

Poultry Department

BLUE ANDALUSIANS—AS GENERAL UTILITY FOWLS.

How often are we Blue Andalusian fanciers confronted with the question, "What are these birds, called Blue Andalusians, really like, and what are they good for?" Now, gentle reader, this would not be so bad if coming from one who does not know that there even exists so valuable a work as the American Standard of Perfection; but we even sometimes find supposed fanciers who regard Blue Andalusians as somewhat of a myth.

Blue Andalusians, as all true fanciers well know, are Standard Mediterranean, coming originally from a province of Southern Spain. They have been bred up to the present high standard of perfection in England, for the past fifty years, where they are very popular. In America at present we find the class rather small, even in our leading shows, owing purely to the fact that these valuable and beautiful birds have simply been overlooked in the wild rush to create something new.

Now from a utility, as well as from a fancier's view point, let us consider as to what Blue Andalusians really are.

In weight, as with the Minorcas, they have a Standard. Their shape and beautiful markings, where bred according to Standard requirements, immediately attract fancier and novice alike. They are graceful and very active; at the same time thriving equally well in the city back yard or on free range of the farm.

For egg production they rank with their sisters, the Leghorns. Only recently I had a correspondent to state that he had these birds side by side with White Leghorns, and by careful record they showed the same splendid results as egg producing machines. Their eggs are very large and white, being larger than the Leghorn egg.

In color we find the beautiful combination of red, white and blue. Bright red comb and wattles, white ear lobes, with rich blue feathering, delicately laced with a darker shade.

The youngsters are hardy, growing off rapidly into plump broilers. My first prize cockerel and first pullet at one of our greatest December shows, were hatched the 20th of last May. These pullets began laying early in December and laid while on exhibition.

Carefully compared with other varieties, where can we truly find these birds surpassed in the combination of grace, color and utility? Blue Andalusians have been waiting for us in this country for a long while, and we should now allow them to step in and take their rightful place in the front rank on the firing line of popularity here in America, as they have in England. Get together all you Blue Andalusian breeders and let us hear from you. Why not have a live club, that will educate our lovers of high class fowls, as to what they are missing in passing this grand variety by?—J. McD. Gamewell, Newry, S. C.

one who moves it needs the nose of a scavenger. Fermented and decaying refuse from such places is dangerous, even to handle. In this garbage are often found pickles, sour cabbage, rotten potatoes, tainted meat and other stuff—even including coffee grounds—fit only for a manure pile. We cannot be too careful in what we feed our stock. Fowls should have perfectly sound food, or they will not enjoy perfectly sound health.

GREENE COUNTY, TENN.

Dear Editor:—Please allow me space in your valuable paper to report for Green County Farmers' Union. This county was organized the 11th of March, 1912, with eight locals and we now have thirty. The secretaries of the various locals are doing some business through the State Agent. We need a warehouse and a Trade Agent in our county. Our State President, Bro. L. M. Rhodes, will be at Lick Creek the 17th day of April to give a lecture for the benefit of the members of the Farmers' Union, and also for the farmers who have not come into the Union. Everybody who can, should go to hear Brother Rhodes. We will have Bro. Phil. S. Taylor, of Washington County, with us at our next county meeting. Let every member be present. This meeting will be on the 26th day of April.

W. H. HARRISON,
County Secretary.

Greenville, Tenn.

PEKIN LOCAL, No. 1225.

Dear Editor:—As I haven't seen anything in your valuable paper from this local, thought I would let you know that we are still living and doing business. We have thirty-one paid up members for the year. Although financially weak, we have built a nice hall, where we hold our meetings every two weeks, and our attendance is always good. I think our members are waking up, for there seems to be great interest taken as to diversified farming. We have bought two car loads of fertilizer through the Union. We are trying to abolish the credit system as fast as we can, and hope to soon see the time, when our State Union will own a State warehouse and keep everything the farmer needs. Then we could order from that house and save the middleman's profit. In other words, just have a State wholesale house, where we could get our goods at cost, except the freights, for the Union has brought down the prices wonderfully.

C. E. BROOKSHIRE,

Mt. Gilead, N. C., R. 3.

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