

Christmas 2000

IMPORTANT NOTICE HOLIDAY CLOSURE TIMES

Bellsouth will be closed for phone and counter sales from Friday, December 22, 2000 though to Monday 29 January 2001. Mail order, fax and email sales will be irregularly processed during that time.

FOR DELIVERY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

To ensure goods for Christmas arrive on time please place your orders before 15 December. If you require deliveries in January please place the orders at least 2 weeks in advance of requirements to ensure timely deliveries.

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Dear Friends,

I recently purchased some old colour plates in England, primarily for the pheasants for a customer order. I was surprised to find in the "bird" pictures a lovely plate of a Superb Lyrebird. The hand coloured lithograph dated 1855 is by an unknown author. Living in the Dandenong ranges near Melbourne also adds to the picture as we live near the forests where these birds can still be heard, though they are harder to see. The lyrebird is a great mimic and can imitate most sounds it hears. Healesville Sanctuary has a bird which can imitate a chainsaw. I read once of a bird which was moved from NSW to Tasmania. This bird had learned to mimic a child playing a recorder, and once moved taught other lyre birds in Tasmania to imitate the rather faulty playing of the recorder.

Our lives are often like that, we learn from "role models" how to behave, and how to live. We talk of our sports stars being good, and sometimes not so good role models for our children. So how do we select our role models? Who should we imitate? As parents we are reminded that mostly our children learn from us, for a few years anyway.. Upon reflection, I see that the Lyrebird imitates because of instinct, it cannot do other than follow its instincts. On the other hand I can choose who I will imitate and in turn, what sort of role model I will be. So who should we imitate in our lives and what sort of examples should we be.

I am reminded of the words of St Paul when he said "follow me". Scary stuff really. How many of us would publicly stand up to the wider world and say warts and all "do as I do". Mostly we hide our faults and in effects I say not as I do" A close look again at St Paul and we see he says "Follow me as I am following the Lord", and a little later "Be imitators of Christ, and love one another as He loved us and gave himself for us" Such a high standard for me to strive for, and so often to fail to achieve. But how much better the world would be if more people strove for those ideals of love and service. Our best wishes for the Christmas season from all the staff at Bellsouth.

Jim



OUT OF PRINT BOOK REVIEW

ANIMAL BREEDING BY

A.L. HAGEDOORN

First edition 1939

Various Editions up to 1950.

A.L. Hagedoorn is a renowned geneticist from Holland who worked in many countries of Europe, Asia and even toured Australia under the auspices of the CSIRO, speaking to farmers on how to improve the production of their stock.

I think a lot of exhibitors will find some comments in this book unsettling as Hagedoorn demolishes some of the sacred cows of exhibition. However, the plain exposition of the principles of genetics applied to stock improvement is very helpful, and very practical. Though targeted at larger stock, poultry feature throughout as examples of the techniques. Any breeder or new breeder who spends the time to learn the practices described by Hagedoorn cannot help but return the time spent learning with great improvements in their stock. The Later edition has an added chapter by Sykes on breeding Rhode Island Red for production. A yet later version is called Poultry Breeding written with Sykes. A worthy addition to any breeders library, values between \$10.00 and \$50.00.

WANTED

We are conducting trials on a new model Bellsouth incubator. In order to properly conduct these trials we now wish to place these test incubators in a wider actual field trial. We are looking for a number of users of our Bellsouth100 incubator who were perhaps considering the purchase of another unit and who can compare the operation of the new model alongside their current incubators. In particular we wish to compare performance in a tropical climate. If you are interested in being part of this trial, please call and speak to Jim about the full test protocol conditions. Please note only a limited number of units will be placed in the trial.

TWO DISCOURAGING POULTRY DISEASES AND THEIR DIAGNOSIS

SUMMERTIME is the time when we expect to see the fruits of our rearing season. To often however we watch the development of our birds to maturity only to be disappointed by morbidity and mortality (meaning sick and dead chooks). Two of the most misunderstood and confused diseases appear at this time just as the birds start to bloom. They are **Mareks disease** and **Mycoplasma**. Numerous times I see birds diagnosed incorrectly, so I thought a short spot should be dedicated to the differences seen in these two diseases. These diseases also tend to be immune suppressors so once they are active, the birds get all sorts of tertiary invaders which home in on the weakened birds and further fudge the diagnosis.

MAREKS DISEASE

Mareks disease is a neoplastic or cancerous disease. The first signs of this disease are a weakness in legs wings or neck, and sometimes in irregularity of the iris. The disease is a herpes virus which causes tumors to develop on the peripheral (around the edges) nerves. These tumors block the nerve signals so the bird loses some control of its limbs. As the disease spreads it usually will form tumors on the internal organs and the bird will die. The symptoms usually start as a minor stumble and progress until the bird is immobile. One of the distinctive features of Mareks is that the bird is usually in excellent condition when the first symptoms occur. The bird does not commence to lose weight until the tumors are spreading and the bird almost immobile. The bird contracts the disease very young but it does not express itself until 14 weeks up to about 24 weeks. There is no treatment, but can be prevented by vaccination. However there is a possibility of selection for genetic resistance. See below.

