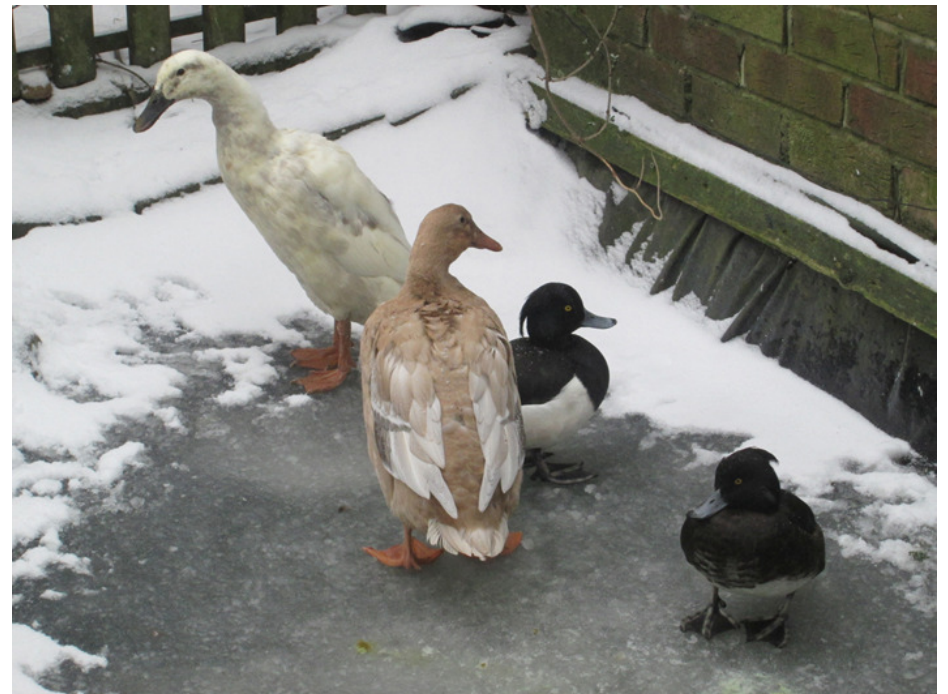


IRDC Winter 2021



INDIAN RUNNER DUCK CLUB





IRDC

| Contents | Page |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Vice Chair's Report | 4 |
| Secretary | 6 |
| Avian flu | 7 |
| Effect on Show Dates | 9 |
| Flu: why such a problem? | 11 |
| Tim Flach photography | 16 |
| Marion's 'Puddles& Pals' | 17 |
| Tapeworms | 19 |
| Shows | 24 |
| Advertising | 30 |

*Cover: Black Runners –
Marion Stapleton Harley.*
*Inside cover: Apricot dusky girls –
James Rigby*
*Wendy Mulhall's Tufted ducks with
Runners – why can't we have our pond
back?*

Chairman
Julian Burrell

Vice Chairman
James Rigby

Acting Secretary / Treasurer
Dr Christine Ashton
Red House, Hope, Welshpool, Powys,
SY21 8JD Tel 01938 554011
Email: runnerdux@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Editor
Chris Ashton

Committee Members
Mike Ashton
Judith Barnett
Graham Hicks
Antonia Hudson
Keith May
Mike Mayers
Rachel Mayers
Roy Pryce

Belgium
Bart Poulmans

Canada
Colin Davis

IRDC VICE CHAIR 2021

It's been two years since our club AGM at Telford and at that time little did we know the difficulties that we would be facing both globally from Covid-19 and internationally from Avian Influenza.

Our fancy continues to face challenging times and it's never been so difficult to keep, breed & exhibit Indian Runners. We all make huge investments both in the time we dedicate to good stockmanship and also financially. Over the past two years, we have learned to enjoy our birds on an individual/personal level at home rather than sharing our enjoyment at shows.

Our club members who don't routinely exhibit their Runners, but decide to keep them as pets or for eggs, have also faced the challenges of protecting their birds from AI. It's been a worrying time for us all and my thoughts are with those that have lost their precious birds to AI.

I would like to say a big thank you to Chris Ashton, our acting Secretary, who continues to keep things ticking over. If any member feels they are able to offer help or take on a committee role then please contact us. I personally want to see our club continue with the key aims of bringing together enthusiasts to promote the health/welfare of birds, encourage the breeding of pure Indian Runners thereby maintaining the breed standard and provide help and information for members. Mike Ashton and Julian Burrell established the club (then Indian Runner Duck Association) over 20 years ago and we need to ensure the legacy of all the previous founder members' hard work is not lost.

We all live busy lives and for many our hobby provides us with an escape from modern day living; keeping and breeding Indian Runners requires no modern technology (excluding artificial incubation) or fast pace living. The key attributes of being a successful keeper/breeder have been the same since our breed was first standardised; very few hobbies these days can boast this! As a busy GP partner, I find the Runners are my escape from my busy life at work.

Personally, 2021 was a rewarding year since I managed to breed all 14 standardised colours of Indian Runners. Aspects of colour breeding genetics have always interested me and, apart from Call ducks, very few other breeds of poultry or waterfowl have this on offer. Indian Runners are special in so many different ways.

It was great to hear that a handful of shows were able to take place before the AI flockdown. I attended the BWA show at Stroud with my friend Kevin Williams from Mold. I had to stay up all night and I recall driving the van down the M6 at 3am in the morning with 34 Runners in the back thinking how I was going to keep my eyes open for another 18 hours! It was great to catch up with other exhibitors and there were some excellent birds on display. Congratulations all that exhibited and all the winners too. Mark Rubery's winning Fawn female was a superb duck; well done to Mark.

How many of you have Runners with pristine feet? If you do then please share your secrets! Runners spend a lot of time on land as opposed to in water and this does impact of overall foot health. I chatted to Graham Hicks at the BWA show who we all know has judged thousands of Runners over his lifetime. Graham confirmed that he rarely sees perfect feet on Runners and reassuringly he agreed that a bird should not be penalised for this when being placed. Interestingly, how many exhibitors have seen "chicken judges" scrutinise the feet on the 'Best Indian Runner' at the big national shows – does this influence their choice of Best Waterfowl and do we need to highlight this as an issue at some point in the future? Hopefully you can all reflect and have a think about this?

