

# PICTORIAL GUIDANCE FOR PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERIZATION OF CHICKENS AND DUCKS





## PREFACE

The preparation of this report was part of the activities for the FAO project “Future prospects for the contribution of village poultry production to food security in developing Asian economies” (GCP/RAS/228/GER) that was funded by the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ)”. The production systems of small poultry producers show a significant variety from very low input systems with scavenging birds to those with improved genetic resources, supplementary feeding and animal health interventions. In many countries the exact type of poultry used in the small production systems is presently not well understood. The recognition of the needs to fully consider poultry genetic resources and their genetic diversity has only recently got momentum due to the outbreaks of Avian Influenza and the related control measures. A characterization of the existing poultry genetic resources and the knowledge where and with which numbers they exist is absolutely essential to consider them in disease control programmes. Investigating how local birds are affected by disease outbreaks will help to understand potential specific characteristics of the genetic resources. A good understanding of the production systems of small poultry producers including their priorities and constraints is also required to design and implement appropriate control strategies for the small poultry producers. This will help to achieve cooperation and proper involvement of small farmers in disease prevention and control programmes. It will also assist Governments to make appropriate plans for designing and implementing their disease control strategies. The figures and photos of this report describe important phenotypic features of chickens and ducks. They are compiled to assist with the characterization of non described populations in developing countries. We hope this report will provide accurate and useful information to its readers and any feedback is welcome by the author and the Animal Production Service (AGAP)<sup>1</sup> of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

