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Abacot Ranger duck The Abacot Ranger was one of many breeds developed from (or crossed with) Indian Runners. Starting with 'sports' from khaki Campbells, themselves originally the product of Runner crosses, Mr Oscar Gray of Abacot Duck Ranch, near Colchester, mated their offspring to a white Indian Runner drake. The eventual results were 'light drakes of khaki carriage and type with dark hoods, and white ducks with blue flight bars and fawn or grey hoods'. This development was begun in 1917 and the Wye College Duck Laying Test of 1922 and 1923 indicates a very successful outcome: the breed came top, with 935 eggs in the four-bird section. Originally called the 'Hooded Ranger', this breed almost died out in the United Kingdom. Imported into Germany via Denmark in 1926, it was 'stabilised' as a colour form by H. Lieker, whence it acquired the name Liekers Streifere (Lieber's Ranger or Scout). In 1934, it was eventually standardised under the name of Streicher-Ente (Ranger Duck). Later standardised by the British Waterfowl Association in 1987, the modern Abacot Ranger owes both its survival and written Standard to the work done in Germany.



Image: Abacot Ranger drake



Image: Abacot Ranger duck

Abdomen The part of the body of a bird located between the thorax and pelvis, containing organs such as the intestines, kidneys and reproductive system.

Abscess A localised collection of pus caused by bacterial infection.

Acute A sudden onset and rapid progression of a disease or condition.

Addled Term used for an egg that, during the incubation period, germinates but fails to develop properly.

African goose The African goose is among the largest and heaviest of the domestic breeds of geese. Both the African and Chinese goose have evolved from the wild swan goose (*Anser cygnoides*), an Asiatic species, and are distinguished from the western breeds of geese in having a prominent 'knob' rising up from the base of the beak and having smooth, velvet (pile)-like feathering on their necks. The African goose also has a soft dewlap that

hangs below its beak. This breed has been present in the United Kingdom since the late seventeenth century and, although standardised in the United States in 1874, it did not appear in the British Poultry Standards until 1982. The name African is misleading as the swan goose is an Asiatic species.



Image: African gander



Image: African goose

AGM Annual general meeting. The breed clubs usually hold them at one of the major poultry shows.

Airsacculitis Inflammation of the air sacs of birds caused by bacterial or viral infection.

Albumen The clear, protein-rich substance found in an egg white.

Altsteirer This breed is credited with originating in Germany; however, in the breed of Styrian, which was developed in Austria, it is mentioned that the birds fell into two categories. One of them was as an egg-laying utility bird, the second version was heavier built and more inclined towards meat production, while still retaining the ability to lay a reasonable number of eggs. It is thought that the Styrian was the version for laying, while the meat bird eventually became the Altsteirer.

At the World Poultry Congress, where the birds were first officially introduced to the public, the meat version of the breed was described by the Feathered World correspondent as being similar in markings to Brown Sussex females.

The shape and balance of the birds is similar to the British Dorking, especially with their well-rounded and prominent chest.

It is also similar to the Sussex Fowl in their original type, which was at one period considered to be almost identical to the Dorking.

This point, coupled with the writer's comment on their colouring being similar to the Brown Sussex, would suggest that one of the breeds was included in their original creation.

Both sexes have a single upright comb that is red in colour. The ear lobes are white and, as with the Styrian, the head-gear is completed with a backward-facing crest of feathers that are adequate for decoration without being cumbersome.

It has been suggested that the name of Styrian and Altsteirer are so similar that only a slight change in dialect separates them, which again suggests that the two breeds were at one point actually the same.



Image: Altsteirer large female

American Buff goose The American Buff was developed in North America from common farm geese and is descended from the wild Greylag goose, which inhabits Europe and North Asia. Its history is obscure and there are several theories on how it may have developed. It was standardised in the United States in 1947 and in the United Kingdom in 1982. It differs from the other solid buff-coloured geese, i.e. the British Brecon Buff and the German Celler goose, in being larger and having an orange beak and feet.



Image: American Buff gander



Image: American Buff goose head study



Image: American Buff goose

Anaemia A deficiency of red blood cells or haemoglobin in the blood.

Ancona Named after the province of Ancona in Italy, specimens of this Mediterranean breed were imported into England in 1851. Around the 1880s, more importations of Ancona-type fowls arrived. These were a little more uniform in type and markings, but nowhere approaching the ones seen today. The breakthrough came at about the turn of the century when fresh stock came to the United Kingdom, both from Italy and America, which had by now started to become interested in the 'Spangled Italian Fowl', which was at one stage referred to as the Marchigiana fowl. Harrison Weir in his writings in the early part of the twentieth century was most scathing and critical when referring to Anconas, as Lewis Wright had also been some 30 years previously. In fact, later editions of his 'Book of Poultry' had to retract his statement that they were little more than a cross between black and white Minorcas. It was quickly pointed out to him that such a cross would at best produce cuckoo-type markings, not spangled, and would certainly not have the pigmentation to provide the yellow legs that most of even the earliest imports of birds possessed.

The general opinion was gradually formed that the Ancona was basically the common fowl of Italy, crossed with a breed that enabled it to retain its yellow pigmentation, and at the same time supply the necessary white



Image: Ancona large pullet

Andalusian Leonard Barber is believed to have been the first importer of chickens from the Andalucía region of Spain in 1846 and 1847, but these had an assortment of plumage colours. The Standard blue Andalusian, with its characteristic sharp lacing, was developed in England. The two leading breeders in the 1850s who started this process were John Taylor, of Shepherd's Bush, London and Mr Coles of Fareham, Hampshire. It took several decades of selective breeding by a succession of fanciers before birds with the perfect colour and lacing depicted by Victorian artists became a reality. In Spain the laced, as we know them, are recognised as English Andalusians, with all other colours known as Spanish Andalusians, and their blues are not laced. Andalusian bantams first appeared in the 1880s.

