

Poultrynz

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Poultrynz Editorial

In the last issue we were all concerned about the downpour in the upper part of New Zealand. What followed was even more devastating especially those in the eastern side of the North Island. I don't think any of us can imagine what was happening only those unfortunate ones who were living through it. It must have been really scary. Thousands of

people lost their homes, businesses and worse some of their family. Reports of Poultry Fanciers losing their birds, not only a few but their entire flock. I'm sure other fanciers will rally for replacements this coming show season. Our thoughts are with you. Until next issue.

Regards, Ian Selby.

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OAT PANCAKES

INGREDIENTS

Makes 12 small or 6 large

1 cup wholemeal flour

½ cup self-raising flour

¾ cup rolled oats

2 Tbsp brown sugar

3 eggs

2 Tbsp softened butter

1 cup milk, or enough to make a yoghurt consistency

Butter, for cooking

Seasonal fruit and maple syrup, to serve

METHOD

- Whisk together the flours, rolled oats, brown sugar, eggs, softened butter and milk until well blended and the consistency of yoghurt.
- Heat a small amount of butter in a frying pan. Drop in ladlefuls of batter and cook until golden on the bottom. Flip and cook the other side until golden. You'll need to do this in batches.
- Serve with seasonal fruit and maple syrup.

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THE SEBRIGHT



by L.Hering, USA

Gold Sebrights

Surprisingly little is to be found in the old poultry books to document the history of the Sebright. Those writers did not seem to care about getting the “who, where, when, why” (the modern reporter’s first lesson) accurately. All of them give more or less the same information — developed by Sir John Sebright over many years, assisted by friends who met once a year to show what progress they had made toward their ideal. But for their names, their dates, where they lived, much searching was necessary to bring out these meagre bits of history.

Sir John was a member of Parliament for Hertfordshire, but in England an MP does not have to be a resident of the place he represents. One book gives his home as “Beechwood,” but this must have been the name of his estate, for no town of that name appears on standard maps of England. The friends who formed the first Club met in Gray’s Inn Coffee House, Holburn (borough of London) but might well have come there from any of the surrounding counties. Two books give some of their names: Mr. Stevens, Mr. Garle, Mr. Nollingsworth (the other writer spells it Hollingsworth), but no initials, nothing about them or where they lived. A Mr. Matthew Leno of Dunstable

(Bedfordshire) is mentioned as having his birds from Sir Thomas Sebright, but that was later, Sir Thomas coming after Sir John.

As to “when,” the writers are equally vague. “About 1800” or “about 40 years ago” (this in 1855), and the like, are about what they give us. So it has been only by seeking, not only in old poultry books, but in Who’s Who, Whitaker’s Almanac and Atlas, that we have pieced together a few facts not having to do with type and feather pattern, which, to this writer’s notion, are not history. A letter to the present Baronet, Sir Hugo Sebright, remains unanswered.

Sir John was known as a skilful breeder of shorthorn sheep and other animals as well as poultry. One of his crossbred sheep attracted considerable attention, and his breed of dogs was of the highest order. He also worked with plants, and had hybridized a delicious green-fleshed melon he called “Beechwood.” He also made rare colour combinations in pigeons, notably an all black archangel with bright orange-red wings.

As early as 1815, the first poultry book in English (Moubray) mentions that “there has been lately obtained a variety of bantam extremely small, smooth

legged as a Game Fowl.” In his 1830 edition he adds: “Sir John Sebright is one of the chief amateurs of this breed.” In 1838, Dickson (English) speaks of “Bantam fanciers with Sir John at their head.” The first American poultry book, 1843, does not mention Sebrights by name, says only: “a variety raised in England is not much larger than a pigeon” and sees “no reason to raise them except for the unworthy purpose of passing them off for chickens out of season.” Another American, C. N. Bement, 1845, says: “Among Her Majesty’s (Queen Victoria’s) fowls are to be found some splendid specimens of Sir John’s breed of bantams, a cock of which, remarkable for his martial bearing, is a great favourite of Prince Albert.”

W. C. L. Martin, 1847, says: “A bantam has been brought to perfection by Sir John Sebright after years of careful trials” and in the same, in his 1853 edition, we come at last to a geographical note: “Sir John’s poultry yard, adjacent to Turnham Green Common, in the bye-road leading to Acton.” (now also a borough of London) Martin uses the picture reproduced here, which had appeared previously in the Report of the Committee of Supervision of the 1st American Poultry Exhibition in Boston, 1849, which credited the drawing to D. J. Browne, author of “The American Poultry Yard,” 1849.

