



"FATHER"—



"MOTHER"—

The Mahogany Russian Orloff, bred for over two centuries and to perfection, in its native Russian home, is probably the newest arrival in America but its popularity is increasing rapidly on account of beauty, hardiness, laying ability, size — in fact almost all other good qualities that have popularized other breeds in the past. These specimens are from the Diversion Poultry Farm of which E. A. Frank is the Owner-Proprietor, located on Kissingbower Road, Augusta, Georgia with a city office on Broad Street. The cut on opposite page bespeaks the up-and-doing attractiveness of the Orloff baby chicks and they never lose that vitality and attractiveness if given half a chance. Orloffs come in four colors. Mahogany, Spangled, White and Red and are bred in continually increasing numbers in England where they were introduced about ten years ago but not taken up seriously until about 1912. "Uncommonness of type and sheer attractiveness" assures the Orloff a clear field, in Mr. Frank's opinion.

THE RUSSIAN ORLOFF

By Edward A. Frank, Augusta, Ga.

Conservation and a full appreciation of the element of risk in speculation are essential to safe business, but strong sense of investigation is of equal importance. A disinclination to investigate has shut the door on opportunity many, many times. Opportunity rarely enters the range of perfectly clear vision, and the man who waits for it to be addressed and delivered to him leads off in time to entrench and meet later competition.

No man in the poultry business, fancier or utility man, can afford a disinclination to investigate the merits of the Russian Orloff. This new immigrant, this foreigner of long ancestry, comes equipped to exact attention, and will, sooner or later, in the most conservative quarters. No matter what breed your hobby, or poultry business, is formed upon, the Orloff will encroach upon it.

A native of Russia, the Orloff has been the popular backyard fowl of that country for more than two centuries, and is not a new creation, a new breed that has yet to demonstrate its value.

While various opinions have been advanced as to the origin of the Orloff, there is, unfortunately, nothing authentic to chronicle. Having long ancestry and having been bred true for many generations, the prepotency of the Orloff is immensely strong, it is breeding remarkably true to type and color. The Orloff was first introduced into England by a Captain Lawrence, about nine or ten years ago, but was not brought to public attention until about 1912, and since that date, its popularity has rapidly spread throughout England. The ever increasing popularity of the Orloff in England has brought forth numerous attacks by prominent poultrymen, championing other breeds and their varieties, as appears in the Feathered World, and other English Poultry Publications. These attacks very impressively illustrate that the Orloff has commanded the attention in England; that it will in America. The Orloff is well represented at the great Poultry Shows in England, entries ranging above fifty even during the early period of the war.

Originated and bred for more than two centuries in a country where the summers are short, and the winters long and severe, the Orloff shows remarkable resistance to cold, continuing in the pink of condition and laying throughout the winter. The Orloff is regarded in England a good layer, the equal of any of the heavier popular breeds, laying early as pullets, and continuing up to molt. Those who champion the Orloff in England, prominent breeders, claim an egg record of 200 to 250, the eggs slightly tinted in color, of good average size, carrying an average weight of 25 to 27 ounces per dozen. The largest breeder of Orloffs in England has just reported an egg record from three Mahogany Orloff pullets, for twelve months, of 721 eggs. Further, that sixteen pullets, during the months of December, January, February, and March, averaged thirteen eggs per day. In America, during January, February, and March, of the present year, a breeding pen of eight Mahogany Orloff pullets averaged nineteen eggs each per month, or a total for the period of 456 eggs.

While regarded in England a non-sitter, broodiness occurs in about 20 per cent., 10 per cent. of these indifferently so. The young Orloff is easily reared, is very sturdy, and develops rapidly, weighing frequently 2 ¼ lbs. at eight weeks.



—and the “Babes”

No breed bears confinement better or is there a more gentle fowl or industrious forager. For the market or table, the Orloff has no superior. It has the much favored yellow skin and legs, has small bones, but is heavy in flesh with well-rounded, well-developed breast. The Orloff should appeal to the utility man, and he cannot choose a better breed or one possessing a higher percentage of utility qualities. The Orloff will fascinate and hold the fancier’s interest, having a quaint and savage beauty from any other breed or variety.

There are four distinct varieties, the Mahogany, the Spangled, the White, and the Red, their popularity being in the order named. The Mahogany, the variety thus far introduced into America, is exceptionally rich in color of plumage, and the female unlike those of many other breeds is quite as attractive in color and as interesting as the male. In the Mahogany male, the color combinations in high-class specimens, should range—

Head and Neck—A rich, dark orange, showing light black stripes near the end of feather only.

Beard and Mufflings—A mixture of black with mahogany and gray.

Saddle—Rich mahogany and deep orange.

Wings—A rich and deep mahogany, with strongly defined greenish-black wing bar.

Breast—The nearer black the better.

Tail—Black, with a very pronounced greenish sheen.

Color of Mahogany Female

Head and Neck—Mahogany, ends of hackle feathers showing black stripes.

Beard and Mufflings—A mixture of black, mahogany and gray.

Tail—Chiefly black.

Plumage—Dark mahogany, uniformly peppered with black.

Shape of High-class Specimens, Male and Female

Head—Of medium size, forehead broad.

Eyes—Deeply set under projecting eyebrows, giving a gloomy expression.

Comb—Low and flat, cut through its longer axis, surrounded with small bristly-like feathers.

Wattles—Small, and show only in the male.

Neck—Fairly long, carried erect, heavily hackled swelling out, the feathers lying close to the body at the base of the neck, appearing thinner there than at the top, forming a distinct angle with the back.

Body—Broad, flat, back slightly sloping, full prominent breast.

Wings—Moderate, carried close to body.

Tail—Carried erect and fanlike. Tail of male furnished with narrow, but long sickles. Tail of female comparatively long.

Legs—Moderately long and stout.

The weight of the cock should be eight pounds; of the hen six pounds. It is, however, quite common for males to attain a weight of ten to eleven pounds.

Double mating is unnecessary and not in practice in breeding the Orloff. In inbreeding for Exhibition specimens, of standard color and type, preference should be given to a vigorous male of rich Mahogany, bearing in mind that the blacker the breast of the male, the better. The hackle feathers should be free from yellow tinge and of a good medium or dark orange. The female should be good Mahogany, uniformly peppered with black, the latter increasing the percentage of black-breasted males. Type, however, should be of first importance. In selecting breeding stock, preference should be given to specimens with characteristic broad head, with puff and twist in hackle, also full beard and mufflings.

It is the uncommonness of type and sheer attractiveness of the Orloff that assures an absolutely clear field for those standing sponsor for and championing the breed in this country.