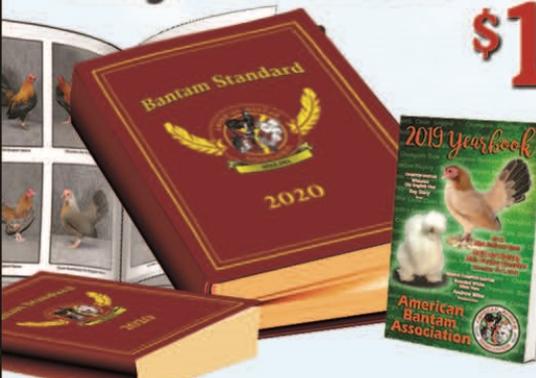
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lish Game Bantams. Our scholarship program was instituted about 3 years ago and is a great way to support our young ABA members. Our young fanciers are the show secretaries and superintendents of tomorrow.

As of April first – the ABA has a new board of directors as well as changes in our standing committees. This information was in the recently sent ABA newsletter and can be found on our website Bantamclub.com.

We are looking for some photos from the membership to incorporate with the reprint and update of the immensely popular Fred Jeffrey's book – "Bantam Chickens". If you would like to donate a picture for us to consider using, please send via email to bantamclub@gmail.com with the subject line "Bantam Chickens Update photo donation". We want to include as many of our members birds as we can. They need to be strong breed representations. (no worries if they are not champions of the show) This is a large project – I will keep you updated as we get closer to print date.

If you have a question regarding your membership, or would like to join the ABA, please contact Michelle Lynch at abamembership@gmail.com. Michelle is our membership coordinator and can answer your questions and even sign you up over

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the phone. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy show season.

Karen Unrath - ABA Secretary



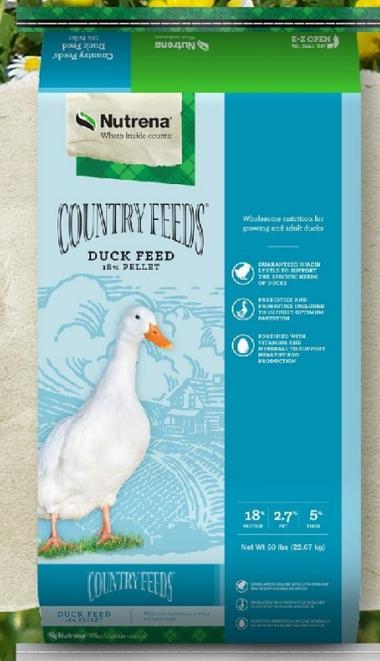
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# Blue Ribbon Bound



By Howard Davenport

I am often asked, "When do you start prepping your birds for the show?" My answer is always, "As soon as they hatch." Prepping for the show is more than just throwing a bird in a tub of water, scrubbing away, and spraying sheen spray from top to bottom. It begins from the moment the birds hatch. Identifying obvious faults from the beginning is key in producing your best birds. There is more than "one way to skin a cat," and each of us as individuals have our own little secrets that we hold close to our chest, but the end goal remains the same for everyone; to put our best bird forward.

I try to hatch twice a year if the hens don't go on strike. Depending on the breed, I try to plan my hatch where the pullets will be right at POL at the beginning of the fall or spring show season as the case may be. When the females start laying, they begin to lose their body tone, and you want them solid. With the breeds I raise, the males look pretty good around 9 months of age, so they fit in perfectly for the majority of the shows I'm able to attend.

One of the main things I've found that is overlooked is cage training your birds. On a couple of instances, I've seen birds hanging from the cages with broken legs, broken wings, and at the least messed up feathers. When a bird is under stress, not only will they not show well, but the damage they can do to themselves can be irreversible requiring culling right there in the show barn. You should start cage training your birds early on to prevent these types of mishaps. When the judge is walking up to my birds, I want the first thing they

see to be the birds profile. I accomplish this during cage training by offering a "treat" on one end of the cage. When the bird sees the judge approaching, it instinctively turns toward the end of the cage and presents its profile to the judge expecting a treat. Proper selection, conditioning and cage training are the prerequisites before the first toenail is trimmed in prepping your bird for the big show. There are valid arguments across the fancy about what to use and how to use it in prepping your birds. What I'm writing here is the way I personally prep my birds, and so far it has served me well. Each person is an individual and has their own way of doing things. The main goal being the end result of sitting on Champion Row.

After I've selected the birds I want to show, I begin prepping them 4 days prior to the show date. This begins with a good bath, and once the bath is given, the birds do not touch the ground until they return from the show. Bathing also gives me the opportunity to check for parasites. I use a 3 step process in bathing. I use Dawn Soap to bathe them with. Some do not like Dawn because it removes a lot of the essential oils from the feathers, but we'll get to that. You want the bird as clean as you can get it. When the birds preen, oil is placed on the



I use a 3 step process in bathing. I use Dawn Soap to bathe them with.



