



I R D C June 2022





IRDC

Contents	Page
Secretary	4
Poultry Club Update	4
Avian Influenza in the 2000s	5
Housing Order Problems	9
Letter from the Highlands	11
Crested Ducks	16
Hatching Black Runners	21
Show Dates	25
Advertising	30

Cover and inside: Fawn&whites with blue dilution at work
 Left:
 Apricot Trout Runners – homozygous for blue (Bl/Bl) on (M+/M+) (li/li)
 Photos – James Rigby

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

SECRETARY

Unfortunately, even in June 2022, this Newsletter still proves to be an avian influenza edition. Two cases cropped up in Nottinghamshire as late as 19th May, then June 1st and 6th near Ludlow, followed by Bexhill on the 16th. Devastating numbers of wild sea birds affected by H5N1 were reported in *Shetland News* on May 31st. Reported in the *i* 'The outbreak is thought to be unprecedented in the number and range of wild birds infected, with the bodies of several hundred birds testing positive, according to the Animal and Plant Health Agency, and many more are feared to have died.' This situation is reminiscent of the huge wildfowl losses in 2005 which hit birds at lake Qinghai in China, and at bird reserves in eastern Europe. The prognosis for 2022-2023 does not look good.

Defra Statistics: In summary [29/05/22], since the first case confirmed in this outbreak on the 26 October 2021, 119 cases of avian influenza have been confirmed in the UK:

England: 98 cases of HPAI H5N1 Scotland: 10 cases of HPAI H5N1

Wales: 5 cases of HPAI H5N1 Northern Ireland: 6 cases of HPAI H5N1

This is now the largest ever UK outbreak of avian influenza (prior to this the largest number of cases was 26 cases in 2020/2021 and 13 cases in 2016/2017).

AN UPDATE FROM LIZ ALLONBY, POULTRY CLUB PRESIDENT

I was deeply saddened all shows were cancelled last November due to Avian Influenza. I have missed meeting up with members and share your disappointment. I can assure you that the Poultry Club Trustees are working tirelessly behind the scenes for the good of our wonderful hobby.

Lee Grant & Jon Grubb attended a stakeholder online meeting yesterday [23/5/22] and although there continues to be cases confirmed in England there is light at the end of the tunnel for some of our members in Northern Ireland.

DAERA (Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs) announced today that the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (APIZ) and the ban on poultry gatherings is due to be lifted on 1st June.

Lee advised me that Defra consider Avian Influenza continues to present a serious threat around the world and is jumping species having been identified in foxes in USA and Canada. In the UK there have been 118 confirmed cases of which 52% are in commercial flocks. Cases seem to be now more localised and a reduction in cases is being seen and they believe we are approaching the slow tail end of this season's AI.

There are still 14 control zones and 66 trade restriction zones in place which currently are preventing trade with Europe. In the meeting Defra advised that there was no immediate prospect of the AIPZ being lifted on mainland UK, however this situation is reviewed every 2 weeks and if case numbers continue to reduce, control zones get lifted and the risks continue to reduce it is their intention to remove the AIPZ and the poultry gathering order would be re-instated as soon as possible.

On the 2nd. May the housing order was lifted, a great relief for all of us poultry keepers. Our Pheasant Fowl are again free ranging in the orchard and perching in the apple trees. This is a step forward, a glimmer of hope. We must be patient and continue to follow biosecurity guidelines.

Tomorrow will be a better day for our hobby. I love being a member of the Poultry Club for many reasons, one being the fellowship of belonging, the life-long friends I have made through it and new friends to come. I would like to thank the Board of Trustees and our Secretary for all their commitment and hard work. Please consider standing in the forthcoming election to be a trustee.

I hope you are having a successful breeding season. Keep handling your birds and read the standards. Keep in touch with each other. 24/05/2022

By kind permission of The Poultry Club and its President

Liz Allonby

AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THE 2000S

Chris Ashton and James Rigby

Back in the 2000s, Defra used to hold meetings with stake holders in person, in London. It was a long, arduous and expensive journey to get there by train. Now, it's much easier to join in online via Microsoft Teams – but there are disadvantages. It's difficult to work out who is at the meetings, and there

is always a variety of conflicting interests with respect to Poultry production.