MYCOPLASMA GALLISEPTICUM (Mg)

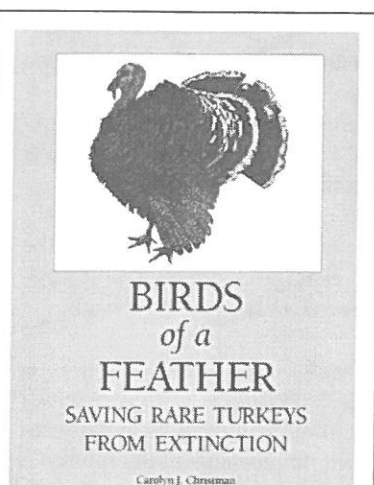
Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (Mg) effects the birds at many ages but the most misunderstood is the late summer onset. The birds appear healthy and active. However careful observation will probably reveal some weight loss long before any other symptom. Mostly the disease first causes a problem with mature or near mature birds, soon after a change in the weather from hot to cold, or a significant other stress like travel or a change of feed program. A few coughs or snicks heard in the shed at night, and soon after birds which appear weak in the legs. These birds are often called Mareks birds but examination usually shows both legs effected and the birds quite light in weight. The weakness is due to the loss of muscle strength in distinction to the better condition of the Mareks bird. A foul odour on the breath is also often present. At this time a trip to the vet with diagnostic procedures may reveal Mareks disease, coccidiosis, pasteurella, heamophilous, (otherwise known as eye colds, or bung eyes) However these disguise the fact that these are opportunistic invaders taking the opportunity of a weak bird. They are rarely the cause, and antibiotic treatment of these symptoms results in a temporary clearup of the symptoms to be quickly followed by a resurgence. The main difficulty is that the Mg lodges deep in the lungs and air sacs, and responds only temporarily to antibiotics. Recovered birds are carriers and if females WILL pass the bug to the next generation. Horizontal transmission is slow especially in small flocks, but often appears to be genetic as one breed or variety appears to be much more severely effected. This is usually due to a carrier amongst the females of that variety, passing the bug to the chicks of that variety. The effect also becomes more pronounced generation after generation, starting with only a few mature birds effected and finally effecting a lot of younger birds, degrading each season. Very difficult to treat once symptoms are apparent.

Continued on Page 3

SECOND HAND BOOKS

In recent times this part of our business has expanded. We have purchased several American collections and now are having Australian collectors offer us their excess. This means the range of titles available is growing and so is the turnover. Another catalogue is due in a few weeks. If you wish to receive the catalogue please contact us before December 5 so we can send you a copy.

The ornithology catalogue also lists the rest of the hand coloured lithos I mentioned in the editorial, with the pictures listed on the website under 'what's new'.



NEW

This turkey book is not your average management book, but rather a study of the conservation of the turkey. From the available genetic stocks, to the genetic makeup of the colours, this book is an interesting and informative work, from the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy. Worth while for anyone with a long term interest in this species. 260mm x 180mm 76pp with colour and b/w photos and illustrations paperback. \$76.00 inc post and GST.

THIS BOOK IS SO NEW

that we don't have all the detail.
Dr J Batty

OLD ENGLISH GAME COLOURS about \$50.00

Reported as well produced stock expected for Christmas.

TWO DISCOURAGING POULTRY DISEASES AND THEIR DIAGNOSIS from page 2

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

MAREKS

- 1/ Cleaning the shed by removal of the dust and dander from the breeder sheds but NOT immediately before the breeding season. If a clean out must occur just before breeding season, then do not dry dust the sheds. The dry dust is inhaled by the breeders and anecdotal evidence leads us to believe, increases the level of the virus shed onto the eggs and therefore to the chicks at hatch
- 2/ Vaccinate at day old if the losses are high (greater than 20%). However note the action of the vaccine does not stop the virus just the tumors so the birds continue to shed the virus into the environment. So if you do not vaccinate, you will lose birds.
- 3/ If possible breed for resistance. This is well documented, and involves delaying breeding until the birds are older, say at least 30 weeks preferable second year to ensure susceptible birds have had time for symptoms to become apparent. This is the hardest way because it does sometimes involve watching good birds get sick, and culling them from the flock.

MYCOPLASMA

- 1/ Reduce the level of the Mg in the parent breeders of susceptible strains. This can be achieved by the use of Tylan (script only) or tetracyclines (OxyB) in the diet or water of the breeder flock. The aim is to reduce the level of MG passed in the eggs.
- 2/ Use a preventative program of Dynamutillin during the growing life of the chicks, to keep the level of MG low in the birds and so remain below the "trigger" level of MG where it becomes an active disease. Dynamutillin is expensive but careful use with young chicks means not much material is needed to get good results. However use of Dynamutillin with mature birds is not recommended as Dynamutillin cannot be used with birds producing eggs for human consumption, and produces erratic results even after using a lot of Dynamutillin.
- 3/ Be prepared to follow a program for 3 generations until levels in the flock are well below that which will cause active disease.
- 4/ Reduce other trigger stresses such as parasites, dietary stress including diet changes, and heat stress.