Final step is a second rinse using glycerin mixed with water.

feathers, and dirt, dust, and dander stick to the feather shafts. Dawn's grease cutting abilities help remove that oil and thus, removes the dirt particles. Concentration should also be given to the vent area and excess feces thoroughly removed. In addition, I use a medium bristle toothbrush to scrub the shanks and feet to remove embedded dirt.

After a good bath, the next step is a good rinse. I fill a tub with water and a little white vinegar to help remove any residual soap left in the feathers. It's imperative that all the soap be removed to prevent discoloration of the feathers due to residual soap film after the feathers dry. In my opinion, the rinse is the most important step in the process.

The 3rd and final step is a second rinse using glycerin mixed with water. Glycerin can be easily obtained at Walmart or any pharmacy. The glycerin mix helps restore the oil and sheen to the feathers until the bird is able to preen naturally. As stated above, the Dawn removes the essential oils, but it provides more deep cleaning. The glycerin mix restores the natural sheen without the use of sheen spray. After the final rinse with the glycerin mix, the birds are allowed to air dry naturally if at all possible. This all depends on the temperature, of course. I prefer putting them in wire dog kennels outside where there is a breeze and sunlight to speed the process. If that isn't feasible, blow drying is an option. Care must be taken to dry on low heat so as to not singe the feathers.

After the birds have completely dried, I go over them from top to bottom checking for damaged feathers, stubs, or anything else that could be detrimental for the bird's placement at the show. If it's an obvious fault or DQ, the bird stays home. It's at this time I trim the beak and toenails. I've seen too many birds, particularly white birds, with blood on their plumage caused by toenails being cut too short the day of the show. I also file the toenails and smooth them with an Emory Board. Toenails can cause a lot of damage to a person's arms, especially if the bird isn't caged trained and flailing about the cage when the judge is trying to get them out to examine. By filing and smoothing out the toenails, you're not only protecting the judge from possible injury, but you're letting the judge know that you take pride in your work. Don't ever think they don't notice.



Depending on the distance I have to travel, I prefer cooping in the morning of the show. I can't emphasize enough how stress affects the way the bird presents itself. Lack of proper rest and sleep takes a toll on the birds overall presentation, and if you're



After the final rinse with the glycerin mix, the birds are allowed to air dry naturally if at all possible.

in a 2000+ bird show and your Class is still 2 hours away from being judged. your birds are going to be too tired to present well. I try, if able, to limit the fatigue level as much as possible. By cooping in the morning of the show, my birds have gotten adequate rest in their own environment the night before.

I do not feed my birds a large amount of food the night before and then only scratch grains to keep their feces as solid as possible. I don't want them coming into the show barn that morning with a full crop to distort their overall balance. Once I place them in their respective holes, I give them just enough water with electrolytes to keep them hydrated, and drop a few Gaines Burger pieces in the cage periodically to give them a protein and energy boost. With adequate rest the night before, this seems to carry them through a 6 to 7 hour show without any ill effects.

Regardless if I've cooped in the night before or that morning, I'm going over the birds again from top to bottom checking for anything that could be a fault or DQ. I'm cleaning the feet and toenails again making sure I've removed every bit of dirt and grime I can remove. Once again, a medium bristle toothbrush and water mixed with baking soda works well in cleaning the feet. I carry a silk cloth with me to wipe down the feathers and smooth them out. I do not use sheen spray. It's not a natural sheen, and that's not what we breed for. Feather quality and sheen should be bred into the bird, and that's what I strive for. The glycerin rinse, natural oils, and wiping down with a silk cloth should be more than enough to enhance the birds appearance.

There are mixed thoughts on using VetRx for the combs, wattles, and facial features. I have personally used it myself until a long time exhibitor introduced me to Cornhusker's Lotion. In addition to bringing out the color, it's also a great moisturizer that I use to groom the comb and wattles not just on show day, but once a week during conditioning to keep them in tip-top shape and looking their best. VetRx is camphor based and leaves a dry film when it dries. The Cornhusker's Lotion, on the other hand, actually moisturizes



and keeps the combs and wattles looking natural and healthy. This is what I want the judge to see and not something synthetic.

Everything I've written here can be debated. What works good for me may not work good for you. What I have written is based on personal experience, talking with those long time in the business of breeding and exhibiting their birds, and trial and error. It's not to be taken as the all out "Gospel" on how it's supposed to be done. My best advise is to go to a show and see for yourself what works best for other exhibitors and find something you are capable of working with. As Captain Spock said in Star Trek, "I believe there are always alternatives." Good luck, and by all means, go show your birds!!!