In 1848 there had appeared in England the Rev. Saul Dixon’s “Ornamental and Domestic Poultry,” which emphatically opposed the idea that Sir John had “originated” a breed. He thinks that instead of having sent “many miles” for the original stock, Sir John had sent “many thousands of miles” for them; in other words that he had imported them from the far east. Our American D.J.Browne copies from this almost word for word. In those pre-Darwin days, religious people would not admit that a new breed could be originated by any but the Creator.

In 1853, an American work by T. B. Miner carried the best section on Sebrights up to this date. He calls Sir John their “original importer” and says they command the highest prices of any bantams in the U.S., selling at \$15 to \$25 a pair. He states that as late as 1847 Sebrights were sold in England for 50 pounds (\$250) a pair. He gives a long humorous quote about them from a newspaper, a letter from an exporter, a Mrs. Williams, who had her stock from Sir John and gives names of American importers.

By 1854 there was evidently a controversy raging between the believers that Sir John “originated” the breed and those asserting he had “imported” it. The “Poultry Chronicle” hit on the idea of having Mr. Hobbs, who had worked for Sir John for more than 45 years tell the truth of the matter, and they published his statement.



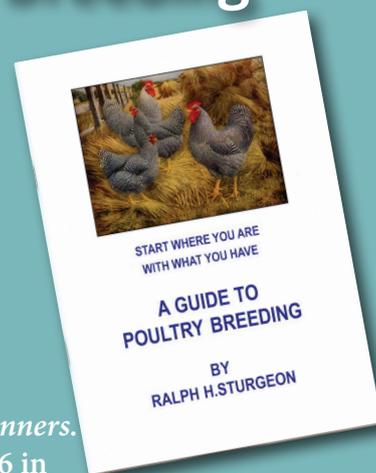
Silver Sebright Cockerel

A Guide To Poultry Breeding

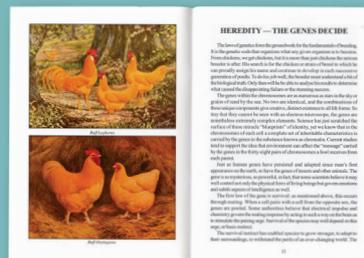
By R. Sturgeon

\$20

postage \$4.50



Ideal book for beginners.
A5 size, 42 pages, 6 in colour



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“Sir John bought a very small buff bantam hen (Nankin?) at Norwich, and a reddish cockerel of the “henny” Game kind; at Watford he got a small hen resembling a golden Hamburg. By selecting, for 5 or 6 years, he gained the laced feather he sought, and fixed the type and pattern by in-and-in breeding for about 20 years. Starting with a White cockerel (White Rosecomb?) he made the silvers.”

The following year (1855) a letter appeared in the Poultry Chronicle from one who purported to know, stating that Sir John and his friends were trying to obtain “the beautiful plumage of the Polish on as small a specimen as possible.” He went on to say that “they selected the best Polish and crossed them with Bantams” (in those days the Nankin, the Black and the White). No mention at all of the henny Game, or of how the top-knot was eliminated. Later experts have emphatically endorsed the version of Mr. Hobbs, saying that others may have introduced Polish blood, but Sir John — never.

The method of obtaining the prize money for the annual “show” of those original breeders is of interest. Their annual dues were 2 guineas (then \$10.50) for Goldens and the same for Silvers (all wealthy gentlemen, obviously). After paying the expenses at the Coffee House, the remainder was given as prizes. Cocks had to be 22 ounces, hens 18. An amusing incident is related of one of these of those first “shows.” A hen was disqualified as just overweight. Ten minutes afterward she laid an egg, which brought her within the rule, but her turn had passed!

After the exhibition each owner was required to offer his birds for sale. He could put on what he thought a prohibitory price, and could bid on them himself. It is recorded that Sir John bid up one of his tiny hens to £29 (\$145) and bought her in at that price. It is also of record that as late as 1847 a trio sold for £50.1s., which was a shilling more than the price put on them by their owner. (\$250.25)

The battle between “originator” and “importer” continued. L. A. Meall (1854) became very sarcastic about the “mysterious operation” that could result in a new variety. He is emphatic that they must have been imported by Sir John. Apparently the word of Mr. Hobbs was discredited, he being only “a hired workman.” Even after Darwin’s monumental “*Origin of Species*,” 1859, poultry writers like Tegetmeier, 1867, and Lewis Wright, 1872, preferred to take the word of Dr. F.R.Homer, of Edward Hewitt, Esq., and of Sir Thomas Sebright, a descendant of Sir John, none of whom was contemporary with the origin of the breed. Although “imported” has been discredited, the “how” of ‘originated’ may still be open to question.



Silver Sebright Hen

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eases tired muscles
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WATER - THE NEGLECTED NUTRIENT



From the Fanciers Gazette, Australia. 1989.

