

# WOMEN'S INTERESTS

# BREEDING AND CARE OF DUCKS AND THEIR COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES

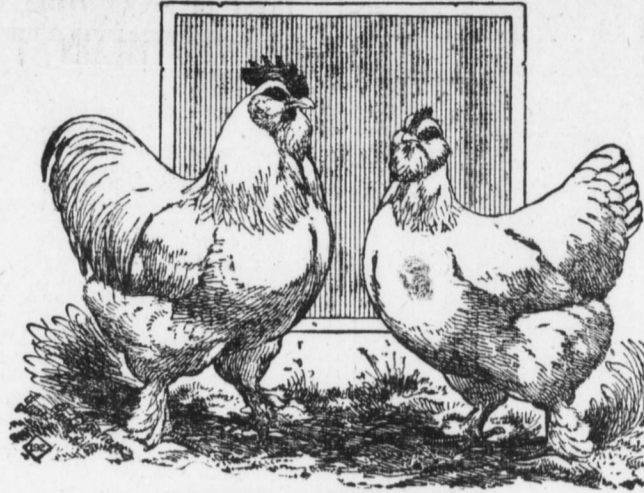
## THE STRUGGLES OF A WIFE

By Virginia Terhune Van de Water

Three General Divisions: Ornamental Fowls, Egg Producers and Table Meat

Duck Culture Requires Smaller Capital Than Chickens With Less Risk

By C. S. Valentine, Author and Practical Poultryman. Copyright 1916



WHITE FAVEROLLES

(Copyright 1916)

The breeding of ducks for commercial purposes has been greatly stimulated in the past ten years by the marvelous laying records of the Indian Runner, and by the uniform scale of prices obtained at all seasons. Duck culture is profitable and interesting, and may be conducted on land that is of no value for other purposes. The industry may be said to be divided into three divisions: (1) breeding for fancy fowls; (2) for egg production; (3) and for table meat.

Choosing the Breed THE varieties of ducks best suited to the production of ornamental fowls and table meat are many. They include about twenty varieties in our Standard of Perfection; the Mallard duck, semi-domesticated, and a surprising number of wild ducks, of varied modes of origin, and raised chiefly for exhibition and for sale as ornamental stock. These may be seen in large numbers displaying their marvelous artificial ponds at the large shows. One that attracts instant attention everywhere is the plump little Chinese Mandarin Duck, related, despite his imperialism, to the Wild Duck of America. The drake sports a most gorgeous coat of many colors, largely warm brown, with yellow and red. The Chinese regard these easily domesticated ducks as models of conjugal affection. Biggs, exactly blue, gray, brown and all mixtures of these ornamental ducks have great beauty.

Since the big market breeds, some of them weigh as high as twenty pounds to the pair, alive, are not well suited to being bred especially for laying. It behooves the prospective breeder to carefully consider which line he likes best, and whether the conditions favor his choice. This must mean knowledge in advance of adopting the work. The Standard of Perfection is a fine guide about shape, weight and feathering. There are also a few available books dealing practically with Runners and with market ducks in general. Really, however, the ducks worth while to breed as layers, exclusively, are the (black) Cayugas, the Indian Runners and perhaps the Opingtons, now called Buff Ducks. Only the Runner is an all-year-round layer.

The meat breeds may be narrowed down to the Pekin here in America, while England favors the big Ayre, the Ruten, and the French duck. The Runner also has a most delightful tenderness and sweetness, and is well suited to the cuisine. It is grown largely for critical private trade, including that of high-class restaurants.

Breeding and Hatching the Young Breeding, for the most part, is a laboring bird, is scarcely more than plucking a selected drake with well-descended, well-grown, selected, segregated females—five according to variety—and providing some sort of a bath and exercise pond. This "pond" sometimes shrinks to a mere tub, in the case of the Indian Runner, but a separate bathing facility is almost imperative for several reasons: fertility is likely to be better; the birds get varied and therefore more exercise, and water keeps them free from lice.

The feed for breeding birds should not be so fattening as that for market ducks. It should be mixed with milk; or, as a substitute, ground beef meal; also, use of the best quality insect life is not plentiful. A goodly allowance of green feed is mixed with the rations for yard breeders.