OTHER POSSIBLE CONFUSION

I do not wish to muddy the water, but at the same time beware that there are many other diseases, which cause similar symptoms, and this is not intended to be a definitive study. This IS intended to advise that these are the two most commonly confused diseases, which we see almost daily.

MAREKS DISEASE

Watch out for tapeworm as this sometimes causes similar leg weakness to Mareks but usually effects both legs. Birds often recover after passing a worm. Occasional Mareks like symptoms with recoveries would indicate that a complete tape worm treatment for flock would be appropriate.

Leg weakness where the birds fall over, both legs effected, sometimes accompanied by twitching or drooping of the neck, birds can sometimes get up and walk a few steps but then fall down. Seems to spread over a period of days or weeks. Effects birds younger or older than usual Mareks span. Possible Newcastle disease.

MYCOPLASMA (Mg)

Mycoplasma is a slow spreading disease where mostly the disease is passed through the chicks with slow transmission between birds. One bird gets sick then another, then another. ILT is passed rapidly between the birds, with rapid onset, and often more than just a cough in the birds. Sometimes blood is discharged from the mouth.

EGG CARTONS AND PACKAGING MATERIAL

Please ensure that orders required in January are placed by December 15 as cartons are often scarce in the run to Christmas and we will need to ensure stocks are on hand for your January pickups.

PLEASE NOTE in February we hope to stock a greater range of packaging material in order to increase the convenience of supply. We hope to provide a one-stop shop for all your packaging along with egg handling, washing, grading etc.

MANAGEMENT TIP

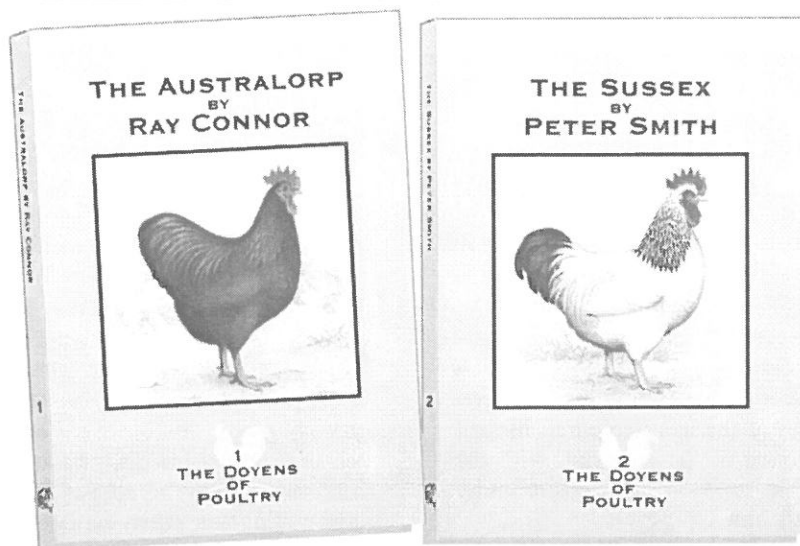
Looking after that broody in the hot weather can be a pain, especially if she is broody when you don't want her to be, and she is a stubborn sitter. Try a small dose of aspirin. About half a child's size aspirin will cause a drop in body temperature. The body temperature goes up naturally with broodiness and does not come down until broodiness ends. The aspirin lowers the body temperature and so the bird thinks her broodiness has ended.

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PLEASE RETURN LABEL IF ADDRESS
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IF NOT REQUIRED PLEASE RETURN TO
SENDER WITH LABEL INTACT

THE DOYENS OF POULTRY



Though we anticipated these books being available soon after the National show in June, they have proceeded though at a slower pace than anticipated. I am reliably informed this is not unusual in the publishing industry. However they are completed in text, art, and layout and being printed at this time. We have however run into the Christmas publishing rush and are informed that the binder will be unable to complete his work before Christmas. However we think that you will find them worth the wait. Having dewrinkled some of our software, we expect the next titles in the series to flow a little easier. The prepaid back orders will be sent as soon as they are completed and signed, and notices sent to the unpaid back orders.

BELLSOUTH MAIL ORDER DATA COLLECTION POLICY

Your name is on our mailing list because you have purchased from us or because you are in the poultry industry, and we hope you will buy from us in the future.

It is our policy to use this newsletter to increase your knowledge, to inform, and to encourage those who read it. We do not loan, give, sell, or lease our list to anyone. If you do not require this newsletter, please let us know and we will happily remove your name from the mailing list. Mark the newsletter return to sender, **but please leave the label intact and legible.**

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