

VARIOUS

NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS AND 'BUY AND SELL' MARKET

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Press release



AVICORNI KLEINDIERENSHOW NEDERLAND

**21-22-23 December 2007
in the Veemarkt Halls in Utrecht**

**Organised by The Royal Dutch
AVICULTURA and ORNITHOPHILIA**

NATIONAL SHOW

Poultry, Waterfowl, Ornamental fowl, Fancy pigeons, Rabbits and Cavies

Including:

The Dutch National for Pigeons

The National championship for Young Animals NBS

**Many stands and as usual many foreign visitors
This show gives a splendid opportunity to buy animals**

Info:

G.J. de Bruin, J.v.Heemskerklaan 40, 3603 GK MAARSSSEN.

Phone 0031-(0)346-566372

A word from the editors.....

Dear reader,

Today, while writing this, a little princess was born in the Netherlands and we congratulate the Crown Prince and his Lady for that!

Spring is one reason more for all of us to live our hobby to the max, in a time when the birth of new birds and animals brings us tremendous pleasure and fulfilment. More and more contacts have been established worldwide, there is a need for this form of fast information sharing; the latest Europe Show in Leipzig was a striking example for that!



Again, in this April issue we had to restrain ourselves not to exceed the initially desired number of 100 pages. We are happy to see that there is no shortage in manuscripts or interest and our archives have grown with each new issue.

As a new service, we consider offering print-outs and booklets, according to the 'print on demand' principle (provisionally only in Dutch). This can be 'monographs' (describing one breed), but also something like basic information for beginners; ideal publicity intended for our hobby and specifically for that large group of people, interested in keeping poultry or pigeons as a hobby, but still looking for guiding information. In short: promotion and information for a low price, on behalf of public and specialty clubs. Please inquire at uitgever@aviculture-europe.nl for further information.

Please tell us if you want to read about a certain poultry or pigeon breed. Thanks to our international team of contributors, our possibilities are nearly infinite. Among others, you can get information on "unknown" breeds, which, according to experts, are still to be found in Russia, China, or North Africa, or you can read about breeds that are almost extinct, and survive due to the care of a few dedicated breeders worldwide. Thus the clubs that bring such breeders together can be supported. For this type of contacts our digital magazine is ideal; this information cannot be found anywhere else, and sometimes some publicity is just the needed stimulant to regain interest in the breed, or bringing fanciers together. The price of our magazine, only € 11.45 / US\$ 15.00 / £8,50 per year, with 6 issues brimful of information, should not be an obstacle. Information at hand, as nowadays many people have an Internet connection, according to statistics. Enjoy reading our April issue!

With thanks to all contributors and subscribers,
on behalf of the team of Aviculture Europe,
Nico van Bente

THE FRAME

April 2007: Which breed is this?



Take your chance to win a free subscription!

Every reader may **GUESS** which Fancy Pigeon breed is portrayed in 'The Frame'. Please mail your answer to redactie@aviculture-europe.nl stating: 'Answer The Frame'.

With the issue of each new edition we will choose a winner amongst the correct entries. He or she gets a **one year free subscription** to Aviculture Europe.*

Answer February Frame: Modern Game (bantam)

To be more precise: a black red Modern Game, undubbed. And this time no wrong answers! It was a Roof-tile painting by Benedikt Stammmler, Germany. This artist prefers to paint on roof-tiles because he likes the particular 'dept' that the baked clay texture gives to the painting. Animals are his beloved subject, and he is a real specialist in painting poultry breeds and fancy pigeons.

The happy winner of the **one year free subscription** is: **Mike van der Most (NL)**

*Only to be won once per person!

advertisement

Don't miss it! Each issue of Aviculture Europe contains at least 100 pages with lots of full colour photos and a great variety of articles written by well known international authors; more and more join our team! More over, our subscribers will have unlimited admission to the archives where all former articles are saved. Over the years this will give an enormous database! The cost compares very favourably with 'printed' Magazines – US\$ 15,00 / UK £ 8,50 / € 11,45 per year - and gives a good insight into bird keeping all over Europe. For more information, see 'Subscription' (button left) at our website.



SPRING TIME

The combs of our hens are bright red. Their plumage is tight and shiny. The henhouse is filled with cackling all day long. They lay lots of eggs. And then, before you know, you are stuck with an enormous egg surplus! Of course you cannot have all the eggs hatched, and also the kitchen supply has its limits. Maybe it is a good idea to freeze them to use another time, when they lay less.