Hatching may be done with hens or with incubators. The big market duck-producing farms use incubators and the hatches are very good. A lower temperature for the first week, and more moisture in the normal for hens' eggs are found necessary. The longer incubating period—four weeks—is rather more trying, naturally.

Care of Ducklings Both artificial and natural brooding are successful. Small growers prefer to use hens. After thirty-six hours, the ducklings are removed to a sandy, short-littered, floored coop in a sunny spot in cold weather, but lightly shaded during hot spells. It is a mistake to feed them before they demand it; also, to supply water of a mild temperature. Usually, they want water first, especially in summer.

The very best first feed known is bread, milk-soaked, squeezed and cleaned—sandy lightly. Most growers feed four times a day, at first. After three days, a little sprouted oats may be given for one feed. At this time, bran is added, usually with the dust of ground meat scrap. Then, cornmeal, middlings, a very little linseed meal, or any good, smooth muscle-building meal may be used. Soaked ground clover and beet pulp are a foundation for the mash, grow good ducklings. These feeds are added gradually after the first month.

Penning is best for the youngsters. Floored coops with close-netted frames for night closing, are imperative if rats abound, for sweet, tender ducklings are very toothsome to these pests. For the first few days, close supervision is necessary, lest the flat ducklings should get helplessly cast on their backs, and chilled. For three or four days they are most sensitive to cold; after that, they are independent of mothering, except in rain. Convulsions from chilling or bowel stoppage is about the only ailment to be feared. Accident from their swimming under foot, or getting hung in the hen's gummy feathers, take a few. Indigestion goes with indolent over-feeding, and the adult birds occasionally have rheumatism; but, aside from these, I know of no diseases which attack ducks, and it is easy to raise 90 per cent. of those hatched, year after year, the 10 per cent. loss allowed including those lost through accident. These facts show duck breeding a far safer proposition than chicken raising, after the very simple allowed handling are grasped.

Possibilities in Duck Growing "Green" ducks for market are especially profitable, as the money invested can be turned over twice as often in a season, the ducks being marketed at ten to twelve weeks, weighing several pounds. For a small farm, a private market can easily be found. Ducks lend themselves to commercial production in large numbers, for the demand for them has grown to enormous proportions. A leading firm

grows, Faverolles make excellent roasters and weigh from 6½ to 8 pounds for males, 5 to 7 pounds for females. They are full breasted, and the dressed carcass is a good seller because of its features. While these fowls are good foragers, they are not naturally wild, and are therefore easily adaptable to free range on large farms or they will do well in confinement. Faverolles are bred in several colors, salmon, ermine, black and white. The latter has been introduced to Americans very recently, but has already made rapid strides toward popularity. Their breeders unite in praising them, not only for their economic qualities, but also for their attractiveness.

Excepting in France, very little was known of the Faverolles previous to 1896, although a few seemed to have been kept in England about 1892 or 1893. Since that time they have become very popular among the English market poultrymen. Faverolles are splendid winter layers of large tinted brown eggs, and climate changes seem to have little effect on their laying. Faverolles make ideal broilers. They are vigorous, and grow rapidly, devoting their early days entirely to producing flesh and putting on but few feathers. By the time they reach the feathering-out period, at about two months old, they have reached ideal broiler size—from 1½ pounds to 2 pounds. When fully

in New York handled 20,000 barrels last season. Most of the green ducks which come into New York are listed as "Long Island ducks." They are quoted almost the entire year, and while the price in later years is in no sense a millionaires' price, it is one of the most stable, ranging low only a short time, and probably averaging near seventeen cents for the year. If the market flattens, the stock is sent at once to the coolers, there to remain, possibly, till winter's lack calls for it at fair prices. Looking over some back number produce reviews, I find quotations for February, 20 cents, for March, 20 and 21 cents for May, 18 to 18 cents, with fresh Long Island and other nearby Spring ducklings "reduced" from 22 cents the first week to 20 cents the second week, with No. 2 western fancy frozen down to 11 and 12 cents. In June, fresh-killed are still quoted at 17 cents, with western fancy frozen 2 cents lower.