### Disclaimer

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### Author

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### Keywords

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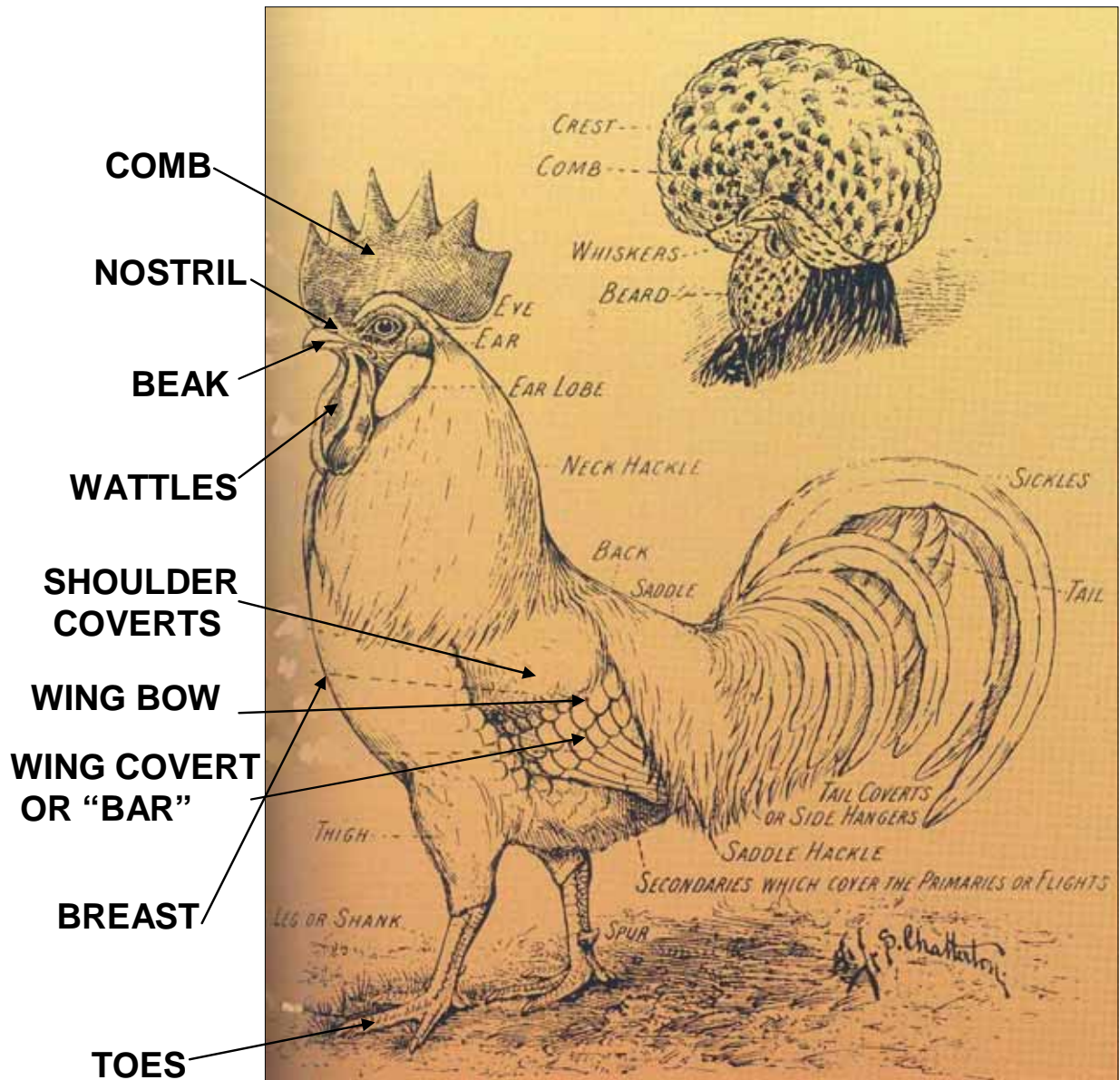
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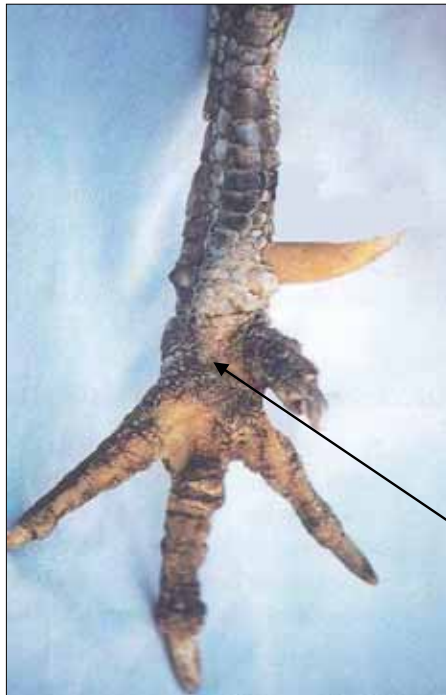
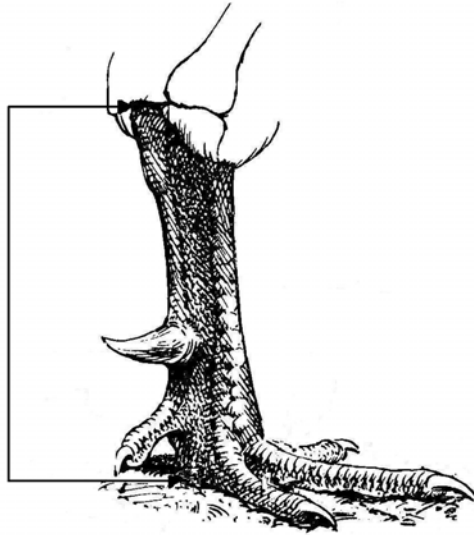
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## GENERAL TERMS FOR POULTRIES



## SHANK LENGTH



**From this point, where is the base of the toe, to the other extreme of the shank**

## SHANK CHARACTERISTICS - COLOURS



White variety



Green variety (above)  
Grey-Blue variety (below)