**In the picture: Marans cock with chicks of various breeds. (Don't try this at home!)
Photo: Dirk de Jong.**

Can eggs be frozen?

Answer: Yes, but NOT in their shells. The best way freezing eggs is to do this:

Break however many eggs you want to freeze into a bowl and mix together. Pour egg mix into plastic ice cube trays and freeze overnight. The next morning, transfer to freezer bags. Two frozen egg cubes equals 1 egg. Always thaw the egg in the refrigerator before using.

Wash out the ice cube tray with hot soapy water before using it again for making ice cubes!

Or don't you have many or any eggs?

This time of the year all hens should be laying, except of course the broody hens. Chickens that are kept in runs and lay no eggs are often too fat! You had better feed them layer feed (meal or pellets). This will be a balanced feed, and the chickens will do fine if you don't feed them anything else, like bread or kitchen left-overs. Supplying nothing but grain is not the right thing to do! Don't forget to offer extra grit/calcium (e.g. oyster shell) on the side, so they can eat the calcium they want without unwanted calories. Don't change the feeding too abruptly.

FASCINATING FEATHERS



Sometimes just looking at a single feather emphasises the beauty and uniqueness of a fowl's plumage.

Pictured here are several feathers of the Guinea Fowl in the Pearl and Lavender variety.

Other colours exist, e.g. the white. The official name is Helmeted Guinea Fowl and the scientific name is *Numida meleagris*.

In the picture: Secondaries; 1. and 2. of the Lavender Guinea Fowl and 3. of the Pearl Guinea Fowl. Next: 4. Lavender feather; 5. and 6. Pearl feathers.

Photo: Monique de Vrijer

Both male and female are generously and regularly marked with pearl-like white spots. In the Pearl variety the white spangles are at a dark-grey (at the back) to blackish (breast, belly, sides) ground colour; the largest and most circular pearls on the bird appear in the fluff feathers at the rear of the bird.

In the Lavender variety the pattern is identical to that of the Pearl; the ground colour of the plumage is light grey (back), or lavender (breast, belly, sides), with a somewhat purple shine at the breast.

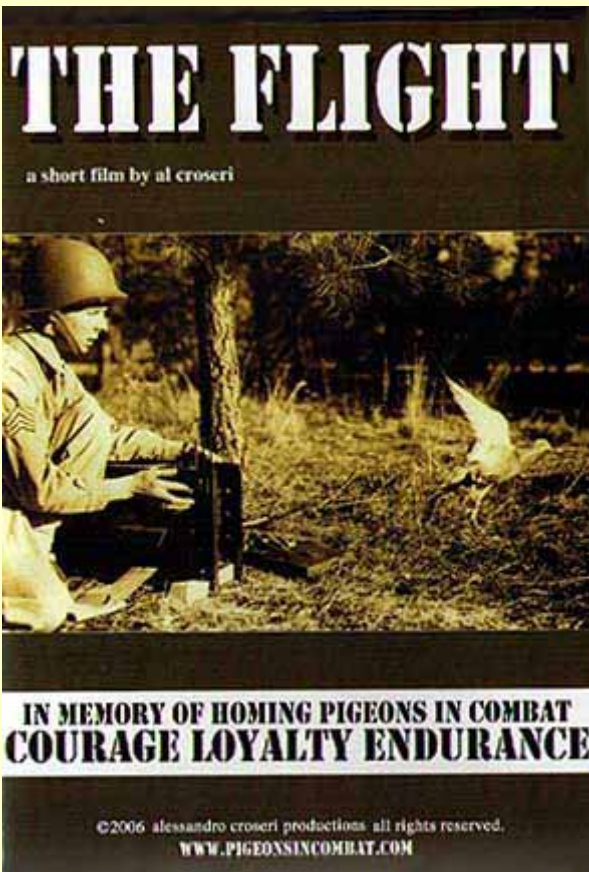
The Guinea Fowl is native to Africa and the scientific name of the fowl, *Numida meleagris*, already appears in Greek mythology. Numida is the old name for northwest Africa, and Meleagris is Greek for guinea fowl.

