

**MINER'S  
DOMESTIC POULTRY BOOK:  
A TREATISE ON THE  
HISTORY, BREEDING, AND GENERAL  
MANAGEMENT  
OF**

**FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC FOWLS,  
BY T.B.MINER,**

**Author of the "American Bee-keeper's Manual," Editor of  
the "Northern Farmer."**

**EMBRACING**

**All the late Importations of Fowls, and being descriptions by  
the best Fowl Fanciers in the United States, of all the most  
valuable breeds, with the Author's extensive experience 'as  
breeder, together with selected matter of interest,  
comprising, as it is believed, the most complete and  
authentic work on the subject ever published.**

**ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS PORTRAITS FROM  
LIFE.**

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## RUSSIAN FOWLS.



The above portraits represent splendid pair of Russian fowls, in possession of A. Verloin de Gruy, Esq., No. 28, Conti Street, New Orleans, who has, on his plantation, near the city, the best stock of imported fowls at the South, as before stated.

This breed is said to be very hardy, and prolific layers. They are very scarce, and cannot be had, at present, of any of the fowl fanciers, to my knowledge.

Dr. Bennett describes them as follows, having been' interested with Mr. de Gruy in their importation. He will take specimens to Iowa, as breeders:

The above portraits accurately represent the beautiful black Russian fowls, from the stock of A. Verloin do Gruy Esq., of New Orleans, La. They are by some authors called Siberian fowl, and are alluded to by Dixon and by Kerr, but their descriptions are inaccurate. These fowls are perfectly black, with dark legs. They are what

are called muffed fowls; that is, they have muff of feathers under the throat, and at the sides of the head, like whiskers; but are not tufted or crested fowls; that is, they are destitute of top-knot. The comb is single, serrated, and small, and the wattles are of diminutive size.

The Russian, or Siberian fowls, are about the size of Black Shanghaes, and are equally prolific, and much more brilliant in plumage. They are not so feathery as the Shanghaes, and consequently are of greater specific gravity—a sure indication of fineness of flesh.

Some breeders call the Bavarian fowl the Siberian fowl, but this is an error; for the Siberian and Russian fowl are identical, and this stock was imported direct from Russia. Mr. De Gruy has them in great perfection.

Dr. B. has placed at my disposal letter from E. L. Hyde, Esq., of Mystic, Conn., from which make the following extract:

“Supposing that information of any new breed of fowls would be interesting to you, will inform you of breed that has lately fallen under my observation, in this vicinity. The first were brought here some two years since, but where they originated, or by whom imported, have not been able to learn. They are called the Russian Fowl, and do not see them mentioned in your book, nor in any other that have obtained, and it is very singular how so valuable fowl for this climate should have escaped your, notice. 'They weigh from fifteen to seventeen pounds the pair, and the stage stand from twenty-eight to thirty inches high. They have large, single combs, small wattles, and large black whiskers, and ruff at the throat; small, tucked-up wings, large, long, body, wide breast and back, and very deep in the quarter; legs, not long, but black, except the under part of the foot, which is deep yellow. They are of uniform color, being beautiful greenish black, like the feathers of Wood Duck, with the exception that the stage have dark red hackles, with delicate penciling of black through the middle of each, on the neck, and very few near the root of the tail, which is even shorter than that of the Cochin Chinas. They seem particularly adapted to this cold climate, as they lay almost constantly, without warm shelter or extra feed. One man assured me, and I have no cause to doubt his word, as he is known to be man of truth and veracity—that one of his pullets laid 335 eggs in year, and that other hens did nearly as well. All who have these fowls, are getting eggs every day, while those that have any other variety, get none. The eggs are dark buff color, and are blunt at both ends, like the Cochin Chinas. understand that they were brought from the north of Europe by New London whaler.'”