Water is one of the most critical nutrients for normal functioning of the many physical and chemical processes within the body. It has been demonstrated that feed intake of poultry can be regulated by controlling the Water supply.

Water intake of birds is influenced by dietary levels of sodium and potassium salts, protein and fibre, and by the presence of whey, molasses, enzymes, flavours and certain feed additives in the ration. Some additives increase water consumption; others have a marked decreasing effect.

Studies have indicated that chickens are acutely sensitive to the temperature of water. Water which is barely warm to the touch may be actively rejected by the chicken, particularly in hot weather. However, others have reported that warming the drinking water for hens during very cold weather resulted in increased water consumption and improved egg production.

Many of the body tissues range from 30% to 90%. Moisture, with bone and fat tissue being the lowest, and blood being the highest in water content. As a bird increases in age or per cent body fat, body water content decreases. This will range from approximately 85% in the chick to about 55% to 60% in the mature fowl.

Growing chicks consume from 2 to 2½ times more

Keeping the water off the ground helps to keep it clean

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water than feed and mature birds consume 1½ to 2 times more water than feed on a weight basis. When the environmental temperature rises above the zone of thermal neutrality (58 to 78 degrees) the chicken begins to pant, thereby increasing the evaporation of water from the lungs. Therefore, water consumption is increased markedly and feed consumption decreases. In addition to dissipation of heat through evaporation of water from the lungs, there is an increased excretion of water via the kidneys which may cause wet litter or wet dropping problems. Since both growth and egg production are of lower priority than survival, every effort should be made to minimise the stress of inadequate water supply or inferior water quality. It has been reported that a bird can lose all of the body fat and about half of the body protein, which may amount to 40% of total body weight and still live. However, loss of 10% water causes serious physiological disorders, and a loss of 20% results in death.

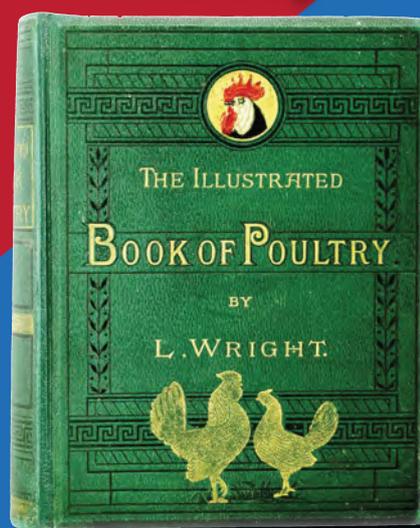
These are only a few of the facts concerning the importance of water. This is one area which the poultryman has full control compared to genetics and nutrition over which he may have little or no control. If you are having problems with wet droppings, entirities, etc., check your water supply. County extension service personnel or county public health representatives can determine which test should be run and what laboratories are available. Many times, water treatment equipment dealers can help determine the tests and analyses needed, and they may even make some analyses. A sample of water should be checked for the following before installing equipment to correct.

1. Bacteriological safety when the system is completed or addition to a water supply or distribution system is made. A check should be made annually to ensure the system has not been contaminated.

Water supply needs to be close to your Poultry Yard

2. Safety, whenever disease occurs that could be caused by unsafe water, that is gastroenteritis, typhoid, hepatitis, Newcastle or most of the viral and bacterial disease.
3. Chemicals, if a hazardous pollutant gets into the supply system.
4. Safety, following unexplained changes in taste, colour, odour or appearance.

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UNSIGHTLY SCALY LEGS IN POULTRY

Author Unknown

Scaly leg is a chronic disease affecting the legs and feet of fowls, turkeys and caged birds. It is caused by the activities of a microscopic mite *Knemidocoptes mutans*, which tunnels into the surface layers of the skin underneath the scales, causing a chronic inflammation which produces scabs and crusts under the scales.

As a general rule older birds appear more susceptible than younger ones. Predisposing causes are unhygienic conditions, running birds of all ages together and overcrowding.

Symptoms

The mites damage the surface skin layers causing the exudation of serum. This solidifies and forms crusts and scabs of a greyish, powdery consistency which force the leg scales apart. The legs assume a ragged, rough appearance, particularly the posterior surface.

The crusts and scabs can be removed in the early stages, but in advanced cases, bony abnormalities



Scaly Leg - mites just starting but these leg scales will be lost

Poultry Leg Cleaning Spray

- Cleans the areas where Scaly Leg Mites live and breed.
- Saturate the affected areas on the birds legs.
- Repeat in 2-3 days.