In a Greek myth, a hero, Meleager, who succeeded in killing the Caledonian boar, was burnt to death by his mother. Meleager's sisters, called the Meleagris, could not stop weeping while mourning for their brother. So finally Artemis / Diana, the goddess of the hunt, took pity and transformed them to guinea hens. (Ovid., *Met.*8, 540) The tears that they shed showered their plumage with white pearls and the squeaky cackling of these noisy birds was taken to represent mourning.



**Pearl Guinea Fowl and
Lavender Guinea Fowl.**

Photo: Monique de Vrijer



Dr. Rick Wright - Film review:
THE FLIGHT – IN MEMORY OF HOMING PIGEONS IN COMBAT. By Alessandro Croseri.
www.pigeonsincombat.com

Feathered rats, RoPi-dopes, pigs in space: How we birders love to hate 'em! Even those of us who confess to a grudging admiration for such aliens as European Starlings and House Sparrows have nothing but scorn for the Rock Pigeon, a filthy beast that, in its nearly worldwide introduced range, has never made the break with its utter dependence on man and his habitats.

But even the most cursory look reveals that like all creatures, Rock Pigeons have a fascinating natural history, as Cornell's Project PigeonWatch continues to remind us. And the very commensalism that makes so many of us look down on the lowly pigeon means that the species has long enjoyed a special and privileged place in cultural history, too. Alessandro Croseri's moving Flight is a brief video homage to one aspect of that cultural history, the role that Rock Pigeons have played in war. Combining historic stills with beautiful images of pigeons flying free over New York City, The Flight reminds us that homing pigeons, by carrying messages and even taking

photo- graphs with cameras strapped to their iridescent-feathered necks, saved lives and won battles in the First and Second World Wars. The film does without narration, relying on a somber but appealing sound track and the juxtaposition of images to carry its message. Particularly memorable is the morphing of pigeon wing beats into artillery fire, and the visual fade of a flock of birds into a squadron of bombers.

Such images might suggest that Rock Pigeons in combat were nothing more than another weapon. But Croseri includes other, equally remarkable images showing the birds and their relationship to their human handlers. Pigeons are cradled and caressed before being sent "into harm's way," and their sacrifices are commemorated both photographically and taxidermically. In one of the film's more bizarre shots, captured 'enemy' pigeons are paraded through town in cages, simultaneously spoils of war and prisoners.

Al Croseri is to be congratulated on an effective and moving piece of film-making, and anyone interested in birds and their place in human history is encouraged to watch this film. It will change the way you think about pigeons.

Nico van Benten, Pigeon Fancier, The Netherlands.

"THE FLIGHT" by Alessandro Croseri. A very special short film.

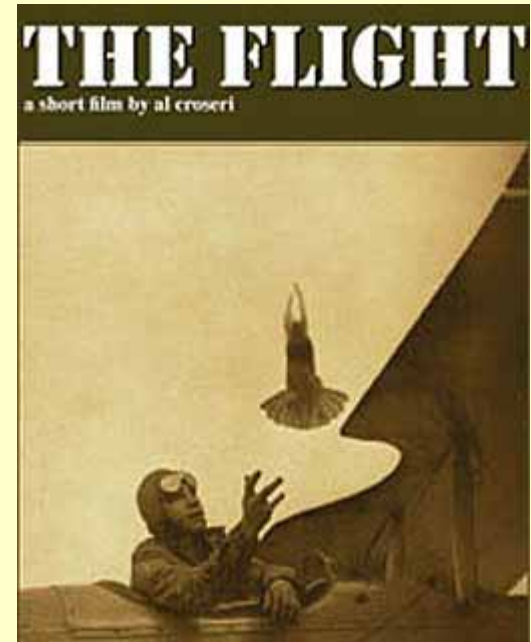
Technically, the producer Alessandro Croseri, completely succeeded in presenting us an emphatic film on homing pigeons that were used in WW1 and WW2 to deliver messages and 'spy' on enemy activity. The movie is a clever mix of historical photos and film shots of live pigeons and the perfectly chosen background music and soundtracks make the film even more impressive. Even those who have no real interest in (homing)pigeons, will be moved when seeing the birds, the camera's hanging on their breasts, bravely airborne in spite of the serious dangers facing them. Of course the notion 'brave' is given by us, humans, but it is the same 'human' value showing us the pigeons with their 'record of service' at the end of the film. It is good to see that they were not all killed in battle but at least a number of them were able to live on in a more pleasant way of life.

