

perience shows that their season of laying begins earlier and lasts longer than that of other ducks. They stand in this respect in the same relation to waterfowl as Hamburgs have done to poultry.

No claim is made for the species on the ground of their fitness for marketable purposes. I must, however, admit that, for those who can afford to breed them for their own use, they are a choice delicacy, their flesh being finer in texture and richer in flavor than that of most other ducks. The "Runners" are most active in their habits, capital foragers, and on a good run are able to find three-fourths of their own sustenance.

It is only on rare occasions they evince a desire to sit, and when they do so it is not wise to trust them with eggs, for they cannot be relied upon for successful incubation.

When young they are in no sense tender birds to rear; in fact, the ordinary attention bestowed on ducklings of other breeds suffices to bring them to a sound maturity.

Reference to my illustration and the "Standard of Perfection" which follows, will, I hope, enable my readers to make proper selection either for breeding or exhibition purposes.

STANDARD FOR INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS.

(As approved by the Waterfowl Club.)

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Head, Shape of Eyes and Bill.—Fine and comparatively flat, with the eyes situate high up. Bill strong at the base, broad and long, coming as near as possible straight down from the skull, giving it the appearance of a long wedge. The color of the bill when young is yellow, but as the birds grow a green line begins to develop at the base of the beak, and this is frequently accompanied by green spots, which gradually increase in number and size, until by the time the birds are a year old the whole surface of the mandible is entirely green; a black bean on the tip is preferable; 15 points.

Head Markings.—The head should be adorned with a cap and cheek markings, as near the same color of the body as possible; a narrow white line should divide the cap from the cheek marks, and a line of white about 1-3 of an inch should divide the base of the bill from the head markings; 10 points.

Neck.—As long and thin as possible, perfectly white from the head to where the breast marking begins, which should be about 1 1-2 to 2 inches from the base of the neck; 10 points.

Body.—Long, narrow, and racy looking, without the slightest indication of keel; 10 points.

Legs.—The legs are a deep bright yellow color, set well back, compelling the bird to carry its body erect, something like the form of a penguin; 5 points.

Body Markings.—Whatever color an Indian Runner may be, that color should be uniform throughout the whole of its surface plumage, except the tail of the drake which is darker. The breast should be evenly cut about half-way between the point of the breast-bone and the legs. The shoulders, top part of the wings, and tail should be of the same color as the breast, and should be the shape of a heart pressed flat on the back. Flights and fluff, white, except an indistinct line of color which runs from the base of the tail to the thighs; 25 points.

Symmetry.—General appearance, carriage, and condition, 25 points. Total number of points, 100.

Colors preferred. fawns and greys. Weights not to exceed 5 lbs. in either sex; a fair average weight for drakes is 4 1-2 to 4 3-4 lbs., and for ducks, 4 lbs.; 30 inches is considered a fair good length for a drake not exceeding 5 lbs., whilst 25 inches is considered a good length for a duck not exceeding 4 lbs. Any excess on these lengths in birds not exceeding the above weights should be allowed for as extraordinary merit.

It is the nature of the true Indian Runner duck to run without waddling, like most breeds of ducks, but, unfortunately, this

distinguishing characteristic cannot be seen in the show pen, for it is only observable when the ducks are at liberty.

Disqualifications.—Blue ribbon wing bars, claret breasts, horizontal shape or carriage, absence of feathers from the flights, secondary flights, or any other part of the body; slipped wings, wry tail, or any other deformity.



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