

DE ORPINGTON

PART 2: THE MORE RARE COLOUR VARIETIES. By: Elly Vogelaar



Above: Black laced buff Orpingtons. Owner and photo: Andros Vijge (NL).



Black laced buff

This colour was created in Germany. In 1965 they were first shown on the national show in Frankfurt for recognition. They were added to the standard in 1972. Mr. Jobst Veltheim created them.

These days the colour is very popular and is bred in i.e. Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Holland and Switzerland. Their number is still not large. For getting fresh blood, the German Orpington breeder Manfred Schwarz advises to cross in black. After 2 or 3 years your patience will pay off, because the birds are bigger, more vital and in the correct colour again.

You will find a large article about this colour in the December

2006 issue of Aviculture Europe.

The eye colour is brown-red, the beak is light horn-coloured in the male and horn coloured in the female. The legs flesh coloured white, bottom of the feet white. In the females slight grey shining is allowed.

Above left: A black laced buff pullet. Owner and photo: Henk Sanders (NL).

Right: A black laced buff cockerel. Owner and photo: Helmut Demler (Germany).



Partridge

This colour was created in England, but was never recognised. There are very good birds among the breeders as you can see in the picture on top of the article, taken at Bob Follows place. In Denmark, Germany and Holland this colour is recognised.



Left: Partridge pullet by Roy Raedts; a very beautiful example of this colour variety.

Photo: Henk Raedts.

Two of the serious Dutch breeders, who also show their birds, are father and son Raedts. In the picture you see Roy with the hen that was Champion of the National Junior Show in Laren (NL).

A tip for breeding good females is that the markings in the saddle of the male should be interrupted.

The eye colour of the partridge Orpington is brown-red, the beak and the legs pinkly white. In the females darker shining is allowed.

Red

The Red is also an 'original' variety, although the history is a bit patchy. According to Peter Bishop they were presented in 1911 by William Cook's daughter, but Batty & Burdett wrote this one is claimed by W. Holmes Hunt and also mention that the Reds had already been seen at the 12th German National Show held in Nuremburg in 1908. A specialist breed club was formed in 1912, but they had to compete with the Red Sussex and the Rhode Island Red. The red Orpingtons that exists in Holland today came from Denmark and Germany. Slowly but surely the colour is getting more breeders and now we also find them in Belgium, England and even South Africa. In Holland they are seldom seen on a show.

Right: A red cock. Owner and photographer: Hannie van Wetten (NL).



The red Orpingtons in the picture are from Hannie van Wetten (NL). She supplied the following information: "Breeding red Orpingtons is not too difficult, every now and then you have to cross in Blacks, otherwise the colour will get too light. So it is advisable to also keep black Orpingtons if you want to breed the Red. Except breeding Red to Red you can also breed Red to Black and cross the reddest birds back to pure (non-related) Red".

Right: A red pullet.

Owner and photographer: Hannie van Wetten (NL).



Another breeder is Patrick Niks (NL). He uses both Buffs and Blacks for breeding the Red Orpington. Patrick told us: "I knew the Red Orpington was rare in Holland, so 3 years ago I decided to start breeding them, from eggs of the red Orpingtons that I got from friends in Denmark. I am not quite happy with the results so far. The colour is OK, but I think there is still too much black in the tail. (Although that is admitted in the standard description.) My biggest problem lies in the size of the birds. They are too small, which can be easily seen when you compare them to the Buffs. But I am working on it; that is why I use Black and Buff cocks in my Red breeding pen".

Red Orpingtons should have a lively, shining, deep red warm colour, with as little black as possible in the wings and the tail.

The eye colour of the red Orpington is orange-red, beak and legs are white.



Above: In this picture the difference in colour between buff and red is clearly visible. Breeder/photographer: Patrick Niks.

Crele

This is the latest recognised colour in Holland. It was created in Denmark and called *Legbarfarvet* Orpington. A Dutch breeder, Wiljan Becker from Sibculo, imported them directly from Denmark. Also Ton Jenner has very good birds in this colour. Ton is one of the first breeders of this colour.



The birds in this colour nearly all have weight problems. They should have more weight and size. Different from the partridge, the females have a salmon coloured breast.



