

BRITISH POULTRYMAN HAS A MODEL FARM

Barron Made Modest Beginning and Now Raises Many Champion Layers.

CHICKS KEEP LATE HOURS Houses Lighted All Evening to Induce Them to Eat and Work Overtime.

By Prof. F. H. STONEBURN. It is probably true that in every flock of laying hens there are one or more individuals which are remarkably prolific; but this can only be determined by the use of the trap nest. In ordinary practice these great performers are overlooked and merely used in the flock and they are just as likely to be sold or dressed for table use as are their sisters which are poor layers.

Occasionally we find a flock which is made up of constant performers year after year showing a high average egg yield. Under such conditions we may reasonably conclude that this stock has been produced by an intelligent, progressive breeder who closely studies his birds and their characteristics and knows exactly the value of the different lines of blood, using the good and discarding the undesirable. It is obvious that systematic breeding of this kind involves a great deal of detail work. It is also plain that such work pays.

The various laying competitions conducted in America during the last few years have attracted much attention and have done a great deal in the way of inducing producers of market eggs to pay more attention to individual performance and breeding for increased egg production.

Considering these contests as a whole, the most consistent performance is that of birds entered by a foreign breeder—namely from England. In the first North American competition his pen finished fourth, in spite of the loss of one bird in midseason. The average production on the basis of a full pen of five birds was 230 eggs.

In the second Missouri contest his birds won, with an average production of 207 eggs. They duplicated this feat in the second North American event with an average of 228 eggs. The individual scores of the five birds being 206, 210, 230, 262 and 282. The latter is the highest score made by any individual in the history of American laying competitions.

This record, coupled with his winnings in many laying contests in England, is ample proof that this breeder has developed strains of fowls which have the tendency toward heavy production, and he knows how to develop and condition them in such a manner as to enable them to do their best work. A discussion of his methods cannot fail to interest and possibly inspire and help the poultry breeders of America.

This gentleman recently visited this country, and in the course of several conversations with the writer talked freely regarding his work and the success through other sources the following information was obtained:

Mr. Barron began poultry keeping just twenty years ago. He had no working capital, so he started on a small scale with twenty birds. For a time he devoted himself to the poultry fancy, the breeding of exhibition birds. But England is a land of fowls, and he made but slow progress. After a time he came to the conclusion that he could do better by devoting himself to the strictly utility side of the industry, so he made the change.

The need of birds with better than average laying ability was apparent to him, so he turned his skill as a breeder to the production of good layers. Space forbids the presentation of an account of his early experiences. Some were disheartening; others most encouraging.

According to Mr. Barron, the secret of his success is in the trap nest. This appliance is used in all pens, and the individual records of all his birds are systematically recorded twelve months in the year. He believes that this tendency toward heavy laying is directly inherited and that it is brought out by proper feeding and management. In short, that the three things which determine a pullet's value are the total amount of her growth and development and her environment during her productive life. A chick of good breeding may be spoiled during the first six months of her life, and well grown birds will lay heavily unless properly housed and fed.

In the matter of breeding, he uses good "laying blood" entirely. The hens must be good performers. Down by trap nest records, and the males the same of heavy layers. He pedigrees his chicks carefully and preserves and intensifies the blood lines which prove most satisfactory.

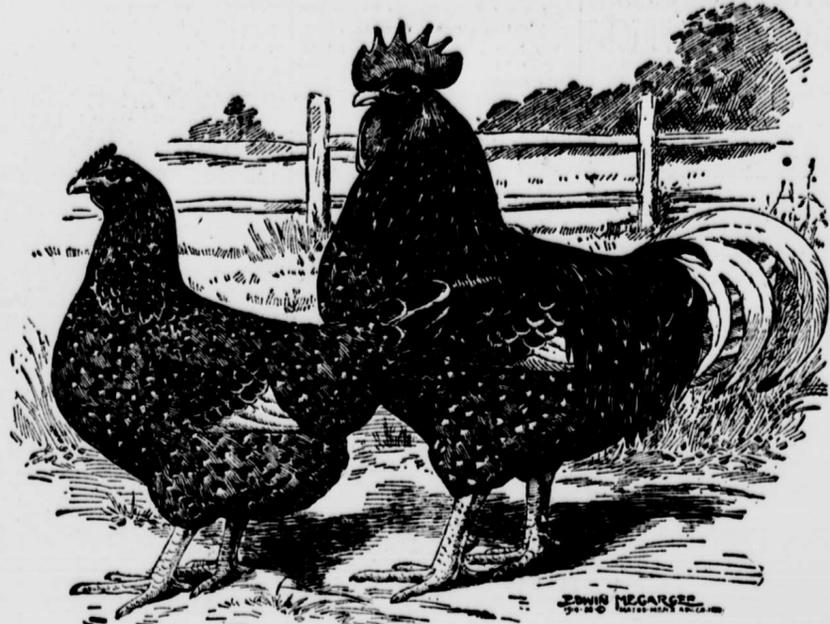
Virtually all chicks are hatched in incubators. Lamp heated machines are used, both American and English makes. These have a total capacity of 3,600 eggs. From the incubators the chicks go to the brooder house, which is kept up to date about 3,000 at one time. At first they are placed in nursery hovers, heated by hot water pipes, but later they are transferred to secondary brooders, which are heated with lamps.