Defra's job is to control disease and protect the food chain and livestock exports. There is a huge and lucrative international trade in poultry – basically young chicks – but only if the UK maintains its disease-free status. That is the main reason why vaccination is not countenanced: our poultry industry will remain reliably flu free if the population remains naïve and the cull policy is maintained. That suits the chick exporters and production of broilers in the vast chicken sheds.

With free-range birds, there is more of a conflict of interest. There were thoughts, in the 2000s, that free range birds would be best vaccinated. That idea gained ground with the Hobbyholders group in Holland who presented their case to the EU. The French duck industry vaccinated some of their birds in a trial in 2007. There was even a push by organic farmers UK to consider vaccination of free-range egg-layers. But the solution to controlling the spread of AI in Europe, apart from stamping out (culling), seems to be to house all birds.

It's getting worse

Originally, Defra excluded larger birds from confinement. This was the 2005 advice for larger birds:

“There are certain species of bird - such as ostrich, captive wildfowl or geese which are not normally housed during day or night - for which even the minimum housing steps outlined above may not be practicable. The very minimum action you should take is to isolate their food and water from wild birds. Availability of feed and water will attract wild birds; by only feeding and watering your birds inside, the possibility of mingling is reduced.”

The deteriorating situation with AI in Europe since 2016 has led Defra to resort to stricter measures. Since the H5N8 outbreak in 2016, housing or netted areas for all poultry have been demanded on a national basis for up to six months of the year e.g. in the case of the 2021 – 2022 flu season. This greatly impacts the free-range egg industry as it does other birds such as hawks, pigeons, chickens and waterfowl.

What is the national prevention zone?

The declaration of the national prevention zone i.e. the whole of the UK, is not a big issue for welfare. For the hobby keeper, it simply demands being

tidy with food and water, recording all movement on and off premises, taking good biosecurity measures and giving up on bird gatherings.

“while birds are allowed to range outside, all bird keepers (whether they have pet birds, a commercial or a backyard flock) must continue to take effective and precautionary biosecurity measures until further notice”

see [Biosecurity and preventing disease in captive birds \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The real hardship is when a lockdown order comes and bird keepers are expected to confine their birds under nets, or to keep them indoors. With respect to smaller birds such as chickens (which are often housed over winter) and the smaller ducks such as Calls and Bantams which often live in aviaries, that is not a great problem. But with larger birds such as ratites, and the larger waterfowl, confinement does cause welfare and management problems. Stakeholders have therefore communicated this to Defra again e.g. in the April and May meetings.

Why does enforcement of housing have to be National? [Defra meeting May 23rd, 2022]

It's unfortunate that shows will remain high risk simply due to gathering of birds from different areas within the UK.

The biggest risk to exhibition waterfowl are the current housing/netting restrictions for 6 months of the year. It impacts on the number of breeding birds that are retained and how many birds are bred each year. Fewer birds equals less progress & retention of lines. In Wales, where I live, [James Rigby, Defra meeting May 23rd, 2022] there have only been 4 cases in total of AI. I find it unacceptable that everyone with waterfowl has had to house or net waterfowl for 6 months. This equates to thousands of waterfowl set ups with huge welfare issues for waterfowl (Runners, heavies, geese in particular). Less so for Calls and Bantam breeds that have to be netted anyway due to their ability to fly.

There needs to be a shift to localised lockdowns and easing of measures - with observations to see if the cases ramp up. For example, if you are within 10km of a case then waterfowl have to be either housed or under nets.

This would be the first step to helping waterfowl breeders & exhibitors.

What is the current evidence base for pan UK lockdowns? Its time to see the data that such drastic measures are working

How long will this policy of protection from the virus continue?

