

VARIOUS

NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS AND 'BUY AND SELL' MARKET

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A Word from the editors . . .

Dear reader,

In Holland, the first 2 months of spring looked more like a long summer Nature seems to be totally off strike and not every fancier has had a good breeding season up till now. However, the last weeks seem to be better for everyone; logically, it is May, the month in which in general the best birds are born. This is the best season of the fancy when we all enjoy the young birds, flourishing in the fine weather.



Several weeks ago I had some visitors from abroad. One of them was the President of the French specialty club for Tumblers and High flyers, he wanted to have an impression of Dutch Tumblers and/or High flyer breeds that are kept and bred in The Netherlands. So I planned a trip so that we could visit a number of breeders and I must say that we received a warm and hearty welcome everywhere we went. For this man from France and his German travelling companion, this day was an incredible experience; afterwards he sent me several thank-you mails stating that to them this had been a day in 'Pigeon Paradise'.....

It made me realise that we in fact take all this for granted: the great number of breeds, most of them having a great historical and cultural value, and also the ease with which Dutch fanciers can contact each other, as often as they want, because they live fairly close together. I think that this is a rather unique position, at least much better than abroad! In France, your next neighbour breeder will probably be 200 km away. Not to mention the situation in the USA, with 2,000 registered fancy pigeon breeders living on 9.6 million square kilometres. To compare: In the Netherlands (35,000 square kilometres) we have about 1,800 registered fancy pigeon breeders.

For those of you who will go on holiday in the coming months, enjoy it! We will all meet again in the next issue of Aviculture Europe, a world-wide magazine, with a lot of friends.

With thanks to all contributors and subscribers,
On behalf of the team of Aviculture Europe,

Nico van Bente

THE FRAME

June 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 April Frame: Marchenero Cropper

Many correct answers this time, although some thought it was a Valenciana Cropper. However, that breed has a hanging crop!

This Marchenero Cropper was painted by: Emilio Blasco (ES). Emilio is an international pigeon judge, but he is especially famous for his pigeon and poultry paintings. They represented a perfect reproduction of the animal, but are always enriched in Emilio's peculiar artistic way.

The happy winner of the **one year free subscription** is: **George A. Miller (GB)**

*Only to be won once per person.

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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 the magazine gives a good insight into bird keeping all over Europe. For more information, see 'Subscription' (button left) at our website.

PIGEON BREEDING



Each year, the most beautiful and attractive period for the pigeon fancier is the breeding season, when the young pigeons are born. A lot of fanciers want to decide for them when to start breeding. They separate the males and females during the winter time, so there is a sort of a 'rest period' for the pigeons. There are also other reasons to stop breeding for a while for a certain time. Although the seduction is sometimes large, especially when it did not 'run smoothly this year' with the production in the beginning or when the expected quality has not been found yet or the fancier wants nevertheless to obtain the planned number to get rid of the ordered rings.

Experts are convinced that pigeons born after the 1st of July have a big change on moulting problems. A pure hormone question, because the pigeon body is regulated in such a way that the 'big' moult is blocked by the breeding process or during the time they feed their youngsters. The longer we continue after the 1st of July, the bigger the problem. The real start of the big moult will be postponed, but when the nights are getting colder it will stop anyway. At the Winter Shows, this can be seen in the primaries of the pigeons that have been breeding after the 1st of July, because their primaries did not moult.

The same holds for the young pigeons that are born 'too late'; in fact, for them the moult or the change from the baby feathers to the adult feathers will never be completed. Another important thing for these young pigeons is that they stop developing and will have a delay in physical development the next year. It is often said that the next year for such a late born pigeon is a lost year.

In the picture: A White Figurita Owl and young. Photo Ad van Benten.

FASCINATING FEATHERS



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

Pictured here are two a feathers of a partridge Brahma hen.

The feather pattern is a number of concentric rings of black on a 'gold' ground colour; in this case the 'gold' is diluted to a soft partridge brown.

The outer ring of the feather is 'gold' although most of time there is a black fringe. The black lacing should not be too broad, leaving a sufficient amount of partridge brown colour in the feathers.