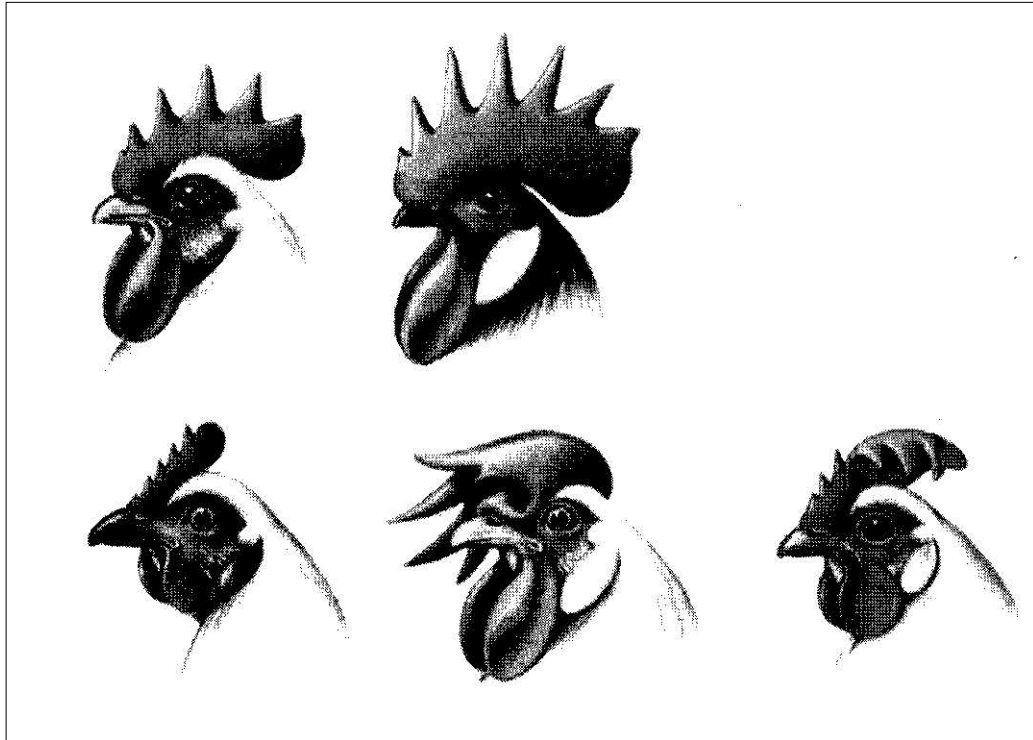


Green variety (above)  
Yellow variety (below)