In the Defra meetings there has been disquiet about the length of time for the restrictions. The Hawk Board was very concerned with the long-term prospect. The well-being of keepers is at the heart of its organisation, and the speaker wondered what would happen if the situation continued for ten years.

A long term view

It's quite clear that the rise in AI parallels the development of intensive poultry industry since the 1990s i.e. the poultry industry passes the virus back to the wildfowl population [1] and there is an upward spiral of cases. Thus, it would make sense to locate the industry strategically (as suggested in the previous April meeting) i.e. Defra should have the final say so over location of new poultry sheds and would refuse poultry farm applications in AI hot spots, where infections come up time and time again.

In addition to that, the sheer numbers of intensively reared birds present wider problems of air pollution from ammonia, controversially water pollution [2],[3] and also global heating - not least because of the destruction of ecosystems which are cleared for soya production. The global increase in pig and poultry meat production is a problem in this respect. Products labelled 'sustainable' soya sometimes turn out not to be so, due to malpractice.

England is actually more densely populated than Holland - and Holland has called a halt to the expansion of the livestock industry because of pollution [4]. There are more plant nutrients released into the environment than can be accommodated. Although there are diverse causes of water pollution, including lack of investment in human sewage works, the sheer density of livestock and people certainly counts towards the problem. And it makes sense for densely populated countries such as Holland and England to call a halt to growth in animal populations that lead to excess pollution.

We must, by now, have reached 'peak poultry'; we have already reached 'peak oil'. There is a limit to how much the environment can stand not only in the case of global greenhouse gas emission but also in water quality. This was indicated in the investigation of water quality in the River Wye this year [2].

Of course, the cost of soya and wheat right now, this year, may well reduce demand for pig and poultry meat. Maybe the saving grace for the environment could be the economic production of synthetic chicken. And a further

benefit could be that there is less transmission of disease

Our food and travel habits need to change before the global climate system flips. Climbing to a high of 421 ppm of CO2 this year – from a pre-industrial figure of 278 ppm - this increase in this greenhouse gas illustrates the problem. Our food and travel habits need to change before the global climate system runs past a tipping point. The Defra meeting was very much concerned with the short term view – but policies relating to disease control and global heating must surely need to be integrated into poultry production, as indicated in the recently published National Food Strategy Independent Review.

References

1 <https://news.sky.com/story/bird-flu-outbreak-kills-5000-wild-cranes-in-israel-12504460>
 2 Petition blames chicken poo for Powys River Wye pollution <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-54181261>
 3 Poultry waste problem in Northern Ireland still requires long-term solution <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-35360201>
 4 Netherlands announces e25bn plan to radically reduce livestock numbers <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/dec/15/netherlands-announces-25bn-plan-to-radically-reduce-livestock-numbers>
 5 Bird flu claims over three million victims in six month outbreak April 29, 2022 <https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2022/04/bird-flu-claims-over-three-million-victims-in-six-month-outbreak/>

.....
Housing order in a Prevention zone: Welfare of domesticated geese and larger ducks

Information submitted to Defra via the IRDC regarding welfare, for the April 2022 meeting

When avian influenza restrictions were drawn up in the 2000s, it was noted that birds should be housed ‘wherever possible’. In meetings with stakeholders 2008, it was agreed that geese could not be housed, for long periods, on welfare grounds. That particularly applied to rare breeds where there might be several sets of geese of differing ages on a premises. Forced together, on a confined site, ganders would fight and there would be insufficient grazing. Dirty ground for grazers increases the incidence of diseases such as salmonella, coccidiosis and Pasteurella. That also applies to confinement of larger ducks.

In a single-age commercial waterfowl flock bred for table purposes, the birds can be housed because they are juveniles and have a limited life. Keeping

breeder birds (rare breeds and elite commercial strains) over several years is a different situation. They need careful management and space. In addition to behavioural problems, the health of the birds suffers if they are fed indoors on grains and pellets, and lack exercise, grass and bathing water. They would become less likely to breed.

