

wanted a hen to dress four pounds or better, and I had no trouble to get a Black Minorca to weigh that heavy; second, I was dead in love with Black Minorcas by this time, as it seemed to me that there was no breed prettier than a flock of Black Minorcas, with that glossy, beetle-green plumage which shines at all times. Another reason why I breed Black Minorcas is because the young are so blamed easy to raise. I keep a record of all chicks that I take out of the brooder and put into the growing houses. In 1907 I put 619 chicks in the brooder; 139 were Rose Comb Black Minorcas and the balance Single Comb. From these I put into the growing houses 604 chicks, of which 134 were Rose Comb, or, in other words, I lost fifteen chicks out of 619 that were put into the brooder, which shows that they are not so hard to raise as some people seem to think.

Another reason why I breed Rose Comb Black Minorcas is because of the fact that the flesh of Minorcas is equal to any and better than that of most fowls, being exceedingly tender and fine flavored, with a good supply of delicious white meat on the breast; the hens weighing from 5 to 6½ pounds and cocks from 7 to 9 pounds, varying with different strains and the care they receive while growing, and rarely can you get a Minorca hen too fat to lay.

There are many other good reasons that make Rose Comb Black Minorcas

### GOOD MINORCAS IN BIG DEMAND POULTRY RAISING IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

BY C. C. BONNELL, Los Angeles, Cal.

I have been breeding S. C. Black Minorcas for ten years, and I believe that they are one of the most valuable for the city fancier, as well as the farmer. Their black, greenish sheen plumage is not only beautiful to look at, but it does not show the dirt and grime of the city as my experience shows the lighter shades of fowls do. I find they are very gentle if properly cared for, and bear confinement as well as any other breed of fowls. They are very stylish, and for beauty they cannot be beaten. I have had a great deal of experience with other breeds, and I have come to the conclusion that the Minorcas beat them all for egg production and table fowl. There is nothing nicer to look at than a basket full of large, white eggs, and I find that their eggs hatch well, and the chickens are easily raised. I find that when a breeder raises good stock he can find ready sale for them, and they always bring fancy prices. Good Minorcas are in big demand.

### ORPINGTON MEN REORGANIZE

A meeting of the Orpington breeders was held at Chutes park, Los Angeles, on January 10, and the local club reorganized, now to be known as the Orpington club of California, covering this state only and comprising all varieties of Orpington.



Prize Winner Rose Comb Black Minorca Cock  
Bred by M. E. Brown

the ideal fowl of this century. They are healthy, quick growing, mature early, light feeders, the best of table fowls and the pullets are ideal winter layers of large white eggs.

### BLACK MINORCAS ON CITY LOT

BY R. E. PAGE,

Vice President Black Minorca Club.

I cannot help but feel that there are a great many families in the city who make a mistake by not keeping a few hens in the rear of their city lots so as to have a supply of fresh eggs; many seem to think that the only place for hens is on the ranch and that they cannot be raised successfully anywhere else. I have been surprised myself to see in how small a pen Black Minorcas can be raised. My broods of chicks are hatched under hens and when a few days old are put in little yards, three feet wide by six feet long, with a little shed at the end not more than two by three feet, and they are grown there until they are four months old, then they are put in a larger yard, and in about two months they begin to shell out the large white eggs that are quoted in the papers as extra select. It is possible that chicks raised in this way do not develop to be quite as large as those that have a large range, but I have no trouble in growing my pullets to standard weight, and the cockerels good enough so they win the blue ribbon and sell at good prices. My lot is 50x150, has a double house and a small barn, also a small vegetable garden, and I have room enough to keep fifty laying hens and some young stock. If the pens are kept clean, with straw to scratch in for exercise, they will do nicely in very close quarters and pay one a good profit, even with feed at present prices, besides the satisfaction one has of having their own fresh eggs.

W. S. Macy of Santa Barbara was elected president and L. G. Sills of Los Angeles secretary-treasurer. Dues are \$1, which entitles a member to all privileges of the club without extra initiation fee and next annual dues will become payable October 1, 1911 (not 10), so one dollar paid now gives over a year's benefit.

The other officers elected are A. G. Goodacre, Compton, first vice president, and Vincent Huntley of Petaluma second vice president. These officers and an executive committee composed of A. W. Huskins, Los Angeles; J. J. Dean, Moneta, and C. A. Latham of Los Angeles form the full working board of the club. Retiring Secretary Goodacre of the Southern California club turned over the affairs of the former club to Secretary Sills of the reorganized state club, and now everything is in splendid shape with a good bank balance and we hope every breeder of Orpingtons up and down this state will join the club or at least send their name to the secretary, L. G. Sills, 1207 East Fifty-fifth street, Los Angeles, for placing on mailing list of Orpington literature.

### LARGE SIZE AND GREAT EGG PRODUCERS

BY H. T. PASCHAL

In my estimation the Minorca is the fowl. The poultry fancier is looking for a great egg producer with as large a body as he can get; the Minorca combines both. As they are non-sitters, they do not lose the time from laying that some of the other breeds do. There is no prettier sight than a flock of either the Black or White Minorcas with their large, red combs, white ear lobes and pretty plumage. There is very little difference between the Black and White, only in color. They both lay a very large, white egg.