Certain colours, such as Silvers, Cumberland Blues and American Fawn-&-whites, are not well supported at the shows. They appear to remain in the hands of a few breeders and exhibitors and it's important that these colours are bred to the best possible standard.

The main autumn shows in 2022 will be held earlier because of avian flu. This shouldn't affect Runner breeders too much since most colour varieties are ready at 22-24 weeks. It may offer some advantage points since there will be less mud in September and October, so the colours of birds that are typically a challenge to keep clean, such as Whites and Fawn-&-whites should hopefully be cleaner and in better condition. The tail feathers on Blacks may also be intact too!

Breeding early, in numbers, and showing big teams will certainly be a challenge for us all. Please continue to visit and support the Indian Runner Duck Club Facebook page.

Take care and enjoy your Runners.

James Rigby, Vice Chair.

SECRETARY

It's certainly been a difficult year for breeding birds. There seemed little point in rearing many given that both Covid and AI could disrupt the 2021 autumn shows, and also add difficulties to selling surplus stock. I think 2022 breeding at Red House will again be restricted mostly to experimenting in crossing known pure colours to produce healthy F1 birds. With a known genetic background, the colour crosses can then go on to produce strong F2 pure colours the next year.

During Covid lockdowns, Facebook has been very useful for investigating duck colours. Ross Rollman in Australia has a very special line of Keith Reimers' Campbells. These reliably pure birds have been kept as such for many generations with little change in hatchability or viability. They are now being used to unravel even more details about colour genetics. This is generating a lot of interest in Australia in producing and perfecting several standardized colours of Light Ducks.

In contrast with the Campbells, inbreeding with Runners just does not work. Their upright stance puts a great deal more stress on their legs than average ducks and it is essential to select free-moving birds for breeding. In addition, Runners became smaller and eventually more difficult to hatch when they are too inbred. This does not happen with Runner colour mutts, but it certainly does with pure colours. That's why breeders are always on the look out for unrelated but pure stock of excellent type .

If you want to find out more about colour genetics, there is useful info in our book 'Duck Colour Genetics' by Mike & Chris Ashton, which covers the basics. Colour variation is now being taken much further because the Australian birds have been selected for richer colours. Andy Flett's interest in the Elizabeth duck (see IRDC Spring 2021), and Ross Rollman's in the Campbells and Watervale, are throwing up some interesting variations. Colour intensifiers modify the adult plumage and also interfere with the typical infant fluff patterns. This is being demonstrated by Ross whose meticulous procedure would be approved by George Jaap and F M Lancaster – the founders of modern duck colour genetics.

If you want to find out more about plumage patterns and recognition in infant plumage, pay Facebook [Duck Colour Genetics](#) a visit. The exhibition colours we have are based on pure colours, and it is useful to know how we get them – and what they look like – in their pure form.

On a lighter note from flu, I'd like to thank the contributors to this Newsletter edition. Keith May, Joseph Thomas and David Campbell collected show results; Mark Rubery, Wendy Mulhall and James Rigby took some lovely pics of their birds; and Marion, I am sure, will provide a lot of amusement.

Please send in contributions if you have them in photos or in words. I think Wendy Mulhall's pics says it all – we wish we could have our pond back! Maybe we won't have such a severe winter as that one which was around nine years ago. And please pray for warm weather – it helps to see the virus off.

HOW DID WE DO WITH AVIAN FLU IN 2020?

It was Covid-19 which stopped the shows in Autumn 2020, and avian influenza took quite a back seat. Defra confirmed two Avian Influenza cases on November 3rd, 2020. H5N2 was first confirmed in a small commercial premises in Kent and all 480 birds on site were culled. The HPAI H5N8 strain was later confirmed at a site in Cheshire (13,000 culled). On November 11, 2020: a national Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) was declared across the whole of England to mitigate the risk of the disease spreading. This was after the third case of H5N8 avian flu in captive birds at a broiler breeder farm in Herefordshire. By the end of that flu season (Nov 2020 - spring 2021), there were 16 outbreaks in England, one in Wales, one in Scotland and two in Northern Ireland. Wild bird cases were recorded from week 45 onwards, mostly in single numbers in swans and geese.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949798/ai-findings-2020.csv/preview

Autumn 2021 has been a different story

In comparison, this year's 2021-2022 flu season figures make the outlook bleak. H5N1 has returned with a vengeance. Wild bird incidences (recorded separately from poultry) kicked off in Shetland (week 30), Flannan and St Kilda in weeks 33 and 34; week 43 with pheasant at Wrexham; and by week 45, thirty-three mute swans died at Stratford.

Incidences in wild birds started earlier, and outbreaks in poultry are more numerous. From November 7th onwards, Defra wisely drew the line on sales and shows on UK mainland, and this situation will continue until spring 2022.

The following cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 have

been recorded on the APHA interactive map.