Black variety

## COMBS



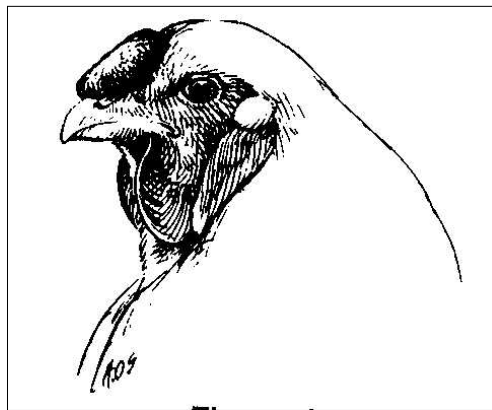
Single comb



# COMBS



Pea Variety



Cushion Variety



Rose varieties



## COMBS



## Double Varieties



## EAR-LOB COLOUR



Red



White



White

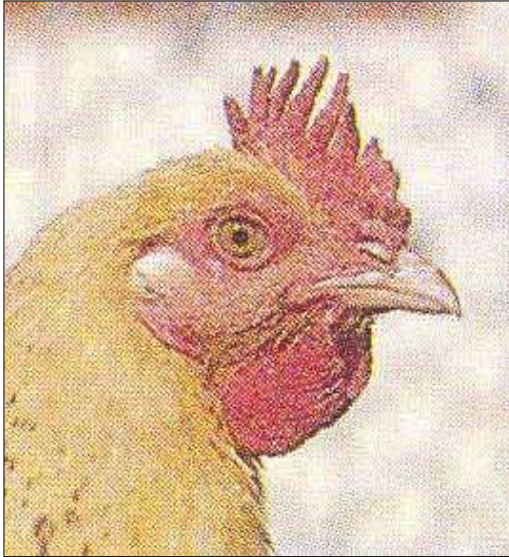


Blue



Red-white

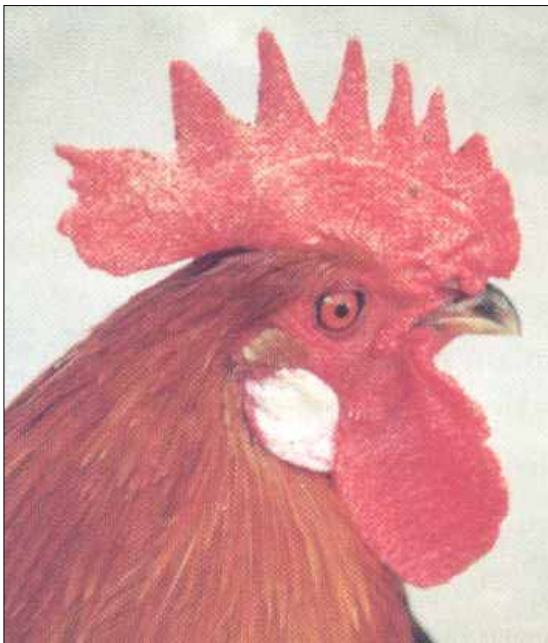
## EYES COLOUR



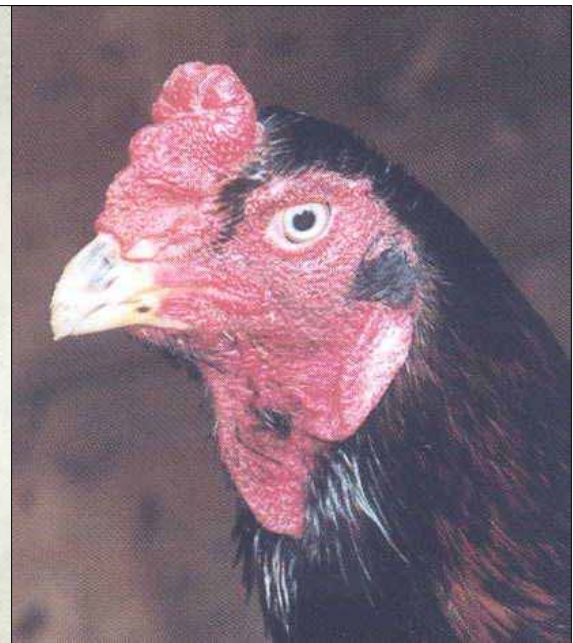
Orange



Brown



Red



Pearl

## OTHER CHARACTERISTICS



Crest

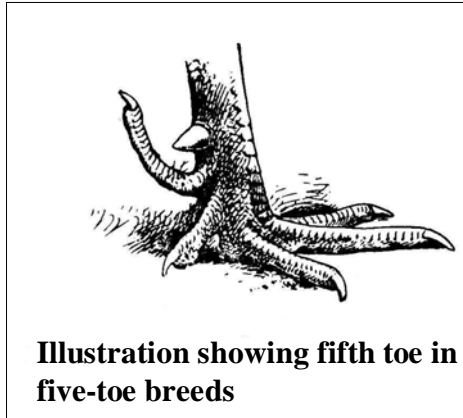


Naked  
neck



Beard and muffs

## OTHER CHARACTERISTICS



**Polydactil**



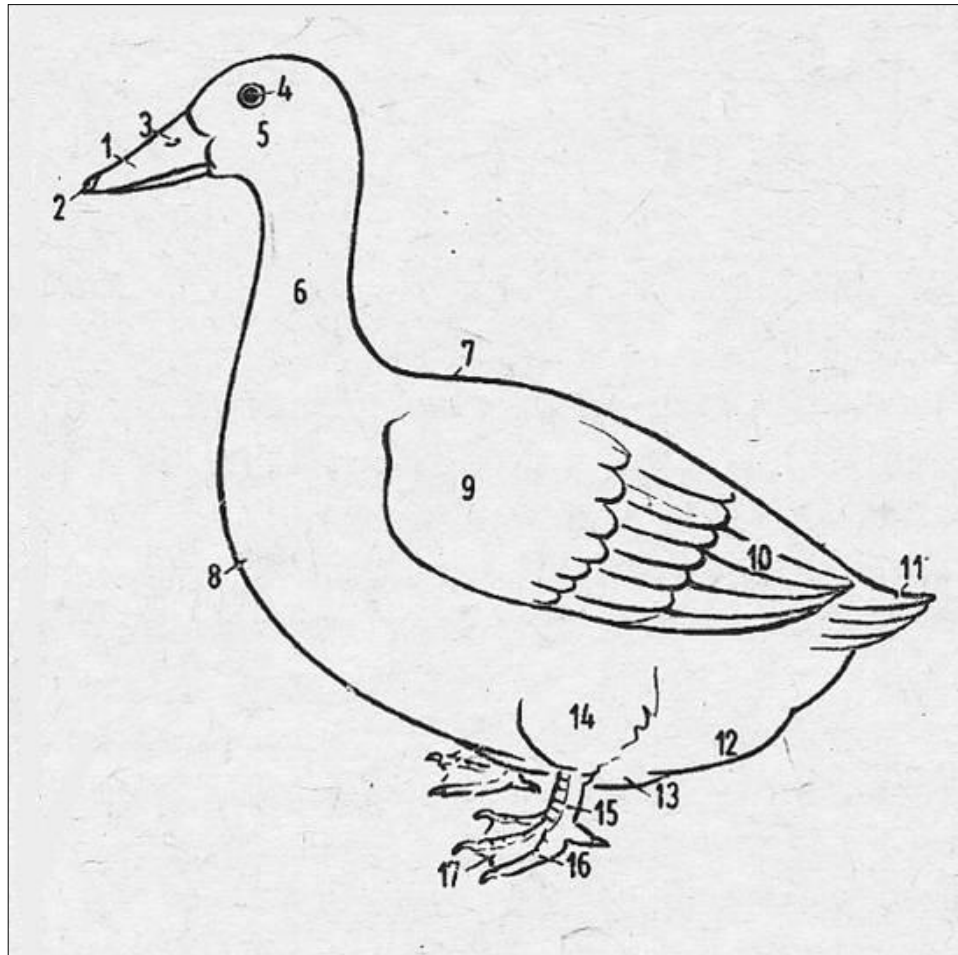