Schedule 3 (2022) now requires that ‘Where it is not possible to house birds on welfare grounds, poultry or other captive birds must be kept in fully enclosed or netted outdoor areas subject to the following conditions – (a) the outdoor area being fully enclosed with wire mesh, netting or other material which is capable of preventing ingress of wild birds. Any mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm (2(a) does not apply to poultry kept for restocking supplies of game).

However, netted areas cannot account for breeding sets of domesticated geese and larger ducks which require more space than can be accommodated by nets. For just a trio of geese, a small area would cost around £500 - £1000. In addition. we know, from AI cases this year, that netting hardly protects the birds from the virus.

These demands for confinement mean that it is simply not possible to comply with the Schedule 3 statement: ‘In all cases keepers must ensure they meet the needs of their birds in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006’.

Breeders of chickens and small Call ducks often keep their birds in confined conditions anyway; it is not difficult to comply with the housing order. However, larger waterfowl need special exemption from compulsory housing which is now taking place for over 6 months of the year. I am suggesting that this exemption should apply to closed rung i.e. registered, rare and elite breeds. Otherwise, the stock will dwindle and simply not be on the UK FAnGR and FAO Animal Genetic Resources lists. Some of these native breeds e.g. the Shetland goose, Brecon Buff, Pilgrim etc. are indeed very rare. The main threat to their existence is in making it impossible for people to maintain their stock, let alone breed any. A lot of this breeding stock is going to disappear if the current requirements continue. This is stock which has been maintained by committed breeders over whole lifetimes, and which cannot easily be replaced.

I am therefore suggesting that elite/rare breed, closed rung, registered stock should only be confined in the event of a local outbreak e.g. in the protection and surveillance zone, for the duration of the measures. These preconditions

for the stock will ensure relatively low numbers and traceability.

That confinement of birds is a problem is indicated in the Defra statement: Any mesh or netting which should be of a maximum size of 25mm (2(a) does not apply to poultry kept for restocking supplies of game.

This seems to imply that enclosure of pheasants (without overhead netting) is sufficient. Yet this is a non-indigenous species, released in their thousands each year from restocking pens. These intensively reared, farmed birds, by virtue of their large numbers and widespread dispersal after release, would seem to be a greater risk to disease transmission than low numbers of water-fowl confined to their farm premises.

Christine Ashton, email for Defra meeting , April 28th, 2022

CRESTED DUCKS:

What have they to put up with?

Back in February this year, MacKensy Edmond posted her findings on crested ducks on the American Indian Runner Ducks Facebook page.

“I want to post this because I find it interesting and can really get an insider on the deformity of crested ducks. I have collected the skulls from my crested duck and Call duck that passed away a few months ago. This shows the size comparison of a regular sized crested duck to a Call duck. Then if you look closer at the back of each skull you can see what a normal duck skull structure is supposed to look like compared to that of the crested that is deformed.”





Right: a normal skull

Left: Skull of the crested duck showing the cranial perforation and the blocked fonticuli occipitales.

These original photographs are very useful to illustrate the deformity of the cranium that occurs with the crest. Not only that, other structures of the cranium are also altered.

People who like the appearance of the crest in ducks often say that their ducks behave normally, especially if they are careful in matching compatible birds in breeding pairs. This reduces extreme crest size and the chance of deformity. But the truth is that crested birds often also suffer from poor coordination, as well as deformity of the spine e.g. with a crooked neck, roach back or wry tail. It is a deformity worth avoiding if welfare of the birds is important to you.

The photos clearly show the perforation in the dome of the head plus the abnormal perforations (fonticuli) which have been closed in the rear of the skull.

The subject was investigated by T Bartels (2002)

OSTEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS OF THE INCIDENCE OF CRANIAL ALTERATIONS IN DOMESTIC DUCKS (extracts are below).