Use this link :

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1034245/ai-findings-2021.csv/preview

- 03.11.21 Angus constituency, Scotland. Captive birds
- 26.10.21 wild bird rescue centre in Worcestershire
- 01.11.21 Chirk, Wrexham, Wales (backyard chickens and wild birds)
- 01.11.21 near Droitwich Spa, Worcestershire (rescue centre - captive birds - non-poultry)
- 07.11.21 GB wide AIPZ introduced
- 07.11.21 near Alcester, Warwickshire (small commercial poultry flock)
- 11.11.21 near Frinton-on-Sea, Tendring, Essex (animal sanctuary)
- 12.11.21 near Salwick, Fylde, Lancashire (commercial poultry)
- 13.11.21 near Leeming Bar, Hambleton, North Yorkshire (c.p.)
- 18.11.21 near Kirkham, Fylde, Lancashire (non-commercial poultry)
- 19.11.21 near Willington, Derbyshire (commercial poultry)
- 20.11.21 near Pokesdown, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (c.p.)
- 21.11.21 near Silecroft, Copeland, Cumbria (commercial poultry)
- 22.11.21 near Mouldsworth, Cheshire (commercial poultry)
- 22.11.21 near North Fambridge, Maldon, Essex (backyard poultry)
- 22.11.21 near Wells-next-the-Sea, North Norfolk, Norfolk
- 24.11.21 near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 24.11.21 premises near Leeming Bar, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 24.11.21 second premises near Leeming Bar, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 24.11.21 second premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 25.11.21 Barrow upon Soar, Charnwood, Leicestershire
- 26.11.21 premises near Gaerwen, on Anglesey, Wales.
- 26.11.21. near Poulton-le-Fylde, Wyre, Lancashire
- 26.11.21 Third premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 26.11.21 fourth premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire
- 30.11.21 near Clitheroe, Ribble Valley, Lancashire.
- 28.11.21 fifth premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire (c.p.)
- 30.11.21 second premises near Barrow upon Soar, Charnwood
- 03.12.21 sixth premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire.
- 03.12.21 near Tutbury, East Staffordshire, Staffordshire.
- 03.12.21 near Leominster, North Herefordshire, Herefordshire.
- 04.12.21 near Gretna, Dumfriesshire, Dumfries and Galloway.
- 04.12.21 near Crickhowell, Powys, Wales.
- 04.12.21 near Richmond, Richmondshire, North Yorkshire.
- 06.12.21 near Newent, Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

06.12.21 seventh premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire.
 06.12.21 third premises Barrow upon Soar, Charnwood (c. p.)
 07.12.21 fourth premises nr Barrow upon Soar (commercial poultry)
 07.12.21 premises near Pocklington, East Yorkshire
 08.12.21 near Sudbury, Babergh, South Suffolk.
 08.12.21 eighth premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire.
 10.12.21 near Aspatria, Allerdale, Cumbria.
 10.12.21 near Annan, Kirkpatrick Fleming 22,000 * Dumfriesshire
 10.12.21 near Kirtlebridge, near Annan* 700 birds
 10.12.22 near Moffat, Newton Wampfrey Dumfriesshire.
 10.12.21 near Highworth, Swindon, Wiltshire.
 10.12.21 Clifford, Hereford and South Herefordshire, Herefordshire
 12.12.21 near Washington, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.
 12.12.21 near Alford, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire.
 12. 12.21 second premises near Willington, Derbyshire.
 13.12.21 second premises near Alford, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire
 13.12.21 third premises near Alford, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire
 15.12.21 second premises near Pocklington, East Yorkshire
 15.12.21 fourth and fifth premises near Alford, Lincolnshire.
 15.12. 21 near Wem, North Shropshire.
 16.11.21 ninth premises near Thirsk, Hambleton, North Yorkshire.
 16.11.21 sixth and seventh premises near Alford,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-59620763> *

There has never before been a series of outbreaks like this the UK. [now 59 on Dec 18th plus numerous wild waterfowl affected].

Reported in The Times 10.12.21, about half a million birds had been culled at that point with, according to the chief vet, Christine Middlemiss, 40 infected premises in the UK. That was an average of 12,500 per infection. The list has been compiled from news reports, APHA notifications, and from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1040397/HPAI-europe-211206.pdf

EFFECT ON SHOW DATES FOR 2022

In the past, it has been Stafford which has been subject to closure due to the flu season. It is now obvious that earlier flu infections will almost certainly affect 2022. If the major shows are to continue, the dates must shift. This is what has happened.

Federation Championship Show (Stafford) 2022: 17th & 18th September.

Having considered the present, and possibly ongoing, Avian Influenza issues that could affect the show for the foreseeable future, and after gauging the opinions of exhibitors and supporters of our show, The Federation Council decided at their EGM on 14/11/21 to move the show from its present dates for December 2022 to the new dates in September.

After discussions with representatives of the Showground and The Federation the only viable weekend available was 17th & 18th September. These dates will not suit everyone but with December looking out of the question it was considered that the Federation had to make a bold decision. The Federation appreciates the challenges that our exhibitors and the whole of the Poultry fancy face in the coming months, but we hope you'll continue to support "The Fed" in 2022.

Oswestry & District Autumn Poultry Show: continues on Saturday 1st October 2022

Welsh National at Haverford West- Saturday October 8th

The invidious situation has arisen where late Autumn & Winter shows have been forced into taking decisions to bring dates of their events forward due to Avian Influenza. The Poultry Club is in the same predicament as the rest of us and have had to move their National forward to the 22d and 23rd October, 2022. So, there was nothing for it but to revise the original date for the Welsh National to October 8th.

BWA Regional Waterfowl Show Shropshire & Mid Wales for 2022 will be held on Sunday 9th October 2022 at the Oswestry Agricultural Showground.

The next Welsh Federation of Poultry Clubs show will be held on Saturday 15th of October.

PCGB National Championship Poultry & Egg Show 22 & 23 October 2022 at Telford

After communication with exhibitors, and a meeting with DEFRA and APHA, PCGB have concluded that there is no other option in the medium-term but to bring shows forwards.

The aim is retain the fourth weekend in October as the National Show weekend until a time when Avian Influenza no longer presents a cancellation-risk

to us. . . . The cost of venues outside December is more expensive and there is an increase of just 6 pence per square metre so it is likely that entry fees will need to be increased slightly to cover this cost. Breeding and rearing patterns will need to adjust to have birds ready for the earlier show season that's emerging as a direct result of the enforced Avian Influenza control measures.

Scottish National Poultry Show on 29th October Lanark: one day show

BWA Waterfowl Exhibition at Stroud is scheduled for the last Sunday in October.

It's going to be a busy month! You can keep an eye on developments on this Facebook link below, and with individual organisations' websites and Facebook pages such as <https://www.facebook.com/groups/129380640788991>

WHY IS BIRD FLU SUCH A PROBLEM NOW?

