

MINI-DOUBLE YOLKED EGG

A miniature egg can occur occasionally with young pullets just entering lay. Mostly the eggs contents are that of a 'normal' egg (consisting of a yolk and white) but extraordinarily small. However, sometimes this little egg contains only white. This has usually been caused by a bit of sloughed off material, often from an inflamed or irritated oviduct, having found its way into the reproductive tract, which will in turn stimulate the oviduct to produce 'white' and form an egg shell encompassing it.

Such an egg is often called a 'rooster egg'; the name is from long ago, when people believed that such small eggs without yolk were laid by roosters. And for the eggs that contained something 'dirty' or grayish tissue they had no explanation at all and they were jokingly called 'wind eggs'.

But this small egg is different: on opening it turned out to have even TWO yolks! So I think this must be the smallest double-yolked egg in the world! Pity I opened it on an orange plate, but I hope the photos are clear enough to show you.

Text and photos: Aviculture Europe.



MOTTLED BREDA FOWL

In January 2010, at the recent Noord Show in Zuidlaren (the Dutch Poultry Union Show) Henk Lubbers entered his mottled Breda Fowl for approval.

The standard committee found that: "The quality of the mottled Breda Fowl, newly created and displayed here, meets the requirements, for type as well as colour & marking". Meanwhile the committee has agreed to have this variety recognized in the Dutch Poultry Standard.



The mottled variety occurred at Henk's in 2000. He was trying to breed the cuckoo variety, but fully unexpectedly he got some mottleds and soon these mottled Breda Fowl became his great love. His aim was to get them recognized in 2010, the year the BKU breeders' club is celebrating its 25 year's Jubilee. The prospects were very positive and indeed his endeavour was successful: a beautiful and festive time for a new colour to add to the Breda Fowl varieties.

The team of Aviculture Europe heartily congratulates Henk on the result achieved.

Photos: Henk Lubbers





INHERITANCE OF RED IN PIGEONS

The famous German breeder of German Longface Tumblers, recently posed the following question: "How is it possible that a couple of German Longface Tumbler, being a white cock and a yellow hen, produced a red youngster?"

He also noted that his breeding couples are kept in so-called 'pair-cages' so a pairing with another cock had to be excluded. But he also said that in a distant history one of the ancestors of the white father - he calls it the primal great-grandmother of that cock pigeon - was a black pied.

He breeds 15 to 20 young in two years from crossings like this, and relying on his always accurate administration, he came to the conclusion that a red young could not "just like that" come from such a combination. Even if we realize that both yellow and red are recessive colours.

We decided to propound this question to the pigeon geneticist and one of the authors of the recent Dutch book on Pigeon Genetics; Jan de Jong from The Hague.

His concise answer was: "Genetically speaking, white is not a colour, and crossings with white birds can produce every colour, especially when dominant white, as it is probably in this case, or else it could not give a red bird. Then, according to Mendel's Law, it may take years before this occurs. Thus a red bird from yellow x white parents, is certainly possible".



Although Jan de Jong states that white is not a colour, this is also often worded as: the white suppresses the pigment synthesis (production) in the feather, depending on the locus of the white gene in the DNA string. That means a white bird can literally be almost anything genetically underneath those white feathers and thus it can happen that a young has more dominant colour than each of the parents.

Keeping Pigeons is a fine and noble art.

Charles Darwin

Photos: Uwe Held (Duitsland)

FOWL FACES

There are more chickens than people on our Earth. For many of us, chickens are for meat or eggs. Unfortunately, most of these chickens still spend their lives in cages or are packed together in barns without a ray of sunlight. But all these chickens have a face! And behind every face hides a story. With this short video we would like to show you happy chickens, that lead a free and comfortable life in the open air. A way of life that every chicken deserves!

Take a deep breath and plunge in to loose your heart to the outer and inner beauty of this animals:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q7ccCxnLpmw&feature=player_embedded

Welcome to FOWL FACES

<http://www.fowlfaces.com/>

For all our films click [here](#).

We hope you'll enjoy it!





CHICKEN SOUNDS

Monique Bestman, one of the authors of the book KipSignalen (Chicken Signals – within some months the book will be published in English too) surprised us with a CD with all sorts of Chicken Sounds, which we are allowed to publish on our website. These sounds with corresponding explanations were recorded on tape in 1962 by the Austrian researcher Erich Bäumer.

More extensive explanation can be read in the PDF file, which is also published on our website thanks to Monique. You can listen to the CD and read the pdf file by clicking the button 'Books'.

Pity all the text is in German, but we hope you will at least give it a try to understand. To help a little, we translated the most important parts of the spoken text for you into Dutch and English.

Listen to the Chicken Sounds on www.aviculture-europe.nl
– next click button 'Books' (left side)

Photo: Klaas van der Hoek