Introduction

The feathers of the crest of the domestic duck insert into a thickened patch of the skin on the rear of the head, the so-called 'crest cushion'. With large crests, the crest cushion can develop into an extensive hump consisting of adipose (fatty) and connective tissues. In addition . . . radiographic examinations have demonstrated that these intracranial fatty deposits sometimes contain ossified structures of unknown origin . . . Current radiographic examinations have demonstrated these osteophytes in the hypodermis of the feather crest integument as well as persistent fontanelles in numerous crested ducks.

Materials and methods

159 skulls of adult domestic ducks (both sexes) were used. There were 122 crested ducks; 96 showed feather crests of varying size whereas 26 showed no phenotypically recognizable crests.

10 Abacot Ranger and 27 German Pekin plus 5 mallards [all normal ducks] were also used for comparison. The heads were cleaned by skinning and maceration.

Results

Crested ducks with feather crests

Eighty specimens (83%) of the 96 skulls of crested duck with feather crest showed morphological alterations. Seventy-eight skulls (81%) exhibited abnormal perforations (1-5) of the calvaria (bones forming the dome of the head).

77 specimens showed 1-3 perforations of the occiput (back of the head)

Anomalies for the Os parasphenoidale, that lead to malformations of the cavum tympani (main ear cavity) were found in 4 specimens.

29 skulls had osteophytes (bone spurs) of variable size and shape. Some were attached to the cranium and arched into the crest cushion; in 15 cases isolated bony structures were found in the hypodermis (inner skin layer) of the crest integument (skin/covering)

In 4 specimens, torsion of the skull was observed. In three cases, the whole skull was affected; in another case it was just the maxilla (jaw/bill). In addition, a further 23 skulls showed an asymmetric course of the long axis of the cranium.

Plain headed crested ducks 2/26 of the phenotypically plain-headed offspring reared from pure-breeding Crested ducks showed narrowing of the Fonticuli occipitales. Another showed a flexion of the long axis of the viscerocranium.

German Pekins: All showed narrowing of the Fonticuli occipitales (at the back of the skull) which narrowed to small clefts [see fig 7 page76]

Abacot Ranger and Mallards - no morphological conspicuousness. The Fonticuli occipitales were species specifically well developed.



“To what extent the blood flow from the brain and the cranial cavity is hampered by this narrowing or occlusion [of the fonticuli occipitales] has not been answered” . Bartels.

Discussion

In domestic ducks, the crest feathers are inserted into a crest cushion, a hypodermal thickening of the skin. There is inhibition of cranial bone development. The protruding brain stimulates the hypodermis to thicken [as a cover for the calvaria (cranial vault) defect]. The osteophytes found had no particular functional relevance.

In numerous skull specimens of both Crested and German Pekin ducks, reductions of various degrees of the lumen of the Fonticuli occipitales occur. To what extent the blood flow from the brain and the cranial cavity is hampered by this narrowing or occlusion has not been answered.

In contrast to wild ducks, most domestic animals show distinct decreases in brain weight (17% in female ducks and 24% in males). There is no sex-related difference in brain size (in contrast to their wild cousins). Thus, domestic drakes have encountered a higher reduction in brain weight than the females.

The increased capacity of the cranium of the crested birds develops as a consequence of the fat deposits. This increase can influence the growth of the skull – as long as the cranial bones are not fused. After conclusion of cranial growth, a further increase of the intracranial fat body is viewed as the cause of sensory disorders frequently seen in Crested ducks. Further investigation will examine high pre-natal and post-natal mortalities and numerous abnormalities described in Crested ducks.

REFERENCE available here

Osteological investigations of the incidence of cranial alterations in domestic ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos* F. do.) with feather crests

Annals of Anatomy 2002 183:73-80

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0940960201800170>

<http://lithornis.nmsu.edu/~phoude/Brinkmeier%20et%20al%202001%20Osteological%20investigations%20of%20the%20incidence%20of%20cranial%20alterations%20in%20domestic%20ducks%20%28Anas%20platyrhynchos%20f.%20dom.%29%20with%20feather%20crests.pdf>

WHERE CAN I GET HATCHING EGGS FOR BLACK INDIAN RUNNERS?