**Howard Davenport**  
APA State Rep. - Texas  
Y.E.P.A. Youth Leader - Texas  
President - American Buckeye Poultry Club

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*Exhibition Poultry Magazine*

# 2021 Poultry Show Lineup

Open and Junior Divisions APA, ABA, NAWA & ALFA Sanctioned

**MEGA**  
*Show!*

**Nov. 6, 2021**

*Norman,  
Oklahoma*



*Norman,  
Oklahoma*

**CVPC  
Fall  
Festival**

**Dec. 11, 2021**



*Looking Ahead...*  
**CVPC State Championship  
Feb. 5, 2022 - Norman, OK**



**Richard Peters**

# The MEGA Show

Almost every person seriously involved in Exhibition Poultry knows about the MEGA SHOW.

This show was designed to bring a little different approach to the exhibition poultry world. Is the MEGA for everyone? Probably not, since The MEGA is designed to be many different things all wrapped up in one package/show. The MEGA provides an outstanding venue for the serious poultry exhibitor, the novice showman, beginners wanting to learn and of course, the kids and spectators.

When I was designing this show my ultimate desire was to make this an event where all exhibitors across the feathered fancy spectrum could congregate and enjoy the atmosphere of a top grade poultry show while their children, wives and family and friends and guests could experience the fantastic birds, fun events, enjoy the games and competitions, get involved in the show, make friends and make outstanding lifetime memories.

The MEGA Show does its best to provide the best of everything from judges, coops, events, raffles, showmanship, fellowship and even hotel accommodations for our extended families.

We work year round on the MEGA Show. We do our share of small shows, usually as fund raisers, for the MEGA Show and to fund our Junior Awards. I also supplement our Junior program by judging county and state fairs. After expenses, I put all the money I receive into the MEGA SHOW. I say "we" because my partner is usually John McDaniel who travels with me and assists, at no charge. The 3 amigos of MEGA are myself, John McDaniel and Kristi Richmond-Austin. We are the three original founding members of the CVPC. We are surrounded at

the show with an outstanding cast of supporters who are too numerous to mention individually but rest assured these people are the backbone of our shows.

The one thing we all have in common is that we love poultry, the kids, the families and our friends. No one in the staff has ever won the MEGA Show. We have had birds on Champion Row but none of the staff has ever won the "Big One". We do not put shows on to win, we conduct shows to have fun and watch others have fun.

A new aspect we added to the MEGA Show and to all our shows is ALFA, is the American Large Fowl Association, which is an associate member of the APA and is structured much like a large breed club. ALFA promotes Large Fowl only. Once an exhibitor joins ALFA for the Year they get to compete in any and all ALFA events that are conducted. Since we started ALFA we have quadrupled our numbers of Large Fowl. In the 2020 MEGA Nationals which hosted the ALFA Nationals we had a record setting 1,100+ Large Fowl. Membership in ALFA is \$15 per year annually per person of \$30 per family, Jan 1st thru Dec. 31st. At this year's ALFA Nationals during the MEGA SHOW we will award \$2,000.00+ in premiums and awards. The unique thing about ALFA is that ALFA pays back 90% of our membership fees to our members during the year. More information about the MEGA Show, all our shows and events, and ALFA can be found on our web site at [www.poultryshowcase.com](http://www.poultryshowcase.com).

The MEGA Show came from very humble beginnings. We started our first series of shows with merely 485 birds and within 5 years we had shows with numbers of 1,800, 2,200, 2,600, 3,100 and 3,600. We have the largest 'non-national' show in the State of Oklahoma and we plan and hope to keep on growing . . . especially since we have nearly 6,000 coop holes. But the one thing we will not change about the MEGA SHOW is our philosophy, our dream and our passion to have a "Poultry Event".

We hope to see everyone at this year's MEGA Show on November 6th, 2021 in Norman, OK.

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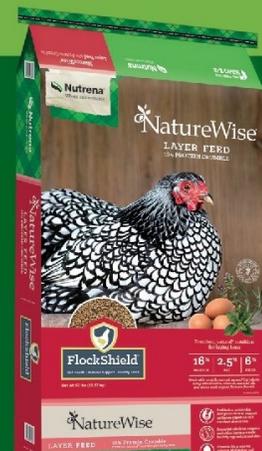
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# Essential Oils: Helping Your Birds Live Their Best Lives



By Jennifer Murtoff,  
Home to Roost LLC

While there is still skepticism around the use of essential oils and more research to be conducted, some poultry farmers have integrated essential oils and other natural ingredients into their birds' diets to promote flock health. Let's look at these amazing natural compounds and how they can help your birds live their best lives.