Left: Feathers of a partridge Brahma hen. The upper feather showing some black fringe in the outer ring, which is not preferred.

Photos: Aviculture Europe.

Ideal is a uniformly pattern in back, breast, belly and thighs and an even shade of colour all over.

This variety also comes in blue partridge, the black rings are blue, and in silver pencilled, where the golden ground colour of the hens is changed into a light silvery-grey.

Right: Partridge Brahma bantam pullet. Photo: Monique de Vrijer.



Advertisement



3 - 5 January 2008

During their last general meeting, held on Thursday the 8e May 2007, the board of the Noordshow association notified that the 'Noordshow' exhibition including the Dutch National Championship of Poultry and Waterfowl, will take place in the Exposition Hall "Prins Bernhardhoeve" in Zuidlaren, as usual. Website <http://www.noordshow.nl/> Please spread the news!

With kind regards,
Albert Wijnholds, General secretary



'Insigne d'Or' of the French SNC awarded to Nico van Bente

Saturday 21 April 2007 Nico van Bente has been awarded the 'Insigne d'Or' (Golden Pin of Honour) of the SNC - Société Nationale de Colombiculture (The French National Pigeon Union) due to his merit in the Pigeon Fancy. This golden pin was presented together with a 'Diploma' to match.

The presentation on behalf of the SNC took place at the house of Nico van Bente in Delft, by the president of the Club des Amis du Culbutant et du Haut-Volant d'Exposition CACHE, Mr. Dominique Harmant from Strasbourg, France, in the presence of Mr. Thomas Hellmann, the famous German pigeon photographer and publicist.

The award had already been granted on 24 September 2005, however due to various reasons, e.g. the availability of the persons concerned, the awarding has only recently taken place.

The Team of Aviculture Europe congratulates Nico on this exceptional honour!

On behalf of the Team,
Elly Vogelaar.



REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS OF THE ROOSTER

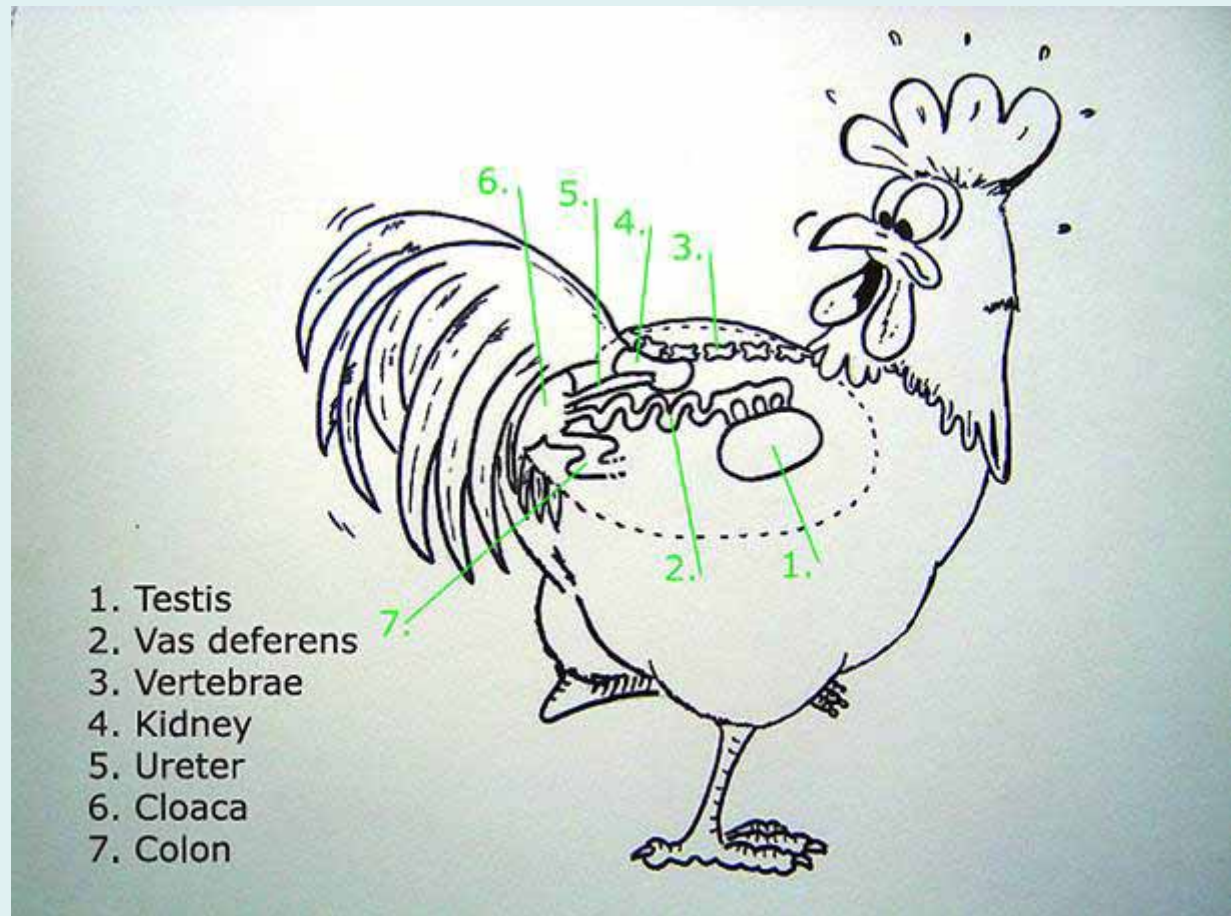
The reproductive organs of the hen are often described and illustrated, but what about the male's organs?