In late July, "Long Island shippers" who put a limit of 15½ cents on their ducks, or freeze on shippers' accounts, have had nearly all of their ducks sent to the freezers." By the middle of August, the surplus had to be sold to "the freezers." In the middle of September, Long Island Spring ducks were quoted at 17½ cents; Jersey and Pennsylvania at 17 cents. A month later, coolers, there to remain, 17½ cents, with Long Islands touching 18 cents. These were still fresh-killed. November 10, 1916, the word closed at Long Island Spring ducks at 22 cents, frozen down to 11 and season is now pretty nearly over. The latest quotations were for Ohio and other western ducks only.

On January 10, 1916, quotation covering the whole ground gave Long Island Frozen at 20 cents; Wisconsin Spring, dry, stall-fed, at 19 and 20 cents; Ohio and Michigan Spring at 17 cents, and the same fair to good, at 14 and 15 cents. On the same date, live ducks were quoted at 18 cents as a settled price. The stability of the business shows in the narrow range of quotations, and the good average for the year. Some years ago, Long Island growers organized to protect their business. Recently they opened a place of business in New York, where they remain, sale their own goods and handle goods from other producers. The organization has since been disbanded. Wherever there is waste land with

MISS POTTENBERGER DIES Special to the Telegraph Dauphin, Pa., April 29.—One of Dauphin's former residents, Miss Margaret S. Pottenberger, aged 75, died at the home of Mrs. Sarah Spangler early this morning from a stroke of apoplexy.

FREE POULTRY BOOK Contains: Plan for Poultry House, Care of Ducks, Breeding and Feeding Chickens, Plan for Turkey House and Fattening, Turkey Poultry Poultry, (Only 50¢ per copy) Makes Chesty Chix

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# Forts Recaptured by Loyal Chinese Army

Shanghai, April 29. — Government troops commanded by General Feng-kwo-Chang have recaptured the Kiangyin forts without serious fighting. The Central government appears to be contemplating serious operations from Fukien toward Kwantung. Two thousand northerners have arrived at Chaohun. Fighting near Shichung necessitated the suspension yesterday of through service on the Canton-Knowlton Railway. Mutineers from the Kiangyin forts attacked the government troops stationed at Wush, Kiang Su, on Monday, interrupting the operation of trains between Shanghai and Nanking.

# STEPHEN FISKE, AUTHOR, JOURNALIST, DRAMATIST

New York, April 29. — Stephen Fiske, author, dramatist, and once widely-known as a journalist and war correspondent, died here yesterday at the age of 74. He was born in New Brunswick, N. J., and after being graduated from Rutgers College in 1862, was admitted to the bar, but soon abandoned the law for journalism. He was war correspondent for the New York Herald during the Civil War, and also became dramatic critic for that paper. Later he founded the New York Dramatic Mirror.

# GIRL SAVED BY HER MOTHER

Sharon, Pa., April 29.—Clyde Butler, giving Franklin as his residence, in Mercer county, charged with attempting a criminal assault on Pauline McCurdy, aged 11. The child is badly injured. The mother returned home and when she saw the child fighting the bar, but soon abandoned the law for journalism. He was war correspondent for the New York Herald during the Civil War, and also became dramatic critic for that paper. Later he founded the New York Dramatic Mirror.

RAISE Every Livable Chick Rapid, healthy growth, splendid vitality and freedom from disease, come from feeding your baby chicks Pratt's Baby Chick Food. Exactly what the young chicks need. Exactly what you have been looking for. Yet costs only a cent a chick for three weeks. 25-lb. bag \$1.50, 14-lb. \$1.00. Packages 50c and 25c.

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Don't overlook your porch furniture Get out the rockers and the settee and see if they don't need freshening up a bit. It won't cost much and a change in color might be agreeable.

DEVOLVE THE GUARANTEED GLOSS CARRIAGE PAINT offers you an easy way of getting a high gloss that will hold its lustre under weather exposure. We recommend Devolve Gloss Carriage Paint for porch and lawn furniture—yes, and for baby carriages, too. It will not crack or chip. It gives a hard durable finish which does not mar easily. Then, you know, it can be washed with soap and water. Write for a card showing the many pleasing colors. Ask us for information about this and other Devolve products. Remember, we guarantee satisfaction. F. W. DEVOLVE & C. T. RAYNOLDS CO. New York Buffalo New Orleans Houston Boston Savannah Pittsburgh Founded in New York in 1754. The oldest manufacturing concern in the United States.

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