## What are essential oils?

Essential oils are plant products which are distilled from leaves, flowers, stems, and roots and can be combined with a carrier oil or other liquid. They can also be used in dried form. In humans, essential oils are used as liniments (external) or infusions (internal/external).

## Essential Oils & Chickens

Some chicken owners regularly use herbs such as oregano, thyme, and rosemary because

they believe they have antimicrobial, astringent, and antifungal properties, as well as the ability to repel insects. Essential oils from these plants are also making their way into chicken feeds.

Essential oils are part of a class of plant extracts called phytochemicals (FY-toh-JEN-ihks). Poultry farmers are starting to use phytochemicals, including essential oils, in their feeds to help prevent disease. They are also using phytochemicals in feeds to support healthy growth. Proprietary research has shown that essential oils benefit the digestive, reproductive, and immune systems in laying hens. The following are a few examples of essential oils and their benefits.

## Oregano



Studies show that oregano oil extracted from two species, *Origanum vulgare* and *Thymus capitatus*, have antimicrobial and antiparasitic properties. However, these oregano species are *not* sold in traditional grocery stores, so finding a source of the right varieties is important.

## Rosemary



A member of the evergreen family, this common medicinal plant can protect poultry livers from toxic molds. Other benefits to chickens include high levels of vitamins A, C, and B, as well as magnesium, calcium, copper, iron, and manganese. Rosemary also contains carnosic acid, which protects the nervous system and promotes healing in the brain. It can be used to prevent (not cure) certain bacterial infections, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, which causes bumblefoot. Its strong smell also acts as an insect repellent.

## Thyme



This member of the mint family is a medicinal herb in many cultures. In poultry it acts as an antioxidant that protects the intestine and boosts the immune system. As a hygienic environmental spray, it also has antibacterial properties, decreasing the number of *Coliform* bacteria. Other effects in poultry include improvement in growth and digestive and

antioxidant enzymes.

## Star Anise



Star anise is the seed pod of an evergreen shrub native to China and Vietnam. It is commonly used as a flavoring and a scent for products such as candles. Oils extracted from star anise were shown to improve laying as well as growth. The use of star anise oils in poultry also increases antioxidants in the liver and egg yolk and stimulates the immune system. It also aids in production of digestive enzymes and increases liver function.

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“Rosemary: *Rosmarinus officinalis*,”  
www.poultrydvm.com/supplement/  
rosemary; Jonatas Rafael de Oliveira et

al., “Biological Activities of *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (rosemary) Extract as Analyzed in Microorganisms and Cells.” *Experimental Biology and Medicine* 242, no. 6 (2017): 625–634.

“Thyme: *Thymus vulgaris*,”  
http://www.poultrydvm.com/  
supplement/thyme. Caiyun Yu, et al.,  
“Effects of Star Anise (*Illicium verum*  
*Hook.f.*) Essential Oil on Laying Performance and Antioxidant Status of Laying Hens.” *Poultry Science* 97, no. 11 (2018): 3957–3966.

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# PRODUCING BEST IN PARTRIDGE COLOR

Bright Surface Color Gives New Enthusiasm to Breeders of Partridges—  
Dark Slate Undercolor Told the Knell of Partridge Cochins Years  
Ago—A Letter from Geo. W. Mitchell.

By T. F. McGrew

**T**HERE is considerable difference of opinion as to what should be the ideal color for the Partridge varieties. There are three Partridge colored varieties, the Partridge Cochins which is the parent variety, and the Partridge Wyandotte and Partridge Plymouth Rock whose plumage was derived from the Cochins. Wonderful advances have been made in the markings and color of the Partridge Wyandottes and Rocks but I believe that they approach closest to the ideal when their color is of a character like that of the best Partridge Cochins. It can then be accepted as a model.

The chief objection to the present Standard for Partridge color has come from members of the Partridge Wyandotte Club, who have drafted a new Standard description which they are anxious to have adopted by the American Poultry Association. Whatever is done relative to this, should be done after careful consideration of what seems to be best for all. Each group of breeders of this color type should accept a color and a color description that has been and can be bred, as a result of care and selection, by single mating.

### What Is Partridge Color?

Some have written that the color of the Partridge male should conform to the bright red of the Brown Leghorn male. The question is: what Brown Leghorn male color shall be accepted as the guide? There were two distinct tones of color carried by the Brown Leghorn males at New York last winter, and I should imagine the same was true all over the country, and will be so this season. I should like to see the breeders of Partridge Rocks and Wyandottes counsel with the Partridge Cochins men who are the older, and who have spent many, many years in studying this color-type, and I believe that out of such a conference would come a lasting benefit. It would afford an opportunity for a study of the policy and the methods of breeding that have been practiced by the most successful, and a Standard description could be determined upon that would result in a truly beautiful plumage being bred on all of these fowls, both male and female, through single matings.