500ml - \$20
125ml - \$9

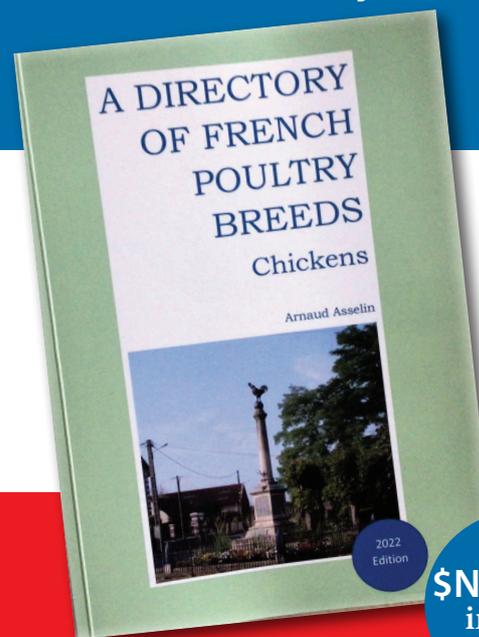


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Scaly Leg - note the effect of a missing toenail

occur which interfere with the mechanical processes of tendons and ligaments; consequently lameness is frequently seen. Badly affected birds show a drop in egg production, become weak and may even succumb. Itchiness is present and is more pronounced at night or in warm weather when the mites are more active.

The mite can also affect the comb, wattles and neck areas however such cases are rare.

Spread of Infection

Transmission to uninfected birds progresses slowly by contact with infected birds and with infected surroundings. Mites present in scales and crusts which fall off, contaminate yards and pens. It is readily seen that the rate of spread will depend on the hygiene exercised in the yards and the amount of contact affected birds have with clean birds.

Treatment

Use a good scaly leg spray making sure that it penetrates under the scales which suffocates the

mites. Repeat over a period of 2 weeks until the crusts fall off. Periodically check to see if the mites have not re-infested the legs.

Prevention of Re-infestation

All introduced birds should be carefully inspected before placing them with other stock. As a precaution, a routine treatment, as per previously described, should be carried out on all introduced birds.



Scaly Leg - this example was left untreated

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5 Litre \$100

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WHEN BREEDING STOCK FOR SHOW: DO NOT ATTEMPT TOO MUCH AT THE START



Author Unknown

When you realise that four grand parents, eight great grand parents and so on back to “methuselah” have probably contributed something internal or external to your personality, it may help you to realise why the production of chickens does not result in anything like even 50% perfect similarity.

This fact may also show you why throw backs constantly occur even in the most carefully controlled strain. At the moment these preliminary remarks are intended for the benefit of beginners, who often imagine that they have only to purchase a male from one source and put him with standard females from another in order to obtain a crop of youngsters mostly up to the level of their parents and excelling them in some cases.

Taking on too many breeds or colours can be a distraction

Now while this not absolutely unknown, owing probably to some fortunate combination of circumstances, it is merely just “one of those things like the first time punters 100 to 1 outsider that comes off once in a blue moon.” In the vast majority of cases it take several years of constant selection, keeping to the same strain, plus intelligent appreciation of prevailing faults and how to overcome them, before the breeder can hope to build up anything like a reliable line.

More especially so if he is in a small way, with few chances of experimenting in various directions as the big breeder does. Also, even if he can manage a steady improvement season by season, in general quality he will never be free of a percentage of wasters in varying degree.

CHAMPION EXPECTATIONS

Years ago I had a great friend in the fancy at the top of the tree in his particular line, whose stock regularly carried off main awards. Comparing notes, we came to the conclusion that, among any

100 young stock thus bred from the best pen, it was reasonable to expect in an average season three or four champions, some 25 of both sex able to hold their own in good provincial exhibit - another 30 or so quite up to standard but not likely to do well save at local events, with the remainder, over 40% throw backs “with varying bad faults of one kind or another. As this was as if coloured variety, the inference is that where marked breeds are in question the wastage is considerably higher.

Now all this is not mentioned in order to discourage the novice, far from it, but rather to show him that there is no easy road to success. He must be as keen as mustard to discover all there is to know concerning the intricacies of his own “fancy” and he must not outcross more than is absolutely necessary. Nor should he attempt too much at the start, but limit breeding operations to just two or three picked specimens each season. No, it is no simple matter, but an absorbing,

interesting one if you possess both patience and determination.

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Poultry D.E.

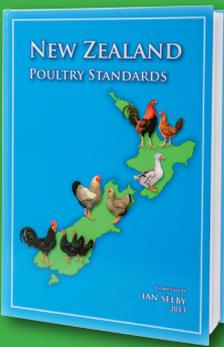
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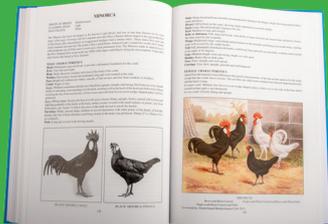
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