All together we are presented with a view of 'pigeons in war-time', a registration of an important part of those battles, but which also raises questions on other more subtle facets of this practice. It is a pity that the film does not further examine these aspects.

The film has truly earned its place in the US Army Communications Electronics Museum and we join in the filmmakers appeal to 'Join them in The Flight, slow down, think and remember'.

Nico van Benten, Pigeon Fancier, The Netherlands.

www.pigeonsincombat.com



New Group for Breeders of Asiatic Longtail Fowl & Long-Crowers



INTRODUCTION

In spite of their wonderful appearance and unique feathering, these breeds never got the attention and interest they deserve. Now it is time to make a change! We decided to develop a website on the breeds, giving the new Club the full publicity and attention and giving us the possibility to do some coaching.

We also started a forum, aiming on getting enough feed-back from the fanciers of above mentioned breeds to justify the new Breeder's Group.

Which are the aims of this initiative?

Preserving original type, breed specifics and character of the named breeds; attend to the needs of the breeds; giving authentic breed information and stimulate the communication among breeders.

We welcome all fanciers of Sumatra, Yokohama, Phoenix, Onagadori, Ohiki, Minohiki, Cubalaya, Satsumadori, Shokoku, Totenko, Koeyoshi, Tomaru, Soendan, Kurekadori and Kurogashiwa (and others?) large fowl as well as bantams. Communication among members will be by means of an Internet Forum, an online-newsletter and a periodical meeting.



The strength of this new initiative lies in these two notions:
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION.

Please don't hesitate to address any questions, answers, critics or relevant information concerning these breeds, to the members of this Group.

Thank you kindly for your support and dedication!

Left: Phoenix, Photo: Mick Bassett.

The new website and forum:
<http://agsglobal.tripod.com/langstaartkraai/intro/intro.htm>

This is an initiative of the Dutch ASIAN GAMEFOWL SOCIETY.

NEST FOOT

Sometimes a pigeons has one or more crooked toes and cannot put the foot down properly. With the pigeon in the picture this was caused by a broken toe that did not heal well. Sometimes crooked toes appear in the nest and that's why it is sometimes called 'a nest foot'.

However, this is hardly ever caused by an 'accident' but can often be a genetic fault inherited from the Parents or mineral deficiency.

The pigeon is not much troubled by this fault, because it differs from other birds, poultry for instance; pigeons are from the genus *Columba livia* and usually never roost in tree branches, but always roost (sleep) on a flat surface. At the most it could be a bit inconvenient for a cock bird when mounting the hen.

The pigeon in the picture is a Thief Pouter hen, so not a real 'breed', bred from crossing various Pouter Breeds for their flying skills. In Thief Pouters it is more the behaviour than the looks of the pigeons that counts. In Holland, this sort of pied marked pattern is called '*kras oliebon*'.



Photo: Aviculture Europe

BLACK SWANS



The Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*) originated in Australia, where it is commonly found in the wetlands of southeast and southwest Australia. They often build their nests in colonies.

Around 1800 the first Black Swans were imported in Europe. One pair was presented to Empress Josephine de Beauharnais. They were set free in the ponds of her Castle of Malmaison at the banks of the Seine (today the Napoleon Museum) and soon started nesting. In 1831 London Zoo received its first pair of Black Swans and in 1858 the Dutch waterfowl breeder J. Polvliet from Rotterdam succeeded in getting hold of a pair. His Black Swans succeeded in raising 98 youngsters in 5 years! So the Black Swan seems not to care a bit being captured or moved to another climate.

Photo 1: A Black Swan, swimming towards me, threatening, with much showing off and water displacement.

The Black Swan is 130cm (52in) 44 to 55 inches (112-140 cm.) long and weighs up to 9kg (20lbs); the female is slightly smaller and lighter than the male. They both have all black plumage, with curled feathers at the wings. The eyes are red, and they also have a red bill with a white bar and yellow bill bean. The legs are dark grey.

The eggs are light green, incubation time is 34 to 40 days. Male and female swans share the care of the nest and both incubate the eggs, something very unique among swans!
The young swans, called cygnets, have light grey plumage. It takes three years before they mature.

In Australia, the nesting season occurs from March through September, but in Europe they will breed at any time and also more than once a year! These pictures were taken on March 1st 2007; the cygnets were 3 weeks old at the time.