OF the making of poultry houses, like the making of books, there is no end. They are found in all sizes, shapes and conditions, according to the taste and ability of the builder. They range from the costly establishment, better and more comfortable than many homes, furnished with more than is necessary for the care and comfort of the aristocrats of poultrydom, down to the tenement house of a dry goods box or worse.

While there is a diversity of opinion among the poultry breeders as to the best way of housing fowls, they are unanimous in condemning any building that does not protect the chickens from drafts and moisture. It is far better for a fowl to roost in the trees or on the fence than in a drafty or damp house.

Breeders have a variety of ways in arranging interiors as well as exteriors. One breeder insists upon his chickens going up a ladder to their sleeping apartments and using the room under the bed chambers for a (dust) bath room. Another claims that the only suitable house for poultry is one that has a bedroom and a living room where the biddies can scratch and sing the whole day through.

Houses of this character may be needed in the colder parts of the country, where stormy weather is prevalent, but they are not necessary in Southern California. If one has the money to spend and is raising poultry for pleasure fine buildings with all the modern improvements will add greatly to his enjoyment. But the man or woman who is in the poultry business for revenue wants the house that costs the least to build, so long as it gives the needed protection to the fowls and which calls for the smallest amount of labor in its care.

Every cent above the necessary cost and each added moment of work in its care, is so much taken from the profits of the business.

I do not believe in housing many fowls under one roof, even if divided into separate apartments, as vermin and disease will spread more quickly under such conditions. We do not have to prepare for the long winters of the north and east; what little stormy weather we have is no hardship to the fowls provided they have a comfortable place to stay in while the storm is on and have a dry spot for feeding. Any house that has an abundance of good, pure air, that is free from drafts and will keep the chickens dry in wet weather is suitable for this climate.

The most practical and economical poultry building for this section is, in my opinion, the shed-roof open-front house. The one I prefer above others is 5 feet long, 3½ feet wide, 3 feet high in back and 4 feet in front, and as nearly tight in back and sides as possible.

Use half-inch boards for back and ends—shoe boxes furnish the best material, with laths for battens. Use 2x1 strips for sills and plates, except in front, where 3x1 are used at top and bottom. Shakes for the roof. The door is made of shakes or thin boards, nailed to two pieces of 1x2, and it extends across the front, hanging from the top. It is kept up at an angle of 60 degrees the year round, except with the growing stock, when it is closed in stormy weather. When down it leaves a six-inch opening at the bottom.

The raised door gives a dry feeding place in wet weather. Two roosts rest

on 1x2 cross pieces, with a nail on each side to keep them in place and yet allow them to be removed for spraying.

The floor is of dirt and does not have to be cleaned as often as a board floor. The house can be easily tipped over backward for spraying and is so light it can be readily moved about.

My houses face the south, and they are situated in an orange orchard, and so are well protected.

Other locations might call for more protection than is needed in the foothills. Nearer the seashore, wherever fogs are more prevalent, it might be necessary to use cloth or burlap in front of the building at night. And in other sections it might be wise to face the house in another direction, for where it is possible the back of the house should be toward the direction from which the prevailing winds come.

As regards nests, I prefer my nests on the outside of the building.

### HINTS ON FEEDING

If fowls are on the range they will find seed, green stuffs, bugs and worms. If they are confined these things must be supplied them. The crop at night is a fairly good indication as to whether the fowl is getting enough or too much to eat. The crop should not be too full, but not stuffed hard.

Have a system of feeding; give variety and have food pure and clean. Put food in litter at times, as the exercise of scratching for the food is exercise they need.

Do not overfeed. With a hen, like all other creatures, it is not what is eaten but what is used by the system that makes for good. Be sure the fowls digest their food.

Underfeeding is as bad as overfeeding. A hen must have enough not only to keep her body but to furnish material for egg making.

Wheat, corn and barley are the principal grains fed to chickens. No one grain is good to feed alone as a steady diet. Corn makes fat and keeps up the heat of the body, but it must be mixed with wheat or some other food that does not contain these elements.

Grains alone do not make a proper diet. There must be green stuff such as grass, lettuce, cabbage, etc. Grain alone is too heavy and hearty; the fowl desires the green salads for a change as much as persons do.

During moulting periods put linseed oil or oil meal cake in the mash. It helps keep the fowl in good condition, being rich in albumen. Feed carefully, however, as too much affects the bowels—besides, it is fattening. Occasionally put salt in the warm mash.

Charcoal and grits and lime are always mentioned in connection with the feeding of fowls. About twice a week mix charcoal in the mash or keep it where hens have access to it. Grit is necessary. It should be kept where hens could always have access to it, and grit should be hard and "gritty."

The value of green food for poultry is well known to every breeder of poultry. The potato parings, steamed or boiled, are very good occasionally. Alfalfa, barley and rape are good substitutes for green food.

Corn meal mixed with sour milk is enjoyed by young chickens.

Do not forget that fowls like plenty of water and that the laying hen wants even more.

When frying anything in deep fat have the flour sifter full of flour handy. If the fat catches fire, sprinkle thickly with flour and safe disaster.



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