

LAVENDER PHOENIX



By Danne J. Honour 2009

The lavender color is close (chromosomal) to the abnormal feather structure gene (frayed, badly webbed feather). It is very common, to see in lavender males', wingbows in constant pinfeathers, main tail and sickles and lesser sickles frayed, stringy, tattered looking. Lavenders of good feather structure have had the linkage broken. There are always a few that the linkage separates if you can raise large numbers. Once you get a few with the linkage broken, you can get around the problem, but always keep an eye out in selecting breeders. In the US we do not have many good lavenders.



I first started the Lavenders in 2001. I crossed Lavender O.E.G. Bantam with Cy Hyde's White Phoenix. It did not work, because the tail linkage was not broken and the frayed tail feathers and wingbows came through. I culled them all.

Left: White Yokohama cockerel, used in the 2007 crossing.

I was then on the lookout for some lavenders with good tails. They proved to be hard to find. Then I found a pair O.E.G. Bantams, but the male was not fertile. I used a male (big bantam Phoenix from Toni Astin) onto the lavender female. I got 10 chicks and I mated the best trio together.

I got out 6 lavenders and two black chicks. Out of the 4 lavender males, only one had the tail linkage broken. I then mated the best F1 female to a largefowl Red Birchen Schubert Phoenix. I got 27 chicks, all dark colored. Then I mated the best 8 pullets to the Lavender F2 male. I still have some of the Schubert cross pullets (I did get some lavender chicks). I still have the Lavender F2 male. The cockerel (2006) has nice long saddles and good feathering. They come with both solid lavender and gold lavender. Dark red (mahogany) is diluted by lavender into a pleasing shade of orange, but buff turns to straw yellow and yellow to creamy white.

**Below and right:
The Lavender cock from 2006.**



The black splits have normal feathering but the lavender males are the real test. I have been trying to make largefowl out of mine, but they are borderline bantams. I plan to add more largefowl blood to increase size. It is a slow process. It would be useless to have Phoenix with frayed, ratty, and bad webbing in the tail and wingbows. I do like the color lavender and I like the idea of the lavender breeding true (unlike blue).



In 2007 I got a lavender male that not only had the tail linkage broken but also the wingbow feathers were normal and not the constant pin feathers. I also got another lavender male almost as good.



**Above and right:
The lavender cockerel (2007) with
'normal' wingbow feathers instead
of pin feathers and good bow close.**



Left: 2007 lavender pullet.

I raised 10 lavender chicks from the good wingbow male and kept four pullets. The cockerels were good but not as good as the sire. I elected to keep over the good wingbowed male and not the cockerels.

The second lavender male of 2007 was sent down to Tom Roebuck and he artificially inseminated a large S.C. Black Minorca female and raised four (2008) chicks. One male and three females.



Above: The lavender male that was crossed with a black Minorca at Tom Roebuck.

Right: The offspring of the above crossing.

I also mated a large White Yokohama male with the small lavender females. I got about 10 chicks all black. I did not keep any males only a few pullets.

These pullets are in the same pen with the Minorca splits. They are bigger than the lavender dams but not as big as the Minorca splits.





Left: The two pullets Lavender x White Yokohama, now much bigger than the lavender bantam mother. They are penned with the Minorca split male, so I should get 25% lavender chicks that should mature at 4-6 pounds.



Right: One of the lavender cocks.



Above: The 2008 lavender breeding pen.



Left: Another lavender cockerel.

I hope to get 25% lavender largefowl and will select the Single Combs. They may need another infusion of Minorca to set the larger size.



I have had these segregating for red/gold, but most are solid lavender. I am not worried about that, as I can clean up the color after I get the largefowl size.

**Left: Another shot of the F1 Lavender x Minorca cockerel.
Below: A lavender cockerel 2008.**



This has been a nice side project and I have tried to do it right each step of the way. I have yet to come up with a definite name. Since these do not have any Leghorn blood in them, they do not look of Leghorn type. They have been producing some green legs. However as a Lavender Leghorn I am sure yellow legs would be called for.

Lavender Minorcas, getting the large size of the Black Minorcas may take many

repeated backcrosses to the Black Minorcas.

Lavender Phoenix is a possibility as they have long saddles and tails and the Phoenix do not have to be as large. So if these end up as Minorcas or as Phoenix, they will be an attractive Lavender largefowl. It is a most difficult job to get any new variety admitted to Standard, unless a number of people become interested in them, and breed them for enough years.



Left: My 2008 Lavender chicks.