COP 26 points the way to better management says Chris Ashton

Looking back to when we personally started keeping birds around 1981, I cannot remember anyone mentioning avian influenza. It was known to occur in wild bird populations. There had been a case of H5N1 in Scotland in 1959, but the disease did not seem to transmit on a regular basis.

There were H5N2 flu cases in Mexico and the USA in the 1990s, particularly in intensively farmed turkey populations. An outbreak in Mexico 1994 was resolved by using increased biosecurity measures, depopulation, epidemiological investigation, restriction of movements (of birds and materials) and vaccination. The wildfowl got the blame in Mexico and in the USA because the infected turkey sheds were located on the migration flyways of the wild ducks and geese in their autumn passage down from the arctic breeding grounds. Vaccination continues as a policy in Mexico (1) and was also used in Italy to combat H7N1.

Moving on to 1996, H5N1 reappeared in Guangdong province, China, from geese which had been sold in a market. From that point H5N1 became a big problem in the burgeoning SE Asian poultry industry. There were mass culls of chickens in the poultry sheds, restrictions on exports and further development of poultry vaccines against H5N1 during the early 2000s. More than 113 billion doses were used from 2002 to 2010. Most of these vaccines were used in 1) China (90.9%), 2) Egypt (4.6%), 3) Indonesia (2.3%), and 4) Vietnam (1.4%). (3)



This is what depopulation means: birds are culled en masse, sometimes by suffocation with nitrogen filled foam which is more humane than using CO2 gas (2). Image - Roe Shpernik, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=54534632>

Why did avian influenza appear as a big problem from 2000?

In the 1990s, the world's poultry population grew 76% in developing countries and 23% in developed countries. In 2006 there were more than 13 billion commercial birds in mainland China alone. Cycles of production had been reduced to just a few weeks for these billions to be passing through the system at a point in time (4).

I think these figures speak for themselves. As the human population increased exponentially, so did the farm animal population. The demand for animal protein in the diet also increased. With these scales of production, we were heading for problems of global epidemic proportions. Scaling up of all these populations (humans and poultry) increases transmissibility of disease.

Factory farming and disease

"Village poultry and their owners were frequently implicated in disease transmission in the early days of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 pandemic. With improved understanding of the epidemiology of the disease, it was recognized (2013) that village poultry raised under extensive conditions pose less of a threat than intensively raised poultry of ho-

mogeneous genetic stock with poor biosecurity.” This is a conclusion of the joint authors from Australia, Ghana & Italy (5).

This mirrors what was said to Defra during the bird flu outbreaks in Holland and the UK the 2000s: that transmission is less likely in healthy free-range birds than in birds crammed into sheds for their short life span of 40 days. If the virus gets in, then everything succumbs. Not only that, the risk of virus mutation from LPAI to HPAI increases. That is known to occur with avian influenza, much as it occurs in crowded conditions when people are infected with Covid-19.

One could argue that poultry biosecurity is very good in the UK – and so it should be. But the fact is that avian influenza travels easily on fomites – i.e. anything it can stick to such as on shoes, vehicle tyres and boxes. People can spread it very easily; workers must be scrupulously clean. Also, every wild bird must be kept out the poultry sheds; moorhens, pigeons and sparrows have been blamed. The poultry indoors are more susceptible than the free-range birds because they are less healthy in their crowded conditions and have no natural immunity.

H5N8 in Europe

After the traumatic years of 2005–2009 when Defra used biosecurity restrictions and culls in the UK to combat the spread of AI, there was a lull. Flu still commonly happened in Europe as low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI); it was detected in Germany 2008–2014. But a worrying trend was that the virus was present over a longer period of the year, rather than confining itself to the cooler months of December–March. (6)

However, a recent summary by Defra (7) noted the emergence of HPAI H5N8. It was first reported here In November 2014 on a duck farm in East Yorkshire.

During the winter period 2016 - 2017, a significant number of European countries, including Russia, identified H5N8 in a variety of wild bird species. A report (8) said that the virus was likely introduced into poultry farms during the autumn, in line with the timing of arrival of migratory birds. However, the disease was mainly driven by farm-to-farm transmission in Germany, Hungary and Poland, suggesting that better understanding of how infected farms are connected in those countries would greatly help control efforts. In contrast, the epidemic was dominated by wild bird-to-farm transmission in Czech Republic.

By the beginning of October 2017, there had been 2,781 outbreaks of H5N8 influenza in poultry, wild birds, and captive birds reported by the European Union Reference Laboratory for avian influenza. The disease continued and resulted in more than 6 million broiler birds culled in Poland in spring 2021

In November 2020, a poultry outbreak of H5N8 was confirmed in Cheshire, England. By the end of that flu season, there were 16 outbreaks in England, one in Wales. one in Scotland and two in Northern Ireland in the 2020-2021 flu season.

In comparison, this year’s 2021-2022 flu season figures make the outlook bleak. H5N1 has returned with a vengeance. Incidences in wild birds started earlier; by this December 8th, 2021, there were nearly 40 outbreaks; and this situation will continue until spring 2022.

So, what is happening?