As a first consideration, we would ask: What is Partridge color, what has it been and what shall it be? It may be of value to go back twenty-eight years and look into the Standard that was made at Chicago in 1893 and edited by B. N. Pierce in 1894. I will copy the color description as given in that Standard and the present 1915 issue. Let me say, however, that the modern color description for Partridge Cochins was made by the members of the Cochins Club, I think in 1898. I was not at that time in favor of so dark a color becoming Standard but Sharp Butterfield, a foremost judge of the day, and others were, and they, like those who favored the dark color for Brown Leghorn males, had the majority vote on their side and won.

From then until now the Cochins classes at our shows have dwindled to almost nothing. The Partridge colored Rocks

and Wyandottes by their intrinsic value and the energy of their breeders held a few friends to them, but discouragements were many. Well do I remember a male that was shown at Boston, following the call for dark birds. He was accepted at that time as a model for color, yet he was almost black, in fact, looked black when seen in his coop just before dusk one dark afternoon.

Now that the pendulum has swung the other way, and brighter colored birds are the order of the day, those of us who objected to the much too dark a color-description might well say, "I told you so." Unfortunately the color execution has driven a large number of prominent breeders of Partridge colored fowls entirely out of the fancy. Geo. W. Mitchell is the only one who has stuck to Partridge Cochins, and I am quite pleased that he has lived to see his opinion vindicated; and I am sure that others who thought as he did will be pleased with the prospect of a description that can be followed to success.

The Standard for 1894 described the color of the male as bright red or orange red for hackle and for saddle, with a dark reddish-brown for back. It called for a female of the same color shades. No mention was made of under color. Then came the Boston meeting and the conclusions arrived at by the members at the Fisher's Island meeting were adopted. The modern description for Dark Brown Leghorn males was adopted at the same meeting and double mating, or the production of Light Brown Leghorns and Dark Brown Leghorns, became a common system in the yards of many breeders.

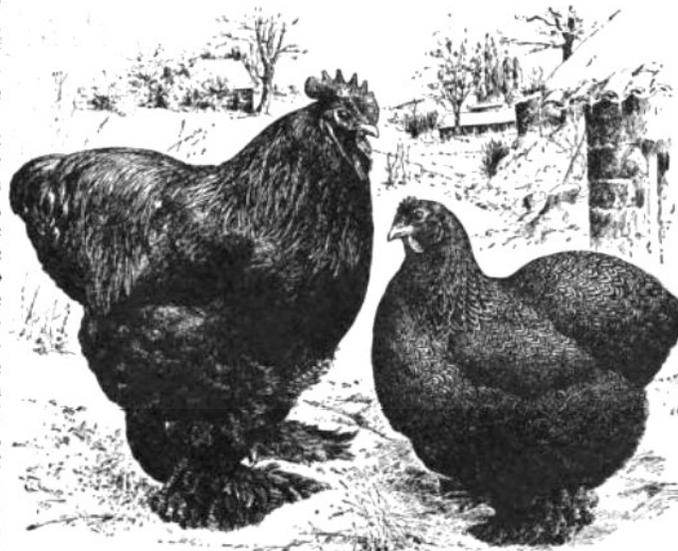
The present, or 1915 Standard as it is called, describes the color of the Partridge male as: "Hackle and saddle, a solid lustrous, greenish-black edged with rich brilliant red; back, rich brilliant red." The female is described as "mahogany brown penciled with

black." Undercolor in all sections, male and female, "slate."

### The Danger of "Too Much Black."

This color description has led to comparatively dark shades of color, and the greater part of all those who had Partridge Cochins have been driven out of the variety; and it has caused a lot of discontent among those who have Partridge Plymouth Rocks and Partridge Wyandottes. These results should be considered as evidence that only those who have bred a variety for a number of years and understand the tendencies in that variety, are competent to make a standard for it. Mere judges and Standard idealists should not have full say in such work.

For the male the colors were formerly bright red or orange, reddish-brown and rich deep black; now they are rich brilliant red, lustrous greenish-black and slate under color. For the female it was red or orange, black, reddish-brown and darker brown. Now reddish-bay, mahogany brown, and black, with slate under color. It will be seen from this that the real trouble with the partridge colored varieties is "too



Partridge Cochins, the parent variety from which the Partridge Wyandottes and Partridge Plymouth Rocks derived their beautiful color and exquisite markings.

much black." This too much black has traveled down into the shanks and toes which are in many specimens dusky colored and much too dark for beauty.

Quite a few of the Partridge Wyandottes and some of the Rocks have black collars about their necks, caused by the black extending to the end of the feather. These neck feathers should be surrounded to the very point of hackle with rich brilliant red. This same trouble of the black collar is found on some Brown Leghorn males.