The rooster possesses two testes, attached to the back, just below the anterior lobes of the kidneys and to the rear of the lungs. They are elliptical in shape and light yellow to white in colour. The testes vary in size, from 'bean' size to 'chestnut' size, being very small when sexual activities are low as during the moult.

In the testes sperm and the male hormone testosterone are produced. The testes discharge the seminal fluid into the two ducts known as 'vas deferens'. Each duct opens into a small bump, or papilla, which is on the dorsal wall of the cloaca. These papilla serve as the copulatory organ.

Although the drake and gander have an easily recognisable organ, in the rooster this is not so. The tiny 'thing' which is (incorrectly) named 'rudimentary copulatory organ' is only visible in day-old chicks and used to classify the sex of baby chicks.

Cartoon: Monique de Vrijer





CAUCHOISCLUB BELGIE

season 2007/2008

Dear Cauchois friends,

Although still in the middle of the breeding season, we look ahead to our upcoming activities:

8 September 2007 at Wevelgem (B). Club day / young bird show. Each year it takes place at a different location, combined with a visit to the loft of one of the club members. Each member brings four young birds to compete in a contest where all the present members judge the pigeons.

Other planned activities for the year 2007 are:

13 - 14 October 2007 Promotion Show in Menen (B)

10-11 November 2007 European Cauchois Show in Mulhouse (F)

Each year the Cauchois-European show is for most breeders in Europe the far most important meeting of the year. Breeders of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland bring together hundreds of Cauchois in the 15 recognized varieties.

24 - 25 November 2007 Club Championship Show in Affligem (B)

More information and contact:

<http://www.cauchois.be>

Kind regards, Filip Vierstraete

Foto: Cauchoisclub



GROOMING PIGEONS

Karel Janssens from Turnhout, a Belgian pigeon fancier, has devised a bird-friendly method for trimming the hood of his Saxon Shield pigeons in a calm and relaxed way.

By means of two pieces of a PVC pipe, hinged together, the pigeon is 'fixed' and can hardly move and being aware of that, it will react less stressfully.

Other fanciers wrap the bird in a towel, giving a comparable result; however, Karel's method is more stable.



In this position, the hood can easily be trimmed (clipping some feathers with a sharp scissors to refine the lining of the hood); there is a good overview, so there is less chance of mis-clipping.