**Above and right:
Crele Orpington from
Danish origin.
Breeder and
photographer: Wiljan
Becker (NL).**

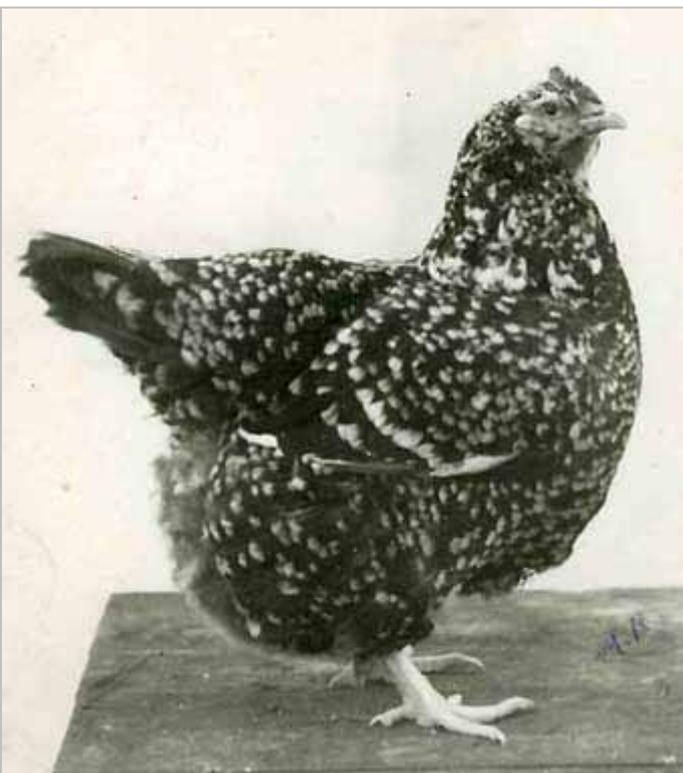
In the males we like to see a warm gold colour in hackle, saddle and shoulders and if possible no brown or red in the cuckoo coloured breast and thighs. Because of the fluffiness of the feathers the pattern is not very sharp, but makes a good picture overall. The eye colour of the crele Orpingtons is brown-red, the beak and the legs are pink white.



Above: A crele cockerel and pullet by Tom Jenner. Photo: Aviculture Europe.

Jubilee

This colour dates from 1897 and is elsewhere called porcelain. In England they are called jubilee because of the 50th jubilee of Queen Victoria, who received for this occasion a flock of birds in this new colour. The English Royal family always had great interest in keeping poultry. Will Burdett M.B.E., who wrote the book "The Orpington Fowl" together with Josef Batty, is in England called 'Mr. Orpington' because he took care for the birds of the Royal family for many years.



The colour was popular for quite some time and even had an own club in 1908, but the Sussex, who were also created in this colour won the battle and were more popular.

Left: Difficult to see in a black-and- white picture, but this really is a Jubilee Pullet in 1930.

Photo: Arthur Rice Collection.

Photo courtesy: A. Rice and Scribblers Publishings.

Right: A jubilee cock in the Netherlands in 2007.

Photo and owner: Henk Sanders (NL).



Left: Jubilee hens at Priscilla Midleton's in 2007 (UK).

Photo: José Kramer.

Jubilee Orpingtons are recognised in Holland, Denmark and Germany, but there are just a few breeders of the colour. Even in England there are only few who keep and show them.

The problem in Holland is that the few birds there are, all are related and should get some fresh blood. Maybe crossing with

another colour can be a solution.

The eye colour is brown-red, beak and legs are pink white.

Spangled

Also an old colour, presented in 1900; during the first years only in the hands of the Cook family. All feathers in both sexes are shiny green with a small white ending. The colour in those days was called mottled and I am nor sure if the colour was bred in the perfection of the Anconas. Fact is that there are hardly any left; only a few breeders keep them alive.

In Holland it is Robbert van Til who has them in good quality. Being 22 years old, he is one of the youngest Orpington breeders in the country. He imported them from Germany together with Henk Sanders. Unfortunately they had some feathering on the legs because they were bred from mottled Cochins. This year Robbert hatched his first pure clean-legged chicks. He even has chicks that must bring blue-mottled chickens in the next year, another colour that he likes very much.

Right: Spangled Orpingtons at Henk Sanders, in the Netherlands. Unfortunately, Henk had to stop with the hobby lately.

The eye colour of the Spangled is brown-red or brown, the beak is horn coloured or white with some horn colour and the legs are black with white spots on them.



Left: Spangled (or mottled) cock and hen, and a lavender hen.

Breeder and photographer: Robbert van Til.

Right: Cuckoo cock at Bob Follows (UK). Photo: Bob Follows.