About eighty chicks are placed in each brood. The pens are large in size and each has a separate grass covered run, seven feet wide, which is kept clean and light and sun are admitted to the house, there being a number of skylights, in addition to the usual windows.

The unique feature of this building is the provision made for turning light at night. Acetylene gas is used, and sufficient burners are provided to brilliantly illuminate the entire house. The lights are kept burning during the evening, thus giving the chicks an opportunity to exercise and feed for some hours after daylight falls. In effect, this lengthens the working day, thus causing the youngsters to develop more rapidly.

The writer has used this plan for many years, and can testify to its value, especially for chicks hatched early in the season, when the nights are long and the days correspondingly short. The crowd of baby chicks have limited capacity, but digestion is rapid. During the long nights, therefore, there must be a considerable time when more food could be used to advantage. By lengthening the feeding period this difficulty is overcome and more rapid growth follows.

BREED RAPIDLY BECOMING POPULAR HERE



Specimens of the Speckled Sussex, which long has been a favorite general purpose fowl among market poultrymen in certain parts of England. About ten years ago it was taken up by the fanciers, who have rapidly perfected the type and color. The breed has only recently been introduced into this country, but is rapidly becoming popular. Males weigh from nine pounds up, females from seven pounds up. Shanks, toes and bill are white. The plumage is black, white and chestnut, the color being distributed as shown above. Sussex hens are excellent layers, especially in winter. The eggs are brown and of satisfactory size.

SUSSEX BREED GAINS IN POPULAR ESTEEM

Long Famous in England, Is Now Better Known Here—Is Like Rhode Island Red.

By EDWIN MEGARGEE. While the Sussex is one of the oldest breeds of poultry and has for a very long period of time been a popular favorite among commercial poultrymen in certain parts of England, it has only recently made a bid for the favor of the American poultry fraternity. That it has taken hold in the brief time it has been with us is undeniable. It is safe to predict that it will be widely bred in this country, especially by admirers of the general purpose type of poultry.

The enthusiastic breeders of the Sussex assert that the breed is one of the common backyard fowls of the Kent and Sussex districts. Others, that it is a distinct kind and that it has been bred to a given type for centuries. Whatever the merit possessed by these varying claims, it is sufficient for practical purposes to know that the breed is actually an old one. It has been bred by the Sussex farmers for generations, and by them it is considered the ideal fowl.

About a decade ago the English fanciers came to a realization that the Sussex is something more than a farm fowl and worthy of greater consideration. In 1903, the English Sussex Club was formed in July, 1903. Its object was to promote the breed and to have a standard of excellence for the breed. The club has since that time been active in promoting the breed and has held several shows.

The illustration shows the ideal type. The most salient features are the long comb, carried out in front of the body, the long neck, the long legs, and the long tail. The tail is carried rather low and the clean cut shanks and thighs are of medium length. The comb should be fairly large, following the curve of the neck. The color is unusual. The hackles and saddle of a rich, reddish brown, each feather being striped with black and tipped with white. The wing bow is red, the wing bar black and the wing tip white. The wing bar is white. Tail and coverts are black and white. The remainder of the plumage is evenly mottled, black, white and chestnut brown. The ideal feather is brown, margined with black and tipped with white.

In the female the mottling extends throughout the plumage. The cut gives an excellent idea of the quality of the bird. Shanks, toes and beak are white. In its native home the Sussex holds an enviable reputation as a layer of brown shelled eggs. The weights are nine pounds and up for males, seven pounds and up for females.