Still this is a job for specialists; although some are able to trim their birds while keeping them in the hand.

The 'big secret' lies in vertical clipping instead of horizontal.

Foto: Aviculture Europe

BREED SPECIFIC EUROPEAN SHOWS 2007/08

POULTRY

- Australorp and Australorp bantam, 9.- 11. November 2007 in Ostrau (D)
- Twents Fowl and Twents bantam, 17.- 18. November 2007 in Welper (B)
(applied for)
- Silkies and Poland Bantams Club , 17.- 18. November 2007 in Germany (applied for)
- Brahma, Brahma bantam, Cochin, Cochin bantam, 24.- 25. November 2007 in Afflichem (B)
- Sussex, Sussex Bantam, Orpington, Orpington Bantam, Dorking, Dorking Bantam, January 2008 in Zuidlaren (NL)

PIGEONS

- English Pouter and Pygmee Pouter, 17.- 18. November 2007 in Zagreb (HR)
- Danzig Highflyer, 23.- 25. November 2007 in Keulen (D) (granted)
- Short beak Owls, 23.- 25. November 2007 in Keulen (D) (granted)
- Ghent Croppers, 23.- 25. November 2007 in Keulen (D)
- Montauban, 8.- 9. December 2007 in Metz (F) (granted)
- Komorner Tumbler, 5.- 6. January 2008 in Dachau (D)
- Chinese Owl, 12.- 13. January 2008 in Herford (D)
- Jacobin, 18.- 20. January 2008 in Schopfloch (D) (granted)
- Vienna and Budapest Tumbler, 26.- 27. January 2008 in Barleben (D) (granted)



TWO FEMALES, ONE MALE

It seems that here we have a case of a 'three pigeon relation'. For ordinary pigeons, like racing pigeons and fancy pigeons, I can't remember ever having heard about such a situation. The racing pigeons and Fancy Pigeons belong to the family of the Columba Livia, being monogamous birds. Although it is possible, that when separated in groups of males and females, and that situation continues for a longer period, they may start homo relations, like two males or two females. But when the groups are reunited again it will be over in a minute!

However, these are Barbary (Ringneck) Doves (*Streptopelia roseogrodea*) and they have been inseparable in this group – 2 females and one male – for several weeks now and have already laid 4 eggs, as a proof that there were two females involved.

Unfortunately this breeding was disturbed by some other animals, so there was no proof that all four eggs were indeed fertilised and the two females had paired with the same male.

At this moment one egg had hatched and the youngster is fed by all three of the 'parent' doves. The conclusion we can make is that the male has successfully paired with at least one of the females, with this result.



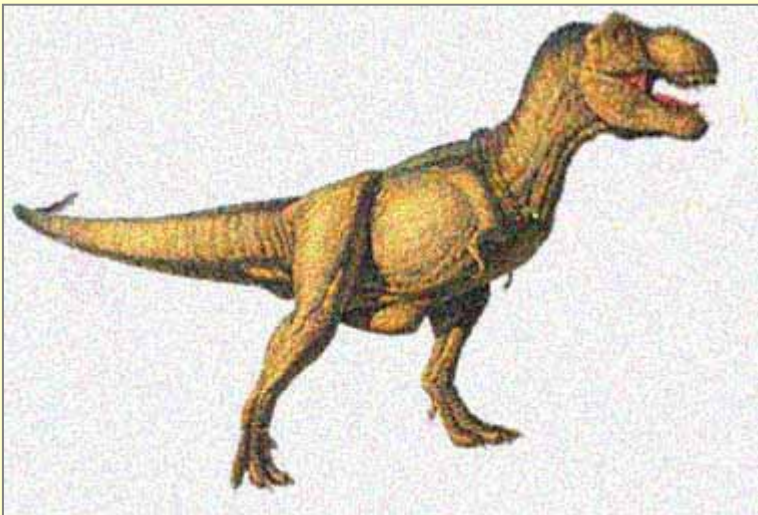
Photo: Dirk de Jong

CHICKENOSAURUS REX

By: Bobo Athes

For the ones who have seen Jurassic Park, the famous Hollywood production, this article might come as a surprise. The most ferocious beast was the gigantic Tyrannosaurus Rex (or shortly T.Rex), with its knife-like fangs and mean look, always on the run for food and prepared to crash everything that stood in its way. What connection could there be between such an awesome creature and the humble chicken?