Source:
Sier- en Watervogels,
A.S. Heijboer en R.R.P
van der Mark.

Photos:
Aviculture Europe



8 September International Cochin Day

Dear Cochin breeders,

After we had to cancel the international Cochin Day last year because of the bird flu we now started the organisation of the third international Cochin Day. It will take place on Saturday the 8th of September 2007 and once more in the 'Dorpshuis' at Zeddam, near the German border.

Cochins and Cochin bantams can be entered in any colour. There will also be a show and a sale. We invite you all to come and bring some birds to this great happening. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow breeders from all over Europe and also a good chance to obtain fresh blood or a new colour variety of Cochin or Cochin bantam.

The main prize is a Cochin Day Rosette for the best Cochin, as well as for the best Cochin bantam.

As always we hope that the European Cochin clubs will sponsor this day with some prizes and also every private individual can sponsor the day with a prize. Just let us know on the email-address below (before the end of April, please) so that we can compose the final program, which you can get from June at the same email addresses. It will include an entry form.



Again there will be an international team of judges.

We have contacts with ten different countries (Clubs and individual persons) which will all be invited to join us that day. There is a good hotel near to the show building for those who will travel on Friday.

All other information you can read in the program.

Contacts:

Gerrit Bosch: gerit-rikielbosch@hetnet.nl for Holland and Belgium

Ardjan Warnshuis: warnshuis@lembecker.de for all other countries



So mark your calendar:

8th September
COCHIN DAY
in Zeddum (NL)

See you,
Gerrit and Ardjan.

Here is the new address
of my site:

<http://ardjanscochins.11Omb.com/index.php>

Ardjan

Pigeon Perches

By: Mick Basset and Nico van Benten

There are different types of perches, each suitable for different breeds.

Picture 1.

It can be a pedestal perch; usually a flat circle of wood about 4 inches across that is held out from the wall by means of a metal support. Very suitable for breeds with muffed feet, as it prevents damaging the foot feathers. These require careful positioning.



Picture 2.

Another variety is the V perch, with (wooden or plastic) shelves on both sides to prevent droppings falling onto the pigeon below, so you can make several V-perches fixed above one-another on the walls.

Not really suitable for muffed feet breeds, but certainly the security of an individual perch, which will give more peace and quiet in the loft than a roost or walking board. (Normally two sizes available, according to the size of the Breed.)





Picture 3.

For Fantails you would have a 'shelf' or 'walking board' (a flat board, wider than the Bird) so they carry their tails correctly and 'walk' about rather than 'perching' (sitting ON the perch), as this makes them drop their tails downwards, not good for showing them.

Jacobin are also more comfortable on the walking boards.

Picture 4.

Wooden squares or box perches are suitable for clean legged pigeon breeds that require a private perch, like Holle Croppers, English Modena and German Modeneser.

The boxes prevent seeing each other and prevent fighting in the loft.

Droppings fall down backwards by means of the sloping bottoms of the boxes, so they will not soil each other. (These should be narrow enough to prevent 'nesting' and only big enough for one bird to perch comfortably, so need to be built appropriate to the size of the Breed)



Photos: Aviculture Europe

COCK OR HEN?

Sometimes it is hard to tell if we have a hen or a cock.

In the picture you see a colombian Wyandotte bantam, which has cock-sized comb and wattles but typical hen plumage, so no saddle hackle, tail sickles or such.



This chicken never laid an egg and did not crow.

Although growing up together up from hatching, it was no longer accepted when the group matured.

This is a mistake of Mother Nature.

In the other picture you see a black Silkie, with a rather large comb, and it crowed every day.

Still 'she' laid her eggs as a good girl should!

This can be rather common in Game breed hens (same as having spurs), and is often seen as a sign of vitality of the hen.

But every once in a while we hear stories of a hen, which spent a good part of her life laying eggs until one morning she started crowing like a cock bird. Often 'she' grows bigger wattles and tail feathers or even tries to mate the other hens.

Such stories are no fabrication, as in fact, this can really happen. It may occur when a damaged ovary (e.g., ovarian cyst or tumour) makes the ovary regress and causes the hen's testosterone levels to soar.

Typically, female chickens only have one functional ovary, the left one. The right ovary and oviduct are present in the embryonic stages of all birds, but typically do not develop in chickens.