In the 2000s, we bred Black Indian Runner ducks for a few years, including black with blue and also with brown. In addition, we had Forrest ducks from Belgium, which bred remarkably consistently. At that time, the Forrests only bred black, blue and 'white' and seemed to lack brown dilution. They were absolutely free of a white bib, and as reliable as exhibition Cayugas and Black East Indians for breeding solid black.

Not so the Runners! The first pair we acquired were a wonderful type with what seemed to be excellent colour. But what they bred was rather different. Most of the ducklings we hatched sported a white bib of some kind, and it was difficult to breed many solid black birds.

We had the opportunity this year (2022) to have another go at breeding the elusive solid blacks. It has taken maybe a century to perfect the Cayuga and the Black East Indian – but the Black Runner has been on the go for over 100 years as well.

The 2020 Black parent female was from an apparently totally reliable strain which bred only solid blacks. The parent male was from another breeder and looked a good quality bird with excellent colour, and no discernible underwing or wing bar flaws. He was also from a flock which suggested he was homozygous black.

Put together- these birds put us straight back to the 2000s! Of the 12 ducklings hatched, most had a white bib. The fluff was intensely yellow in four of them and would undoubtedly grow into white feathers. A few had a fainter bib. And a few had just a slight yellow blush and might grow into apparently passable Black Runners (to look at).

However – it was even worse than that. As well as the bib, there were also white wing tips in a quarter of the hatch, plus a white eye streak, and accompanying orange-yellow spotted feet. These are the sort of ducklings which regularly emerge from 'hatching eggs' – not from selected birds!



These ducklings show a white bib plus recessive white primaries which are also associated with the yellow markings on the feet. These white areas had not shown up previously in matings of the reliable black female line which used in the 2022 pairing.

Hatching eggs

Over the years there have been regular enquiries to the IRDC regarding obtaining good hatching eggs in blacks. And these birds used for breeding this year illustrate the problem. A perfectly good-looking pair can produce a real mixture of colour faults. If the birds have not been tested first - then who would be able to guess the outcome?

It is perfectly possible for purchased hatching eggs to produce nice quality blacks. Photographs of what appear to be very good Black Runners do appear on Ebay. Also, I think the birds bred on the continent may be more reliable than UK birds for breeding Blacks, but then they often lack the desired UK type or have a decidedly green bill.

Reliable Blacks are probably in the hands of a very few breeders who have had the birds for many years. It's only because of their rigorous selection that the birds breed true for colour. And because the gene pool is therefore rather limited, fertility and hatchability are also limited. They are not Ebay hatching egg material! The only way to get reliable Blacks, I think, is continuous selection from selected pairs so the track record of individuals is known. Flock mating is not useful.

Extended Black (E) and white markings

F M Lancaster (1963) makes the point that, in Extended black (E), white markings can occur which show considerable variation in shape and size. These markings are not hypostatic to [are not obscured by] black, and can also occur in the presence of non-extended black (wild colour, e+).

"Although the presence of these markings is primarily decided by one major gene, they are also influenced by associated modifiers which are susceptible to selection". (Ch III. p369).

After experiments with several breeds, including Khaki Campbells, which were crossed with all-black Cayugas and Black East Indians, Lancaster found that the black birds were "genetically bibbed but that the bib was prevented from being expressed phenotypically by the presence of a large number of modifiers (page 375). He concluded that (page 377):

1. The "bib" of the Blue Orpington is inherited very simply; the gene responsible for its presence is dominant and autosomal.
2. It is very closely linked with extended black (E) in coupling phase.
3. Dominant bib (S) is greatly influenced by modifying genes whose frequency can be altered, presumably, by selection in either a positive or negative direction
4. In pure breeds positive selection for bib size has resulted in breeds like the Blue Orpington and Blue Swedish whereas negative selection has produced the Cayuga and Black East Indian where the bib is phenotypically absent. When breeds from the two series are crossed bib size is intermediate in the F1 generation but shows great variation in the F2.
5. When non-bibbed non-black and non-bibbed black ducks are mated together they produce an F1 generation with bibs. Thus the black variety carries the bib factor (S) while the non-black variety supplies the necessary modifiers to allow the bib to be expressed.