They carry the typical shape of breeds from the Mediterranean, being long bodied with flowing tails carried at an angle of 45°. The body has a basic colour of delicate blue, with each feather having a black lacing round the edge, giving the birds a very distinctive and attractive appearance.

The comb and face are bright red coloured, with a single upright comb in the male bird folded to one side in the female. They both have medium sized white lobes, brownish to red eyes, slate grey-coloured legs and feet and have a friendly nature.

One reason that holds back the breed's popularity is the fact that to produce the true-blue colour you will also breed

some blacks and splashes, which are only useful as future breeders or laying birds. Also, there will probably be some cockerels bred with red neck hackles.



Image: Andalusian large female

Angel winged A term usually associated with geese and ducks, where the external joint of a goslings wing is damaged and eventually twists, either outwards or upwards, giving it a very untidy appearance.

Antibiotic A medicine used to treat bacterial infections in birds.

Antimicrobial A substance that kills or inhibits the growth of microorganisms.

Antwerp Brahmas This name is in some ways misleading, and yet in other ways it's absolutely correct. Belgium was one of the first countries to attempt pure breeding and standardisation of stock, and many of their native breeds have been distributed to adjoining countries and used to develop new breeds and variations of existing ones.

The actual year when the Antwerp Brahmas were imported is unknown, but the birds were sent directly to the Antwerp Zoological Gardens, where they were bred from and distributed around the country.

The foundation stock was single-combed and had the traditional Light Brahma markings and feathered legs, but at this time many of the birds were being described as Shanghai.

Since then, the birds have had a big influence in the development of many breeds, especially the ones where great size and laying qualities were essential.

The main and unique feature of the breed lies in the white pigmentation of their legs, beak and skin, as opposed to the yellow of British Brahmas. Obviously, these had

been selected from the original Shanghai type, with this point being essential.

It is believed that the first so-called breed of Shanghais was a collection of cross breeds from which you could develop many variations, and also the Langshan blood was very strongly included in the Shanghai. This would immediately account for the white pigmentation. The ones that arrived in England were selected for yellow pigment, now associated with Cochins and Brahmas. The Belgians record that both the Malines and the Flemish cuckoo contain Shanghai blood, which in later years were developed into the North Holland blue and the Marans.

AOC Any other colour.

AOV Any other variety.

Appenzeller The Appenzell Canton is in the northeastern part of Switzerland. It is not known how long Spitzhaubens have been bred there, but the very similar Brabanter from The Netherlands was depicted in seventeenth century paintings, so Appenzeller Spitzhaubens may date from the same period. The Appenzeller Barthuhner was developed in the 1860s from crosses between Brown Leghorns, Russian Bearded and Polveranas (now extinct, related to Bearded Polands). Kurt Fischer, of Stuttgart-Zuffenhausen, Germany, was a leading breeder involved in the revival of both breeds in the 1950s, as they had almost died out during the Second World War. Their introduction into the United Kingdom is slightly ambiguous. The earliest record of classes for them under the name of Appenzeller was in the 1982 National Federation Show at Stafford, by which time a club had been formed. The Judge was Fred Hams and there were 20 entries. The Spitz, as it is often called, exists in several colour variations, with silver being the most popular.

One outstanding feature with the Spitz is the crest of feathers on the bird's head, which is forward facing. These feathers are quite strong and initially point upwards before gracefully curving over, but well clear of, the beak.

The general appearance of the birds is that of a typical egg-laying light breed; a well-rounded front that enables the crop to expand comfortably when full of tasty morsels that the birds have collected on their scavenging, a longish body to hold the egg factory and a well-boned pair of legs that are medium in length but active looking. The male birds have fully furnished tails carried well out and close-fitting wings tucked up under the tail. They have strong beaks to collect their food. Their small comb is of the twin-horned type, the eyes are prominent and alert looking, as is the whole character of the breed – stylish and active looking without being flighty.

In colouring, the silver is actually a spangled bird, and the type of spangling is that which appeals to the general public and many exhibitors. It has a small black tip and is entirely different from the UK spangled Hamburgs.

The tipping to the Appenzeller's feathering should extend evenly all over the bird, in both the male and female, and even includes their crest feathers. The under-colour is dark grey. The gold is identical in markings with the golden ground colour being described as golden yellow, which shades to golden red on the male bird's lustrous feathers in the hackles etc.

The black is self-coloured, with the top colour carrying a green sheen to the plumage. The comb and face are rich red with the ear lobes a bluish white. The shanks and beak are also blue while the eyes are only required to be dark brown.



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben bantam silver female



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben bantam silver male



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben black female



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben gold spangled male



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben black male



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben large silver female



Image: Appenzeller Spitzhauben gold female

Araucana When the Spaniards arrived in South America, bringing with them the light Mediterranean breeds, they found that the indigenous population had Domestic Fowl, which soon cross-bred with the incomers. Notable for their fierce resistance to the Spaniards, however, were the native people of the Arauca province of northern Chile, who were never conquered. The name Araucana for the breed is derived therefore from that part of the world where the South American and European fowl had the least opportunity to interbreed. The Araucana breed Standard in the British Isles is generally as envisaged by George Malcolm, who created the true-breeding lavender Araucana, among other colours, in Scotland during the