- A recent interesting report in the Guardian also makes the same points as Greger: **there are too many people producing too many farmed animals.**
- UN bodies, academics and epidemiologists all recognise **the link between the emergence of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses and increasingly intensive poultry farming.**
- According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): “Avian influenza viruses are evolving into a large, diverse virus gene pool ... A pathogen may turn into a hyper-virulent disease agent; in monocultures involving mass rearing of genetically identical animals that are selected for high feed conversion, **an emerging hyper-virulent pathogen will rapidly spread within a flock or herd.**”
- Wild birds are the reservoir for the flu virus, but we know that **intensive farms are potential “mixing pots” for new, deadly viruses.**
- “Blaming migratory waterfowl ... is clearly no longer a tenable position,” says Rob Wallace, an American virologist who argues that the new strains of flu emerging are adapting to industrial poultry production. **“Influenza’s infiltration into industrial livestock [pigs] and poultry is so complete that these farms now act as their own reservoirs [of disease],”** he says. “They are their own source.” (9)
- With more than 20 billion chickens and nearly 700 million pigs now being farmed at any one time, **the chances of new flu strains and variants emerging and spilling over to humans are high.**
- **In our own area, the county of Powys may have the greatest concen-**

tration of chicken sheds in the UK. “Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire, and Herefordshire and Shropshire on the other side of the border, have for some years been experiencing a surge in applications for intensive poultry units (IPUs). **The density of these developments has reached a level unmatched in Europe.**” (10)

- This situation cannot be allowed to continue. We need to put an end to deforestation in Brazil which provides land to grow soya, to feed ‘cheap’ chicken. The solution to disease transmission may lie in vaccines as a short term stop gap. **But, in the longer term, it lies in changing our lifestyle and concomitant intensive agricultural practices which also amount to cruelty to animals and birds.**

If that sounds a familiar policy – it should – after COP 26.

With our ‘modern’ farming practices and food distribution networks, we are ‘eating our way to extinction’ (11) on several counts: disease transmission, ammonia and water pollution, and global warming. The world as we know it is about to fall apart if we don’t change our habits anytime soon.

References

1. Villarreal - Avian influenza in Mexico : <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19618630/>
2. <https://www.hsa.org.uk/gaseous-methods/gaseous-methods>
3. David E Swayne (2012): Impact of Vaccines and Vaccination on Global Control of avian influenza <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23402099/>
4. Michael Greger: ‘Bird Flu: A Virus of Our Own Hatching’ (2006).
5. Impact of Avian Influenza on Village Poultry Production Globally 2013 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10393-013-0867-x>
6. <https://afludiarly.blogspot.com/2018/11/who-migratory-birds-potential-spread-of.html>
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-ah5n8-risk-assessment/avian-influenza-ah5n8-risk-assessment>
8. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/355539939_Disentangling_the_role_of_poultry_farms_and_wild_birds_in_the_spread_of_highly_pathogenic_avian_influenza_virus_H5_N8_in_Europe
9. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/18/factory-farms-of-disease-how-industrial-chicken-production-is-breeding-the-next-pandemic>
10. https://www.brecon-and-radnor-cprw.wales/?page_id=2211
11. ‘Eating our way to extinction’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl2iY87Sic8>

TIM FLACH’S SPECTACULAR BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY

Birds are a revelation. Radiating grace, intelligence, and humour, they tantalize the human imagination.

Tim Flach’s photographs capture the texture of feather and structure of eye which cannot normally be seen without his photographic detail. These large format pictures are revelation produced by painstaking work in the field and in the studio. The White Runner and Call duck were photographed at Stafford Show in 2019, and there is a fantastic picture of a Crested duck showing the structure of the bill and sieves



Internationally acclaimed photographer Tim Flach has portrayed nature’s most alluring creatures alertly at rest and dramatically in flight, capturing intricate feather patterns and subtle coloration invisible to the naked eye.

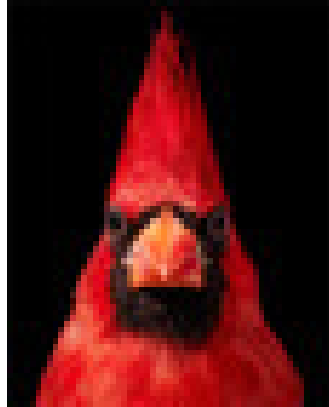
From familiar friends including the king penguin and the black swan, to marvellous rarities such as the kagu and the Bali myna, Flach conveys the dazzling diversity of birds. Here are all manner of songbirds, parrots, and birds of paradise; birds of prey, waterbirds, and theatrical domestic breeds.

Witness the shy gaze of the southern cassowary and the fearless stare of the Andean condor; marvel at the peregrine falcon—the fastest animal on Earth—in flight, wings outstretched, and the iridescent plumage of the Himalayan monal.

Compelling text by prominent ornithologist Richard O. Prum takes the reader into the deep history of birds, ancestors of the dinosaurs living among us, and sheds light on the distinct behaviours of each species. Discover how female guira cuckoos lay eggs in shared nests, distinguishing their own with unique markings, and why the Nicobar pigeon swallows small colourful stones. Learn of the vulturine guineafowl's penchant for fallen fruit, the common ostrich's rapid growth rate, and more as you navigate your way through these pages.

The result of much patience, precision, and persistence, 'Birds' features more than 180 extraordinary photographs. Putting us face-to-face with some of Earth's most magnetic living beings, Flach evokes the magnificence of the animal kingdom – and the urgent need to protect and defend it.

Find out more about this spectacular large format book on Tim's website at <https://timflach.com/>



'PUDDLES AND PALS'

by Marion Stapleton Harley

... won't fail to make you smile with her tales of Indian Runner drakes versus Jack Russell. Totally hormonal – and oblivious to potential dog bites – these wretched drakes can take on the world!

You may remember Sally Harris' tale of her Fawn Runner, Psycho Bob. He grew up with a Hungarian Vizsla bitch who liked to duckling-sit. Moved to a new home, he went on to terrorise all dogs, to keep his ducks safe. "It is totally amazing to watch them; it is like choreographed theatre where hopefully no one gets hurt."

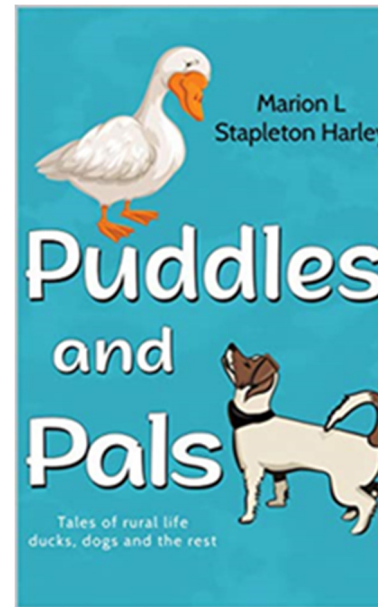


Or have you seen the YouTube video of the drake's pursuit of the dog? The dog does win on both intelligence and wit,

see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6l51gjch-1k>

'Duck Hilariously Chases A Dog Around A Rock'.