If you are interested in breeding Black Runners (or therefore Chocolates and Cumberland Blue which are also homozygous for black [E]), then careful selection for perfect birds is a long road. That is especially so because a cross with a similar bird (to keep the birds healthy) may well bring in unwanted colour faults due to untested modifiers - rather like the two birds I used this year!

Perhaps breeders of Black Runners might like to make their own comments available in the next edition?

Reference

F M Lancaster , 1963

The inheritance of plumage colour in the Common Duck

SHOW DATES FOR AUTUMN 2022

We still don't know (June 2022) if the main Autumn Exhibitions will be allowed to run this year. The number of AI infections occurring in wild birds will influence DEFRA's decision over keeping or lifting the national prevention zone. If the precaution remains in place, then bird gatherings will not go ahead

This is the timetable, should the events be allowed.

SEPTEMBER

Federation Championship Show (Stafford) 2022: 17th & 18th September.
 Contact: R Sadler - Email: fedchampshow@gmail.com
<https://federationpoultryshow.weebly.com/>

OCTOBER

BWA Regional Waterfowl Show Shropshire & Mid Wales, Sunday 9th October 2022 at the Oswestry Agricultural Showground. For schedule Tel 01948 840011 fchrismillward@hotmail.com

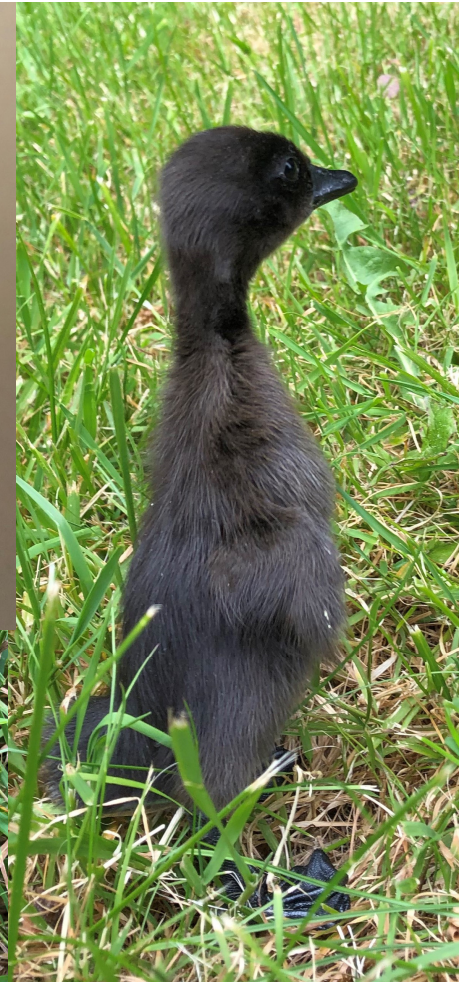
Devon & Cornwall Waterfowl Show is now amalgamated with the Poultry show on October 9th Tel: 01872 519208

Welsh Federation of Poultry Clubs at Builth Wells Saturday 15th of October. Contact Dai O Davies
poultryclubofwales@outlook.com Tel 01558822243
<https://www.poultryclubofwales.co.uk/schedules>

PCGB National Championship Poultry & Egg Show at The International Centre, Telford, TF3 4JH , 22 & 23 October 2022
 Tel: 01830 520856 info@poultryclub.org www.nationalshow.poultryclub.org
Also IRDC AGM

BWA Waterfowl Exhibition at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, Stratford Road, Stroud GL5 4AF
 Sunday, 30th October. Tel: 01794 390624 Email: beech997@yahoo.co.uk

It's going to be a very busy October! 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>



A Runner as black as a Black East Indian – something very hard to get.

Photos : Julian Burrell