It is neither my wish nor my right to dictate to those who breed any variety of fowls what they shall select for either shape or color, but I do know that the most beautiful of all Partridge varieties are the Mitchell Cochins, and I do know that both Partridge Plymouth Rocks and Partridge Wyandottes can, all of them, be bred in the same way, and thus become so beautiful that their popularity will go ahead by leaps and bounds. Mitchell's Cochins have been the model for beauty in their line for more than twenty-five years. They have been written of, talked of and they have been proclaimed as the very best that can be in the Partridges. If those who breed the American varieties would pattern after them and breed their varieties by single mating to the same ideals, their troubles would be at an end.

#### The Experience of Geo. W. Mitchell.

Through the kindness of Mr. Mitchell I have from his pen just what he has done, how and why he has followed those methods which have brought such notable success to him. He also gives a formula that others may follow with equal success. I feel that all of us have been highly favored by having these words direct from Mr. Mitchell himself. This is what he has to say:

"In answer to yours of recent date in reference to Partridge color, let me say that in the breeding of Partridge Cochins during the past forty-seven years, color has been the object, on my part, of more study than any other feature of their handling, i. e., the proper blending of shades of color to produce both surface and undercolor that are most consistent and desirable.

"In my early life my business brought me into a close contact with the ladies' dress goods department of a very large store, and I made a study of the matching of different shades of color, which experience was of very great help to me in the mating of Partridge Cochins when, as a young man of but 24 years of age, I took up their breeding.

"I believe it is true that black or white are not considered colors, yet there are more shades of each than of any of the high colors, and the proper blending of black and white has been the means of any success I may have attained.

"The use of too much black in undercolor, results in a loss of penciling, especially in cushion, fluff and feet of the females, and of the bringing in of too much black in the hackles of both males and females, and especially a greenish-bronze in the males which is very undesirable. From my point of view, much of the white appearing in the tails, hackles, wings and feet of the males is due to a too liberal use of black without its proper blending with a shade of slate. We must not make the mistake of using too much white, or light slate in the undercolor, as from its use we will get the light undercolor running too near the surface, hence the necessary study of the proper blending of the two, especially when starting to build up a strain, for we should begin by establishing a proper shade so to bring about the best average results in after years.

"We must always have in mind that two males that may possess the same shade of undercolor may not produce just what we desire in the chicks they sire, as much depends upon the dams to which the sires are mated. It is a great advantage for one to have a perfect knowledge of his breeding birds for generations back, especially if it is expected to get a large proportion of the young stock with satisfactory undercolor; and if we do not have the satisfactory undercolor, we have not any starting point from which to bring about the beautiful surface colors, for I think the undercolor is the foundation of all. In any event, that has been my experience with the Cochins.

"Years ago when many breeders were so much interested in bringing about a very dark undercolor in Barred Plymouth

Rocks, almost black in fact, and made demands for such in the Standard, it was not long before inexperienced breeders and judges as well, insisted that the Partridge and Buff Cochins should each have very deep undercolor; the Partridge to be black to the skin and the Buffs to be almost the same shade of color underneath as on the surface, the buff shade running to the skin.

#### Opposed to the Undercolor Craze.

"I fought the black to the skin proposition as far as the Partridge was concerned, feeling that its use would result in the defects I have mentioned above, and I think my long years of experience have proved that my contention was right. In fact, so strongly was I convinced that black to the skin was wholly wrong that I withdrew my extensive advertising, as I did not wish to inflict upon a customer such birds as I felt would not produce good results in breeding; and I have since confined our breeding to our own pleasure. The products of our yards and strain, however, have continually been shown, and the results of our work with Partridge Cochins have been observed in the exhibits we have made at both Boston and New York.

"It is very difficult to put into words a description of color, as for instance, should I mention that the correct surface color of a Partridge Cochin female was a combination of black and brown penciling, one expert might immediately say that that could not be for in his opinion the correct colors were two shades of brown; whereas, in mentioning black I would not have in mind an intense shade, but a shade that, if put under the microscope, might be referred to by one expert as a soft shade of black, and by another expert as a peculiar shade of the darker browns.

"When reference is made to the black stripe in hackles, we should refer to this shade as a very distinct shade with a beautiful luster. The red edging of the hackles is difficult to describe as there are hardly any two experts that will agree as to just what a rich red may imply.