But, for sheer panache, you can't beat these two drakes in 'Puddles and Pals', Marion's amusing and beautifully written book.



The book is available on the internet and Amazon or direct from the author, Marion Stapleton Harley:.

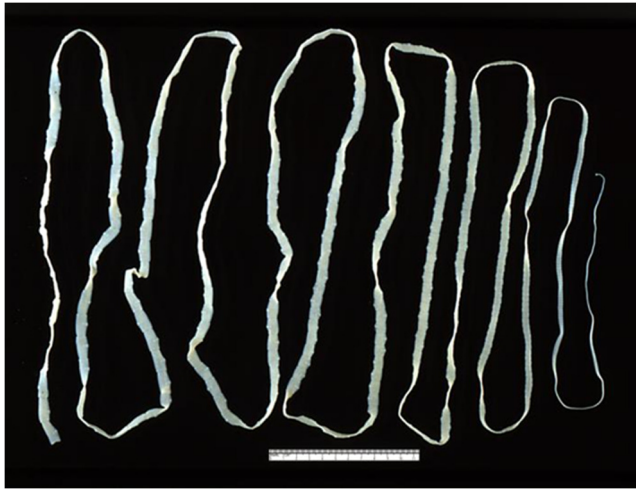
"The time came the ducks roaming free in the gardens & one JR ready to exit the front door with me for a gentle stroll along the path. Neither I nor the dog was expecting what followed. I'd seen that all eight ducks were right down the bottom of the garden happily pottering in our Conservation Patch. I opened the door & carefully exited the cottage with a happy and calm JR. We descended the front step and began to slowly proceed along the path. That scenario did not last long. Before we had taken only a few paces the two drakes - Moby (Duck) and Whippy had left the grazing ducks down the bottom & raced up the garden. Up the lawn at great speed they came, through the flower beds ending up eye to eye with my bewildered JR. I had no idea what would happen next.

... The JR with me can give a good impression of the Tasmanian Devil in seconds and my lack of mobility was a major problem. We managed to beat a retreat into the cottage and consider the next move. . . .

TAPEWORMS

Tapeworms are something I don't usually worry about with birds. I'd only seen them once, years ago, in the droppings of a duck I'd recently bought. But last spring—there it was again—splat on the muddy ground. In structure, it looked just like this one, but not so large.

So, how many had I missed? The delicate white loops would disappear instantly under the pressure of a webbed foot, or my boot. This was a salutary reminder that it's a good idea to change the worming products we use from time to time.



This is an adult *Taenia saginata* tapeworm. Humans become infected by ingesting raw or undercooked infected meat. In the human intestine, the cysticercus develops over 2 mo. into an adult tapeworm,

What are tape worms?

Tape worms are ribbon-like. Their bodies consist of many similar units which are essentially packages of eggs which are regularly shed into the environment to infect other organisms.

These worm eggs may not always turn up in a worm count taken from duck droppings. That's probably because tapeworms reproduce successfully by shedding whole segments which still contain the worm eggs. Usually, just a small tape worm segment is excreted rather than a complex structure several centimetres long size.

Types of tape worms

There are four main types of tape worms that affect free range birds. The most common are *Davainea proglottina*, *Raillietina echinobothrida*, *R. tetragona*, and *R. cesticillus*. They have hook-like mouth parts and anchor themselves into the wall of the bird's small intestine. They take nutrients from the birds, resulting in weight loss. In some cases, the hooks also damage the intestine.

Lifecycle

Like other parasitic worm species, tapeworms have an indirect life cycle. They use arthropods and other invertebrates as intermediate hosts (snails, slugs, beetles, grasshoppers, ants, earthworms, and houseflies). The birds therefore become infected by eating the intermediate host.

Controlling tape worms

Some of the wormers which are used with ducks such as ivermectin and Flubenvet are not necessarily effective against tapeworm. The number of worm species that ivermectin kills is more limited than Flubenvet (tapeworm & fluke are excluded: V Roberts: *Diseases of Free Range Poultry*). In addition, Flubenvet [flubendazole] at the rate administered to laying flocks is insufficient to kill tape worm. So, if you spot a problem, ask the vet for the appropriate dose of Flubenvet to despatch these parasites.

Further useful info and references can be found on this page.

<http://www.poultrydvm.com/condition/tapeworms>

Fortunately, fenbendazole found in Panacur is still useful against parasites (e.g., roundworms, flukes, certain types of tapeworms, and *Giardia*) in pet poultry. In commercial chickens it is given via the drinking water. With ducks, I find it convenient to drop it on the food and mix it in well, to be eaten at one go. Not difficult with ducks.

The page link below explains why it's recommended to give more than one dose of Panacur:

“ Fenbendazole is absorbed in the intestine and is rapidly metabolized by the liver. The metabolic pathway of fenbendazole in chickens is the same as in mammals. Fenbendazole is eliminated from the body predominately by the feces. Residue levels in the eggs is highest the first day following the last day of treatment and decline rapidly thereafter. Fenbendazole must be given for 3-5 consecutive days to kill parasites, since it needs to halt cell division for a certain duration before it is fatal to the parasite. Caution. Fenbendazole shouldn't be given to pet poultry who are actively growing new feathers, such as those in the early stages of growth or during molting. Fenbendazole shouldn't be given to chickens with suspected *Capillaria* infestations.

Storage/Stability: Fenbendazole should be stored at room temperature.

Dosage:- For ducks: 5-15 mg/kg given orally, once a day for 5 days. For chickens: 20-50 mg/kg given orally for 3 to 5 days, repeated for another 3-5 days in 10 days.”