Will Represent England at Fair. Miss S. Carey of England has been named a member of the advisory committee from England at the Panama-Pacific exhibition in 1915. She will endeavor to get a representative exhibit of English poultry for the poultry show held during the exposition.

Levelly Back From South America. D. O. Levely, chief of the department of live stock, Panama-Pacific exposition, has returned from a trip to South America, whence he has been in the interest of the live stock exhibit.

6,000,000 Eggs Arrive. What is claimed to be the greatest consignment of Chinese hens' eggs landed thus far at American ports reached Vancouver, B. C., recently. The shipment is said to have consisted of 6,700,350 eggs, most of which were consigned to points in the United States.

SAYS CHINESE EGGS ARE O. K. SACRAMENTO, Cal., May 9.—Chinese eggs received here this vindication when the State Board of Health, which has been investigating them, announced their equal legal in every respect to California cold storage eggs.

The investigation was made under the direction of Prof. M. E. Jaffe of the State pure food and drug laboratory. Prof. Jaffe said the Chinese eggs were slightly less in average weight than California eggs, but this was the only feature in which they were inferior.

With reference to the shells of the Chinese eggs being penetrated by bacteria and disease germs, Prof. Jaffe held that one month in cold storage killed any germ that might penetrate the shell in his examination. Prof. Jaffe found a fatal disease germ do not resist the chemical constituents of any egg.

WANT CAMPINES ADMITTED.

Petitions to Be Acted Upon at Convention in August. In compliance with instructions received at the meeting of the American Campine Club, held at Philadelphia, December 15, 1913, there have been prepared and filed with Secretary S. T. Campbell of the American Poultry Association petitions for admission for both the golden and silver campines to the standard of perfection. These petitions will be acted upon at the coming convention of the A. P. A. to be held in August.

The standard offered to the A. P. A. is the one adopted by the American Campine Club. This standard has been received favorably by breeders of campines throughout America. It will be a big help to the campines when the standard of the breed is accepted by the A. P. A. All parties interested in the campine breed should obtain a copy of the catalogue of the American Campine Club. This catalogue contains a number of articles on the breed by both foreign and American breeders. Copies can be obtained free by making application to the secretary.

At the annual meeting of the American Campine Club, held at Philadelphia, on December 15, 1913, by a vote of the club, a "red" under-testing of "Red Disqualifications" was changed to read "white in face of cockerels."

Indian Runner Ducks Lead Contest. In an egg laying contest of two years duration, conducted by the New Zealand Utility Club, a pen of six Indian runner ducks laid thirty-two eggs during the ninety-ninth week, making a total number of eggs for that period, 2711. The contest still has five weeks to go, so this total will be somewhat increased. The individual record now stands at better than 450 eggs per bird per year. The best individual record of a pen of six fowls for the same period is held by a pen of White Leghorns, with a total of 2,652 eggs to their credit, or 221 eggs per hen per year.

New Job for Prof. Olin. Vice-President E. L. Brown of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad recently announced the appointment of Prof. W. H. Olin as commissioner of agriculture for the state of Colorado. Prof. Olin will devote his entire time to the agricultural interests of the territory contiguous to the line and will cooperate with the United States Department of Agriculture in promoting fruit growing, stock and poultry raising. He is a man of wide experience and great ability.

Alberta an Egg Producing Province. The Province of Alberta, Dominion of Canada in 1913, produced 14,927,700 dozen eggs, valued at \$3,021,086, and 2,068,892 pounds of poultry valued at \$440,856, making a total valuation of \$3,461,942. In addition to this there were 145 carloads of eggs, consisting of 1,864,100 dozen, valued at \$21,096, imported from the United States.

Eggs Must Be Carefully Watched. Watch the eggs that you gather these hot May days. Keep them in a cool place and be sure not to let any of them go bad. Market them promptly. They are cash. You get less a dozen, but you get more dozens than you did in the winter. Your egg crop is therefore quite likely worth just as much this month as it was in February.

Put the Chicks to Bed Properly. Look out for the crowding in the night quarters. This must not be forgotten, or you will be dollars out and chickens short. The sharp corner is bad. The one that gets in it first runs a risk of being carried out dead during the morning. Uplift them every night.

Danger Larks in Hot Days. This month the heat will strike them suddenly some days. Provide for them a way of escape. Heat may work as great havoc as cold, if you are not on guard. Young ducks especially can easily be burned.