#### Difficulty of Describing Colors in Words.

"I am led, therefore, to mention that I do not believe it possible to put into words a description of color that will be understood alike by all. Neither do I believe it possible for any artist, however good, to put upon canvas shades of color in poultry that will be looked at by all as an ideal. Why? because we do not all have the same conception of shades of color, and therefore the living specimen should be the guide, as from such we are much more likely to agree as to what is the ideal, i. e., the one most pleasing in color of surface. This brings me to add that, while theoretically we should use the same shades of color (undercolor for instance) in both male and female, it has not worked out satisfactorily with any breeders of Partridge Cochins whom I have known in the years that are gone.

"Thus I am forced to think that only the close student, artist, if you please, of the combination of shades of colors, will meet with long continued success. Why? Because it is a well known fact that all great painters on canvas find their ideal colors in the happy combination of shades of colors that bring about the proper blending.

"However, we must have word descriptions, and perhaps to change from referring to the surface color of the Partridge Cochin female as mahogany might be a mistake. At best the word implies a solid color, while in reality the surface is made up of a happy combination of two shades of brown penciling, or as some experts would put it, a soft black and brown penciling; my own preference, however, being shades of brown.

"The same ideas prevail in the red section of the two sexes. We speak of 'rich red' and this color we must arrive at in the same way of reasoning. For instance, if we refer to the Partridge Wyandotte Standard, copy of which you enclosed to me, it will be noted that in the description of the neck of the male, it is referred to as 'bright, cherry red.' I wonder if the makers of this Standard stopped to think that there are about as many shades of red cherries as there are cherries, and that two experts are not at all likely to agree upon just what a 'bright, cherry red' might imply.

*The Red Stepchild . . .*

# Autosomal Red

*By Sigrid van Dort*

Chicken colors that we see consist of pigments or material that have a certain color. A white feather has the color of the stuff it is made of: keratin. Silver and/or white in chickens are not made of pigments, there is no white pigment. Red/gold and black and its dilutions (blue, chocolate, dun) are made by the chicken itself. This article is about red, gold and silver because their combination can sometimes cause confusion.

Here I will discuss autosomal red 'the other red' in a chicken because it remains quite current: 'brassy' silver double laced Barnevelders and the color lemon among others. This article is not complete, there is still more to tell about it, given the limited space.

The effect of autosomal red is rather varied. This is



Autosomal red can break through recessive white, if recessive white is not effective enough. This happens mostly in wheaten based with red enhancers.

for several reasons, such as which e-allele it is on, whether it has a pattern (which is black or a dilution of it). Here we are talking about the basic manifestations of autosomal red, which is already sufficiently variable.

## Red and gold

There are roughly two forms of red pigment (pheomelanin) in a chicken. Sex-linked 'red' which we call gold (s+ and its counterpart is silver, S) and red which has nothing to do with sex-linked which is called autosomal red (Ar+).

Many have seen autosomal red. Whether it is one 'gene' or several is not proven as 'science' and has never really been looked into it. Autosomal red seems to have no fixed rules, which suggests that it consists of multiple factors.

Autosomal red can look like salmon color, warm mid-brown and also beige. It is quite blotchy, distributed over the chicken, especially if you measure the color in photoshop of a digital photo. This blotchiness is less noticeable when you look at the chicken live - although lemon as a ground color in penciled varieties can't exactly be called uniform. The salmon or more



Autosomal red also comes through dominant white (pyle).

yellow color depends on red enhancers (mahogany) or diluters and it also depends on where it is on the chicken and on which sex (rooster or hen).

Autosomal red is best seen on a silver hen, because then you know for sure that it has nothing to do with gold. Think for example of the salmon breast of a Red Jungle Fowl (bankiva-partridge, e+) hen or of the ground color (boosted with mahogany, a red enhancer) on the Faverolles hen who is also silver.

A continuous battle against the brassy ground color in large silver double laced Barnevelders, which theoretically should have a white ground color, is well documented. Those birds have an additional handicap; any autosomal red is enhanced by mahogany.

Gold (s+) of the chicken is kind of a default by design. There is nothing more than gold or silver (a cock can be both) and this s+ or S is reflected in the ground color although there can be confusion about this if it is a silver chicken with a lot of autosomal red. A nice example is the color 'cocoapop' in the Serama.

In a golden chicken the ground color over the rest of the body is beige (without additions) and in a silver chicken the ground color is white. A silver ground color is not white if it contains a lot of autosomal red.

### How about the males?



The famous (colorwise) Capt. Cocoapop, first to show this colour.



A Friesian Fowl lemon pencilled cock, autosomal red on silver (S).

In males it can be confusing whether they are really silver, or silver with autosomal red, or split for gold (S/s+). Not all breeds show it clearly when a cock is split for gold.

Brahmas are notoriously sneaky—a visually silver cock (dark) can have partridge daughters. Well, that is clear then, the father is split for gold. He will have either s+ gold or S silver daughters. This is independent of which 's' the mother has. Daughters of a split cock are either s+/- or S/-. Both are not possible because sex chromosomes have only one slot for a gene in hens. Sex determination is based on this phenomenon (think of barred).