See <http://www.poultrydvm.com/drugs/fenbendazole>

If you want to delve deeper into the subject, the next link gives masses of info. However – I would not recommend levamisole as an anti-helminth. On practical experience, it simply no longer works. This does of course illustrate resistance of parasites to these chemicals over time, and the importance of good husbandry in keeping birds

<https://www.msdevetmanual.com/poultry/helminthiasis/helminthiasis-in-poultry>

BABY BIRD IN AMBER FROM 99 MILLION YEARS AGO

The amber specimen HPG-15-1 (Hupoge Amber Museum, China) is quite large, about 9cm long, while the hatchling is small, about 6cm from snout to tail, including the head, cervical vertebrae, wings, and feet of an enantiornithine bird, as well as a considerable amount of associated soft tissue and integumentary structures. Despite its small size, the new specimen is the most complete fossil of its kind in Burmese amber to date. Paleontologists have lovingly nicknamed the specimen 'Belone', a local term in Myanmar for an amber colored bird, the Oriental skylark (*Alauda gulgula*). Once a resident of the humid, tropical environment in north Myanmar, 'Belone' fell into or was enveloped by resin from a conifer, such as cypress or araucaria, eventually becoming a piece of amber which has survived to this day. This amber was discovered in one of the world's most famous amber localities, in the Hukawng Valley, Kachin State, northern Myanmar. This deposit dates back to the mid-Cretaceous, approximately 99 million years ago.



Amber miners who discovered the specimen thought that they had found a "strange" lizard's claw, until researchers realised that the foot belonged to a bird from the time of the dinosaurs.



Amazing detail on the preserved feathers show that the hatchling died during its first feather moult, indicating that it was entombed in amber within the first days or weeks of its life.

https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/photography/2017/11/see-pictures-baby-bird-time-dinosaurs-found-fossilised-amber?im-age=05_bird_in_amber&fbclid=IwAR3pOcnQrEwJSpKJIYtX61X_q7cKgzVKilWOvPzgqC3jR5bMl84iCCeyerQ

INDIAN RUNNER RESULTS

DOMESTIC WATERFOWL SHOWS 2021

Keith (Scotland) October Show

had 7 entries of Runners. Davie Campbell won the male class with a White drake and Best of Breed went to a very nice Black duck from Jardyn Beedie. The LF pens were single tier and showed the black-green colour. Best Waterfowl was awarded to a fantastic White Call from Kelly Millar.

[Thank you, IRDC member David Campbell].



off

MAIN AUTUMN SHOWS

These are the ones with a full classification of standardized colours. Only two of them ran this year due to outbreaks of Avian Influenza curtailing bird gatherings.

BOB— Best of Breed (Best Runner), BOS— Best Opposite Sex, BOC— Best of Colour

Builth Wells: Welsh Federation Championship Show, October 16, 2021 Results from Sue Black

Entry: 14 Runners (9 penned)
 Best Indian Runner: Penrhiwgarn Poultry - White Male.
 White Male: 1 Penrhiwgarn (BOC)(BOB)
 White Female: 1 Penrhiwgarn
 Fawn&White Male: 1 Penrhiwgarn
 Fawn&white Female:1 Penrhiwgarn
 American Fawn&White M/F: 1 Penrhiwgarn
 Black Male: 1 Penrhiwgarn
 Black Female: 1 Penrhiwgarn
 Non-Standard Male: 1 Penrhiwgarn

Shropshire and Mid Wales Waterfowl Exhibition, October 17, 2021**Best Indian Runner: Fawn Duck - Mark Rubery****Reserve Best Runner - White Duck - Mark Rubery****Best Opposite Sex: White drake - Mark Rubery****Results and Report by Joe Thomas**

Who would have thought someone would miss chucking show cages up or the hassle of preparing birds for a show?

Well I did!

Shropshire and Mid Wales Waterfowl Society Show was my first show back after the "apocalyptic" (covid) and it was enjoyable from start to finish, from helping out staging the shows, to stewarding, to exhibiting, and finally cleaning up afterwards.

We had a decent entry of Runners in the show, not as large as previous years but still having respectable numbers. I believe several factors played into this; uncertainty over covid; a prominent local exhibitor taking a step back from showing; etc.

It was very nice to see loyal supporters of the show return to give their support! Mark Rubery, Team Hicks, Holly Harding- Smith, Roy Pryce to name a few.

It was also nice to see new faces such as Graeme Seedall and son exhibiting for the first time at the Shropshire & Mid Wales, exhibiting their Fawn Runners in the open section. With Mikey Seedall also exhibiting a Yellow belly Runner in the Junior section! Quite possibly a First in the UK!?

But clearly the exhibit of the day would have to go to Mark Rubery! Not only sweeping the board with the Runners, but also going on to win Best Heavy with a Cayuga and taking Best in Show with a lovely Czech Goose! The Champion Runner was a gorgeous Fawn duck! Lovely type, colour and condition! A credit to Mark!

As you would expect, the quality in the two Classic colours (Whites and Fawns) was fairly decent. If I were a betting man, I would have put money on one or the other colour to have won Best Runner!

It was nice to see some of the less common colours on exhibit namely Mallards and Blues.

Thomas Kay is making great strides with his Mallard Runners which is nice to see in a colour not often supported in the UK even though fairly popular in Europe.

The Blues exhibited by myself were not quite up to scratch but as they say Rome wasn't built in a day so just have to potter away!

The one colour which I rather disappointed with was the lack of competition in the Blacks. There is typically a good entry of Blacks but this year I was competing against myself which isn't ideal although equally if there was competition I'm not sure how well my unpen-trained slightly psycho out-cross strain of Blacks would have done.

Overall it was a lovely well run show with some quality Runners on show. So onwards and upwards and hopefully next year will have a massive entry of Runners!