Of course, we all learned in school about the theory stating that dinosaurs are the ancestors of present birds. But from this to the latest scientific theory is a long way, and it all originated in an "accident" – a team of paleontologists, lead by Mary H. Schweitzer, had to break a T. Rex bone in order to load it into a helicopter. Much to their surprise, they discovered a soft and still elastic tissue inside the bone. They later discovered that the bone was 68 million years old; in theory, there could not have been any type of soft tissue (collagen, in this particular case) that could survive more than 1 million years.



Dr. John Asara from Harvard Medical School analyzed the substance using the latest techniques, from spectrometry to computer analysis.

The result was at least astounding: apparently, the closest living relative to the mighty T.Rex is the no one else than the ordinary chicken. Yes, the ones you usually see on poultry farms, searching for worms or laying eggs, or the kind that breeders wash and prepare for shows.

From the 7 sequences of amino acids isolated by Dr. Asara, 5 belonged to a particular class of collagen. Out of these 5, 3 matched the genome of the modern chicken (compared to only one matching that of a frog and one that of a newt). So, the finding supports the idea of a close tie between the Tyrannosaurus and the chicken.

The spreading of this sort of news immediately caused many debates in the scientific world, some researchers being more enthusiastic in proclaiming chickens the direct descendents of dinosaurs, and some questioning the very methods used for drawing to this conclusion.

One thing is certain, though: beyond all kinds of disputes, the continuation of research will likely unravel amazing facts about life on Earth in general and its ways of evolving. Moreover, the study on the survival of molecules, approached from this new perspective, will bring tremendous benefits to medical science as well.

But even before you know exactly whether this hypothesis is to become a proven theory, confirmed by other researchers, maybe you should give a little more credit to your chickens.

And keep in mind that they do sometimes look like little dinosaurs – it's enough to look at the shadow of a Brahma chick, and you'll get the picture. After all, you wouldn't want to upset T. Rex's cousin...

Source: [Science](#) 13. April 2007.

www.sciencemag.org/



REMARKABLE

In old time magazines (for example *Chasse et Pêche*) can be read that before the year of 1900, poultry at an exhibition were sent in and judged as a trio, and pigeons as a pair.

Around 1900 it was also customary to exhibit dressed chickens, pigeons, ducks, geese and turkeys as well as skinned rabbits.

The 1935 Ornithophilia Show (The Netherlands) was the first Exhibition that had separate classes for exhibition fowl and utility fowl. The chickens were entered as a breeding pen; 1 male and 4 females, which were judged on utility qualities by qualified commissioners.



In 1921 The Belgian magazine '*Het Neerhof van Antwerpen*' mentions that from that time non-removable foot rings are available, however without any compulsion for use.

Cock-crowing championships were also arranged. To get an idea: At the exhibition of the '*Jeunes Aviculteurs de Belgique*', the first prize was granted to an Antwerp barb, which had crowed 180 times in one hour.

Also in those years: exhibiting with lots of 25 eggs, which were judged at exterior and contents - quality of both white and yolk – and were therefore opened. Eggs with double yolks were disqualified.

This way of showing egg is very common in the United Kingdom, and - after a hundred years - it is again catching on in the Netherlands and Belgium.



Photos: Dirk de Jong



http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/Pigeon_Bratt/

CHILDREN AND PIGEONS

Of course children are interested in animals and in pigeons. Especially when it concerns young pigeons, which they are allowed to hold for a moment, very carefully! They will feel the helplessness of such a young pigeon and at the same time realise the will to live of such a newly born pigeon, with its eyes still closed. This is the time to let children become interested and involved in our sport; an investment for later. How many of these four children will one day start keeping fancy pigeons as a hobby?

Photo: Ad van Bente