Barred

I do not know why in Holland this colour is called 'barred' instead of cuckoo; no one could tell me, either. Up to now I have never seen a bird alive, but there still are some. Looking at the pictures it is cuckoo, more than barred. This is also



one of the earliest colours, presented by William Cook's daughter in 1907 as cuckoo. This colour in Orpingtons was not really meant to be a show bird. It should be a dual purpose bird with good meat and good laying capacity.



Above: 'Barred' Orpington in the Netherlands. Breeder/Photographer: Henk Sanders.

The colour was re-created in Germany after not having survived the First World War and exists in quite good quality. In Holland there are a few and even in England there are some.

The eye colour of the barred is brown-red, the beak and legs are white.

Experimental colours

That the Orpington is popular at the time being you can see from all kinds of colours that people are experimenting with. Among them are the following colours:

Lavender (NL+ UK)

Silver laced (UK-NL; recognised in Denmark)

Blue laced buff (UK)

Blue mottled (UK+NL)

Blue partridge (UK+NL)

Lemon-barred (UK)

Lavender barred (UK +NL)

Blue barred (UK)

Brown red- totally new, fell by accident at Robbert van Til's, Holland.

Light (was known in England many years ago, but never recognised. Few birds at Henk Raedt's, Holland.)



Lavender

This colour is bred on quite a large scale. It is a very soft greyish blue colour, differing from the Blue by the hackles being in the same light bluish colour instead of darker blue. Also, the feathers are not dark laced. In England and USA they can be showed in AOC-classes. In Holland they will first have to be recognised

before they can be showed. That is not the priority of those who breed them.

Right: Lavender pullet.
Breeder/photographer: José Kramer.



One of them is Jose Kramer. She tells us: " My schedule in breeding Lavender is as follows: Purebred lavender male to black and blue females. The offspring have only 50% lavender in their genes (heterozygote). This is not shown because lavender is a recessive colour. Only when the birds have the lavender gene from both parents will they show lavender.

The next year: purebred lavender male to the females of the first year from different lines from different breeders, or the offspring of the first year crossed among themselves. This way we want to try and breed out the factor that is responsible for the bad growing feathers in Lavender, especially on the shoulders of the males. The best way is putting the F1 (chicks from the first generation) together. This will give 25% lavender.

They can be put to black again and the circle is round again.

Instead of black I cross with blue, as where I live, I can only keep one cock. Because I also want to breed the Blue as well, a lovely colour, I do it this way. I think next year I will only breed from F1 birds, getting Blue, Black and Lavender. My lavender Orpingtons are too big and too heavy according to the Dutch standard, but in England they cannot be big enough!"



Left: A silver black laced pullet; the Dutch breeders hope to have the standards of this variety drawn up within a few years.
Breeder and photo: Henk Raedts (NL).



Right: Blue laced buff.
Breeder/photo: Henk Sanders.



Left: Blue partridge. Breeder/photo: José Kramer.
Below: Lemon cuckoo. Breeder/photo Bob Follows.



Left: A Lavender cuckoo pullet at Priscilla Middleton (UK), not yet fully feathered. Photo: José Kramer.



Above right: Splash cockerel from Denmark, at Harmen de Kok's. Photo: José Kramer.

A young blue mottled cockerel (left) and a blue cuckoo pullet at Priscilla Middleton's (UK).

Photos: José Kramer.



Orpington Clubs

- In Holland the Orpington has no club of its own. The breed is in the same club with Sussex and Dorkings. The N:S:O:D:C: was founded in 1964. Website <http://www.nsodc.beko4u.com/>
- Another Dutch site is: www.orpington.nl (also in English language)
- Orpingtons in Great Britain <http://www.theorpingtonclub.co.uk/> (for all Large and Bantam Orpingtons, except Buffs.)
- The Buff Orpington Club in Great Britain: no website. Secretary: P. E. Smedley e-mail: phil.boy@virgin.net
- Orpingtons in Denmark <http://www.orpington.dk/>
- Orpingtons in Germany <http://www.sv-orpington.de:80/gesamt.htm>
- Orpingtons in USA <http://www.geocities.com/srp18407/UOC.html> Here you can read a lot on the history of the Orpington in USA.
- Orpingtons in Australia: no website. Secretary: Dallas Smith e-mail: deejayess@hunterlink.net.au

The German Orpington Club was already founded in 1907 en was celebrating their 100th Anniversary in 2007. This was done in a great way with a large Exhibition. The below picture is with courtesy of the German Orpington Club.



Sources:

"The Orpington Fowl" van Joseph Batty en Will Burdett M.B.E.
A. Rice and Scribblers Publishing.
Feathered Fowl Yearbooks.
All the different Orpington clubs.
Many international Orpington breeders.