Runner Judge: James Eggins

Thirty two pens

White Male: 1,2,3 M Rubery (8)

White Female: 1,2 Mark Rubery (BOC), 3 Team Hicks (5)

Fawn Male: 1 G Seedall, 2,3 M Rubery, R Pryce (5)

Fawn Female: 1, 2 M Rubery (BOC) (BOB) (2) See page 32

Black Male: 1,2 Joseph Thomas (2)

Black Female; 1 Joseph Thomas (BOC) (2)

Mallard Male: 1 Thomas Kay (1)

Mallard Female: 1 Thomas Kay (BOC) (1)

Blue Male: 1, 2 Joseph Thomas (BOC) (2)

Blue Female: 1, 2 Joseph Thomas (2)

Pair of Runners: 1 G Seedall (Fawn), 2, J. Thomas (Blue) (2)

Reserve Best Runner - White Duck - Mark Rubery



**British Waterfowl Association Championship Show, Stroud
November 7, 2021**

**Best Indian Runner: Mark Rubery's Fawn duck. Also Reserve Show
Champion.**

Reserve Best Runner: Tom Davis, Mallard duck

Best Coloured Runner: Mark Rubery, Fawn duck

Best Opposite Sex Runner: Tom Davis, White drake

IRDC Points Trophy: James Rigby

Results and Report by Keith May

There were about 100 runners, not many empty pens. Thirty whites: quite a few creamy rather than white, maybe struggling for full fitness. Best was Tom Davis's adult male, which went on to be Best Opposite Sex Runner

Ten fawns: drakes slightly disappointing, ducks not really ready apart from Mark Rubery's lovely female, beautifully shown and in peak condition. Best Runner and overall Res. Show champion.

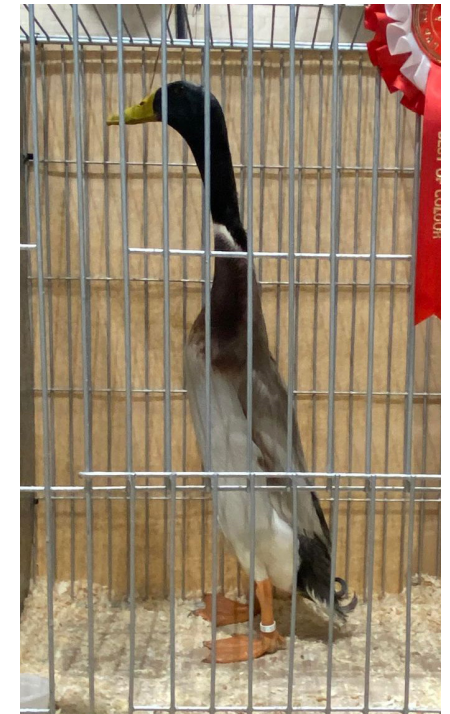
Fawn-&-whites showing a vast improvement in quality after struggling for several years, now we need more of them.

Six Trouts, including one nice drake.
Nine Apricot Trouts, some high-quality birds.

Not many Blacks, Blues, Silvers or Dusks. Five Chocolates. Eight Mallards, some of the best I've seen. Tom Davis' male was Reserve Best Runner.

Considering several usual exhibitors were missing it looks good for Runners overall. It was a thoroughly enjoyable judging experience. An excellent show a superb venue.

Best Indian Runner: Mark Rubery's Fawn duck. Also Reserve Show Champion.



fe-

in

Runner Judge: Keith May Entry 100 Runners

White 2021 M: 1 Dr James Rigby, 2,3 Tom Davis (8)
 White 2021 F: 1 Dr James Rigby, 2 Tom Davis, 3 Mark Rubery (9)
 White Adult M: 1,2 Tom Davis (BOC) (BOS), 3 M Rubery (9)
 White Adult F: 1 James Rigby, 2,3 Tom Davis (3)
 Fawn M: 1,3 Mark Rubery, 2 Dr James Rigby (4)
 Fawn F: 1,3 M Rubery (BOC, BOB, Res. Show Champion), 2 Dr J Rigby (6)
 Fawn & White M: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC), 2 Penrhiwgarn (2)
 Fawn & White F: 1 Dr James Rigby, 2 Penrhiwgarn (2)
 American Fawn & White M: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC), 2 Penrhiwgarn (2)
 American Fawn & White F: 1 Penrhiwgarn (1)
 Trout M: 1, 2 Dr James Rigby (BOC), 3 T&J Soper (3)
 Trout F: 1, 2 T & J Soper, 3 Dr James Rigby (3)
 Blue Trout M: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC) (1)
 Blue Trout F: 1 Dr James Rigby (1)
 Apricot Trout M: 1 T&J Soper, 2 P Hayford, 3 Penrhiwgarn (3)
 Apricot Trout F: 1 P Hayford (BOC), 2,3 T & J Soper (5)
 Black F: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC), Penrhiwgarn (2)
 Blue F: 1, 2 Penrhiwgarn (1)
 Mallard M: 1 Dr James Rigby, 2,3 Tom Davis (4)
 Mallard F: 1 Tom Davis (BOB, Res. Best Runner), 2 Dr James Rigby, 3 Thomas Kay (4)
 Chocolate M: 1,2 T&J Soper (BOC) (2)
 Chocolate F: 1 Dr James Rigby, 2 Penrhiwgarn, 3 T&J Soper (3)
 Silver M: 1 Dr James Rigby (BOC) (1)
 Silver F: 1 Dr James Rigby (1)
 Blue/ Apricot Dusky M: 1,2 Dr James Rigby (BOC) (2)
 Blue/ Apricot Dusky F: 1,2 Dr James Rigby (BOC) (2)
 AOC Non-Standard F: Penrhiwgarn (1)
 Pair Runners: 1,2 Dr James Rigby (2)

Left: Some of the Colour Section (BOC) winners:

James Rigby's :

Blue Dusky Duck

Blue Trout drake

Fawn & white drake – a beautiful specimen

Silver (harlequin) drake



Mark Rubery's Best Runner at Shropshire & Mid Wales. Mark also won Best Runner and Reserve Best in Show with this Fawn duck at the BWA Stroud Show. A brilliant year for Mark and his birds in this classic colour from Indonesia.