How do you know if a rooster is S/S, Ar+ (with autosomal red) or split S/s+ if the hackle is silver? Now, we are not talking about Brahmas and other breeds that can hide s+ (Wyandotte cocks can sometimes do this too). In breeds that are not secretly split, the

saddle of the cock is usually yellower than hackle. The wing triangle in wild type split males is white with some brown here and there. The wing triangle of a wild type colored rooster is white with S silver and brown with s+ gold.

A silver S/S cock with autosomal red will show the end tips of his saddle feathers just as white as the white hackles but... where the saddle feathers come out of the skin, there is a yellow or brown cast. It is also possible the bird looks cream as if ig/ig is present, but upon closer look there is silver visible (white). Others have custard colored hackles and saddle, think of the Faverolles male of the French breeding direction. The German breeding (Lachshuhn) has dark red in its saddle due to an overload of autosomal red enhanced by Mh mahogany.

Back to the 'cocoapop' color in Serama. It is possible for a pure silver cock to have a red breast, which should be white due to the columbian action of a new gene called 'dusky'. It causes the lacings on the chest of cocoapop-colored Serama. Captain Cocoapop is the name of the first Serama sporting this color, in the early 2000's. This color defies all the rules of red in a silver based chicken. There are varieties too, with partly visible silver ground color on the red chest with black or chocolate laced feathers, forming a so-called black and white lacing on a red feather. This is all possible due to autosomal red.

Lemon color is, in many breeds, a silver bird with autosomal red, sometimes the result of a cross between a gold and a silver, bred back to silver, autosomal red from the gold bird is dragged into the offspring. Offspring varies, some are almost pure silver in ground color, others 'lemon'.

But the visual color 'lemon' can be made in different ways, which is a

story in itself.

So, autosomal red can ruin silver based colors, as in a silver penciled or laced cock with red shoulders. Oh yes, testosterone loves red and likes to boost it. Also, a black tailed white Japanese can have a peach colored shoulder. Autosomal red doesn't care, it just pops up.

Reason? No idea—you can only select against it. Hens are a bit less patchy when silver with autosomal red, they have no hormonal red-booster. The manifestations of autosomal red are numerous.

*(Continued in next issue)*

# Hot Weather Management of Poultry

*Courtesy Penn State University*

During the summer it is very important for poultry owners to be mindful of the effects warmer temperatures can have on their flocks.

Hot weather can severely impact poultry performance. Heat stress in poultry typically begins when the ambient temperature climbs above 80 degrees Fahrenheit and becomes very apparent at temperatures around 85 degrees Fahrenheit. When a bird begins to pant, physiological changes have already taken place within its body to help eliminate excess heat.

When temperatures reach mid- to upper 90s, it is important for birds to be able to dissipate body heat to maintain a body temperature of about 105 degrees Fahrenheit. However, poultry do not sweat. Therefore, body heat is dissipated from wattles, shanks, and unfeathered areas under the wings. Birds do not need to drastically alter normal behavior, feed intake, or metabolism to maintain body temperature by heat loss. The purpose of ventilation in poultry housing is to maintain an environment that allows birds to sustain body temperature by sensible heat loss. Sensible heat loss methods include radiation, conduction, and convection which are effective when temperatures range from 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Once temperatures reach 77 degrees Fahrenheit, the method for heat loss shifts to evaporative heat loss. Evaporative heat loss requires birds to dissipate body heat by panting, which begins to occur at about 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Techniques for managing heat stress include maintaining a grass cover on the ground surrounding the poultry house to reduce reflection of sunlight onto the house. Vegetation should also be trimmed to avoid blocking air movement. Shade trees should be located in areas that do not restrict air movement.

Also, make sure to keep a reliable, clean, cool source of water for birds. Electrolytes can be added to the water to replace those lost during periods of heat stress. For layers, be sure to provide adequate

ventilation and air circulation for nesting boxes.

The importance of proper hot weather management for poultry should not be underestimated.

## **Ambient Temperature (F) - Signs of Heat Stress**

- 65-75 Ideal temperature range.
- 75-85 Slight reduction in feed consumption. Egg size may be reduced and shell quality may suffer as temperatures reach the top of this range.
- 85-90 Greater reduction in feed consumption. Egg size and shell quality deteriorate. Egg production suffers.
- 90-95 Feed consumption continues to decrease. Danger of heat exhaustion in layers and heavier birds. Cooling management practices are necessary.
- 95-100 Heat exhaustion is likely. Emergency measures may be necessary. Egg production and feed consumption are greatly decreased. Water consumption is high.
- over 100 Survival is a concern.



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