In the absence of a functional left ovary, residual tissue in the right ovary will regenerate and secrete androgens, as well as oestrogen. As a result, the bird may develop male secondary characteristics, although the bird still is genotypically female.

This is a case of sex reversal and completely different from the other 2 examples.

Photos: Aviculture Europe



The FiP

By: Dirk de Jong

FiP is short for: The Fancy in Practice (in Dutch & Flemish: Fok in Praktijk). It is a group of young people who form an independent youth club within the Angoraclub Brugge, Belgium. With co-ordination of the 'large' club they have their own board and financial means. Besides that, they are also fully-fledged members of the Angoraclub with the same rights and duties as the other members. The FiP organises meetings and breed's discussions, they organise the collective purchase of animal feed for the club members and give education at schools. Also organising joint visits at exhibitions is in the hands of the FiP.

Photo left:

The hard core of the Fip consists of Hannes Schoon-vaere, Kevin Gchesquiere, Simon van den Berghe and the two brothers Bram and Broes De Rudder.

They are very active breeders who enjoy making new colour varieties. The 'technical' questions on breeding can be propounded to the very skilled senior judge Rudy Theylaert (called 'Granddad' in jest). This form of co-operation works both ways; the seniors teach the juniors the fine skills of the fancy, and the juniors teach the seniors the fine skills of the internet! The FiP has its own website <http://www.werkgroepfip.be/> where all activities are announced.



WPA PHEASANT DAY in Rotterdam Zoo

On **21 April 2007** WPA (World Pheasant Association)-Benelux is organising the 27th Pheasant Day in the Rotterdam Zoo 'Blijdorp' in the splendid Oceanium Hall of this zoo. Another keynote of the day is the renewed co-operation of the WPA with this splendid zoo.

The participants are offered an interesting programme:

- PowerPoint presentation concerning a number of practical applications in his Pheasantry 'Bakkersboschje' in Putte, by Gert Kieft.
- The future of our birds. By: Prof. Dr. G.M. Dorrestein, former director Pathologisch laboratory of the Utrecht University and present director of the Dutch Research Institute for birds and rare animals.
- The development of the Rotterdam Zoo, by Mr. Harald Schmidt, bird curator of the zoo.

Programme after lunch:

- The research of the genus *Lophura*. By: Dr. Sibyle Moulin. Sibyle is from France and did this research within the framework of her doctorate study in biology in association with Dr. Ettore Randi, DNA-specialist of the 'Istituto Nazionale per la Fauna Selvatica' in Bologna.
- From 14:15 hrs a tour around the zoo, guided by a bird conservator is planned and up to closing time free visit to the park is possible.

The costs of the day programme are 22.50 euro (non-WPA members 30,00 euro) including access to the zoo, a welcome-drink, lunch, participating in the congress and guided tour around the Zoo. If there is sufficient interest an evening programme including dinner will be organised from 18.30 with our foreign guests.

Check-in is possible by e-mail m.vanden.wittenboer@wanadoo.nl or by telephone 031 (0)413-224102 or fax 031 (0)413-224103. More info at www.wpa-benelux.info





LOST

By: Dirk de Jong

Spring is in the air, and nothing nicer than going out on my bike in the Dutch polder-land around my village IJsselstein and observe the dawning of 'Mother nature' after the winter period. And each day I wonder: what will I discover today? The first buds on the trees, the blooming pilewort, and already a mallard's nest! But I could not believe my eyes when I saw this beautiful goose in the grass near the pond! I shot some pictures and back home I searched my books to find out what it was.

It turned out to be a Magellan goose! Well, as their homeland is somewhere around Chile, we may presume that it escaped somewhere (or maybe set

free, by a desperate Waterfowl keeper, due to the stringent rules on keeping waterfowl in Holland since the bird flu threat?)

The Magellan or Upland Goose (*Chloephaga picta*) originates in southern South America and the Falkland Islands. It is very common and often regarded as a nuisance by the local farmers, because of their exclusively vegetarian diet consisting of grass, leaves and seeds.

The plumage of male and female is very different.

Male: Head, neck and chest white. Mantle, abdomen and flanks white with wide black lines. Black bill. Black legs.

Female: Head and neck brick red. Mantle and chest rufous with black lines. Black bill. Yellow legs.