Buy Young Chicks Now. Have you bought any day old chicks yet? This is a good time to try a flock. They will be hatched just as well as you yourself could hatch them. If you are short of young chicks be sure to stock up this month. It will be cheaper than paying \$2 apiece for pullets next fall.

Prof. Clark Has Been Ill. Prof. A. L. Clark of the New Jersey State experiment station, New Brunswick, N. J., recently suffered from an attack of scarlet fever in a most malignant form. The secretary is A. J. Watson, in charge of the extension department at the New Brunswick station.

Wyandotte Year Book Out. The year book of the National White Wyandotte Club is out. Eighty-four pages are devoted in one way or another to the variety, and all connected with the club are to be congratulated on their efforts to keep this popular variety at the front.

Gloverville Show in November. The next exhibition of the Glove City Fanciers Association will be held at Gloverville, N. Y., November 9 to 15. The secretary is A. J. Watson, 60 Orchard street, Gloverville, N. Y.

SEAGULLS' FLIGHT FOR NESTING ISLANDS

Northern Birds Obey Instinct as the Weather Grows Warmer.

VANCOUVER, B. C., May 9.—The gulls have commenced to leave Vancouver harbor for their nesting islands. Some of these are not far away, and some are a considerable distance from Vancouver, but an instinct just as reliable as the science of navigation guides the gull back to the rocky island where it built its nest and laid its eggs last year in less time than it would take a navigator with a chart of the coast to find it and take his vessel there.

In the old days, when the coast Indians wanted eggs they would paddle their canoes to one of the small rocky nesting islands and, with brooms made of spruce boughs sweep all the eggs on the island into the sea. There were acres of eggs and it took some time to clear all the eggs off the rock. The thousands of gulls, screaming in fury, filled the air around the heads of the men with beating wings and sometimes the sweepers had to drive the birds away with their brooms. A week afterward the canoes returned to the rock and gathered all the eggs they could find. They knew they were fresh, and there was feasting in the Indian villages for several days. People who have laid fresh gull's eggs say they are excellent.

There are many of these nesting islands, but the law keeps the Indians from sweeping now. On all the islands a printed cloth was there who would desolate the nests. "Warning." It says in large black type. "Notice! Any person or persons found molesting, destroying, taking or in any manner interfering with birds or eggs on this island will be prosecuted under the provisions of the provincial game act."

This poster is scoured by the crows and other birds of prey, and the squirrels and Indians and beach combers who desire eggs pay little attention to it. But the islands are no longer swept as they used to be. Besides the gulls (glaucous-winged), there are many thousands of gullmots and long necked cormorants and puffins (sea parrots) and, if you go a little further north, auks and sea quail and three or four more kinds of gull, and the greatest of all is the burrmaster gull, the biggest sea gull that lives. On one of the larger northern nesting islands you will see more birds than you ever hoped to see. To say there are millions is not an exaggeration. They are everywhere. They are quite countless on a nesting island during the nesting season.

The glaucous-winged gulls, which are the familiar harbor birds, live for several months on their nesting islands. They build their nests, lay their eggs, raise their young and teach them to get a living for themselves. There is one of these islands in the Gulf of Georgia, a few miles from the town of Sidney, and close to the International boundary. It is called Bare Island. It is a little over half a mile long, running east and west, and several hundred feet high. It is merely a big rock with precipitous sides, especially the south side.

Why a seabird, which has been buffeted about by gales ever since it alights on the deck of a ship is a matter deep water skippers in port have puzzled over without reaching any satisfactory conclusion. Even the stormy petrel, according to these authorities, will be put out of commission by the least roll of a vessel. Like every other fowl used to being tossed about by the strong sea winds that buffet the deck will flop over and gasp for breath. The chaps sea captains call "bosuns," abounding on the west coast, give a ship a wide berth. The only one ever known locally to go aboard a vessel was hurried against a mast during a storm, and it dropped to the deck with a broken wing. The ship voyager hurt it more than its injuries, and the bird had to be killed to put it out of misery. It is about the size of a gull and is adorned with two long red tail feathers. The Cape pigeon, found in southern waters, is said to be the best flying bird in the world. When a particularly heavy storm is raging it is said they become tame and can easily be caught by hand.

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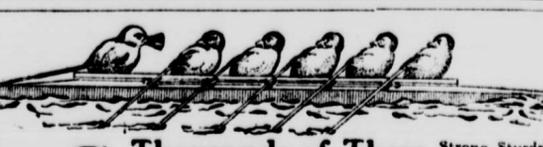
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