

BREEDS OF DOMESTIC DUCK

INFORMATION LEAFLET

It is recommended that you read this sheet having already read the BWA information leaflet "Starting To Keep Domestic Ducks".

Before World War II nearly every farm would have a small flock of ducks and geese which had been specially developed over many years by selective breeding. These were specially bred either for egg production or for the meat market, according to the requirements and demands of each area. This led to many breeders in various parts of the country developing their own strains. Competition for the most efficient bird led to breeding of a host of pure strains which varied considerably in shape, size and colour.

These were well established until the period following the war, when large companies planned to take over the food production with the introduction of "hybrid", bred to adapt to the factory-like conditions made for their keeping and rearing. The small flocks of ducks and geese that used to roam the farmyard were considered inefficient and by the late sixties many of our old breeds of ducks and geese practically disappeared.

It wasn't until the late seventies that our old breeds of domestic waterfowl really began to reassert appeal. This time though, the attraction was, and is, quite different. This time they are mainly being kept for the pleasure they give and because of their beauty and their enduring ability to adapt to human company. The eggs laid and the meat produced are more often seen now as a welcome bonus!

There is such a wide variety, from the smallest Call Duck, not much larger than a pigeon, to the big majestic Aylesbury. All these breeds give the beginner a wide selection from which to choose and also the opportunity to take part in the pleasure of preserving some of our old breeds of domestic waterfowl.



Pekin Drake

British Waterfowl
Association

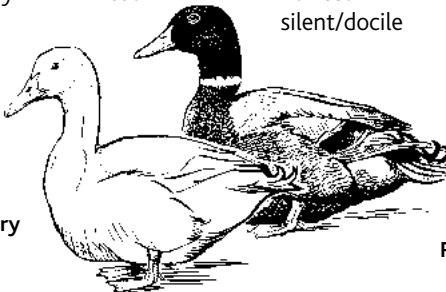
Conservation Education Preservation



HEAVY BREEDS

BREED	USE	CHARACTER	COMMENTS
Aylesbury	Originally bred for meat	Placid	Needs plenty of room to exercise and water to mate.
Rouen	Originally bred for meat	Quiet	From France. Superb plumage colour. Fertility improved by having water to mate in.
Pekin	Originally bred for meat	Placid	Attractive upright carriage.
Rouen Clair	Originally bred for meat	Calm temperament	Needs plenty of exercise. From France.
Saxony	Originally bred for meat	Docile	German breed. Needs plenty of space.
Silver Appleyard	Dual purpose	Good foragers but placid	Originated by Reginald Appleyard in the late 30's. Drakes make good weights and for a heavy breed, ducks excellent layers.
Cayuga	Originally bred for meat	Slightly more timid	Originally from Lake Cayuga, America. Has outstanding, iridescent beetle-green colouring.
Blue Swedish	Dual purpose	Docile	Perfect colouring very difficult to achieve. (Ducklings will include proportion of blacks and silvers.)
Muscovy	Meat	Almost silent/docile	Goose-like grazers, will fly. From South America.

Aylesbury
drake



Rouen drake

LIGHT BREEDS

BREED	USE	CHARACTER	COMMENTS
Abacot Ranger	Utility	Quiet, alert	Not common, attractive plumage.
Buff Orpington	Dual purpose	Placid, good forager on poor ground	Hardy, Rapid weight gain 6-7lb. at 12 weeks. Created by William Cook in 1907.
Campbell Khaki	Eggs	Easily scared	Prolific egg layer. Up to 320 per year. Bred in 1901 by Mrs Campbell.
White	Eggs	Less nervous	Fewer eggs than Khaki.
Crested	Utility	Quiet/Comical	Crests colour vary.
Indian Runner	Eggs	Busy, alert foragers	Slim, erect carriage 200+ eggs per year. Brought to UK from Malaya in 1840.
Magpie	Utility	Hardy	Perfect markings not easy to achieve.
Welsh Harlequin	Dual purpose	Docile and placid	Moderate egg layer, good weight gain, 5-6lb. Bred in 1949 by Group Captain Bonnet.

BANTAMS

BREED	USE	CHARACTER	COMMENTS
Black East Indian	Mainly ornamental	Excellent foragers. Slightly nervous	Attractive iridescent beetle green colouring.
Miniature Silver Appleyard	Mainly ornamental	Quiet	Exact replica of large Silver Appleyard but one third size.
Call Duck	Originally used as decoy	Become very tame	Smallest domestic duck. Bred in many colours for attracting wild ducks.

All these small ducks are capable of flight.

O T H E R I N F O R M A T I O N

This leaflet is only a brief introduction and the successful husbandry of all livestock depends on being well informed about them. The BWA Bookshop sells a number of specialist publications which cover all aspects of keeping both Wildfowl and Domestic Waterfowl. All new keepers are strongly advised to obtain a book appropriate to their interest.

Leaflets in this series available from the BWA Secretary price 25p each.

Starting to keep Wildfowl

Keeping Wildfowl - Geese

Keeping Wildfowl - Perching Ducks

Keeping Wildfowl - Whistling Ducks

Starting to keep Domestic Ducks

Starting to keep Domestic Geese

Breeds of Domestic Duck

Starting to Show Domestic Waterfowl

Pond Construction

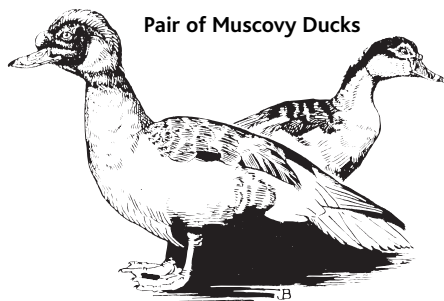
Ailments and Remedies

Plants for Ponds and Pens

Incubation of Waterfowl Eggs

Illustrations by Joe Blossom

Pair of Muscovy Ducks



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