**Frizzled**



**Silky**



## INTERESTING GENERAL TERMS FOR DUCKS



### **PARTS OF THE DUCK**

1 Beak, 2 Bill, 3 Nostril, 4 Eye, 5 Ear, 6 Neck, 7 Back, 8 Breast, 9 Wing, 10 Wing-feathers, 11 Tail, 12 Abdomen, 13 Dewlap, 14 Thigh, 15 Shank, 16 Toe, 17 Web.

# BODY CARRIAGE



**Horizontal**



**Slight Upright**



**Upright**



## SHANK CHARACTERISTICS - COLOURS



Yellow variety



Slate grey variety



Black variety

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS - COLOUR



Pink-White



Orange



Yellow

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS - COLOUR



Slate grey

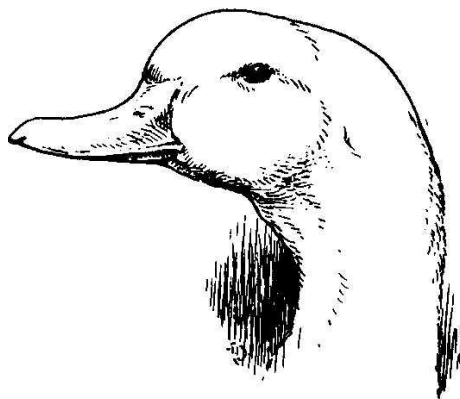


Black

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE

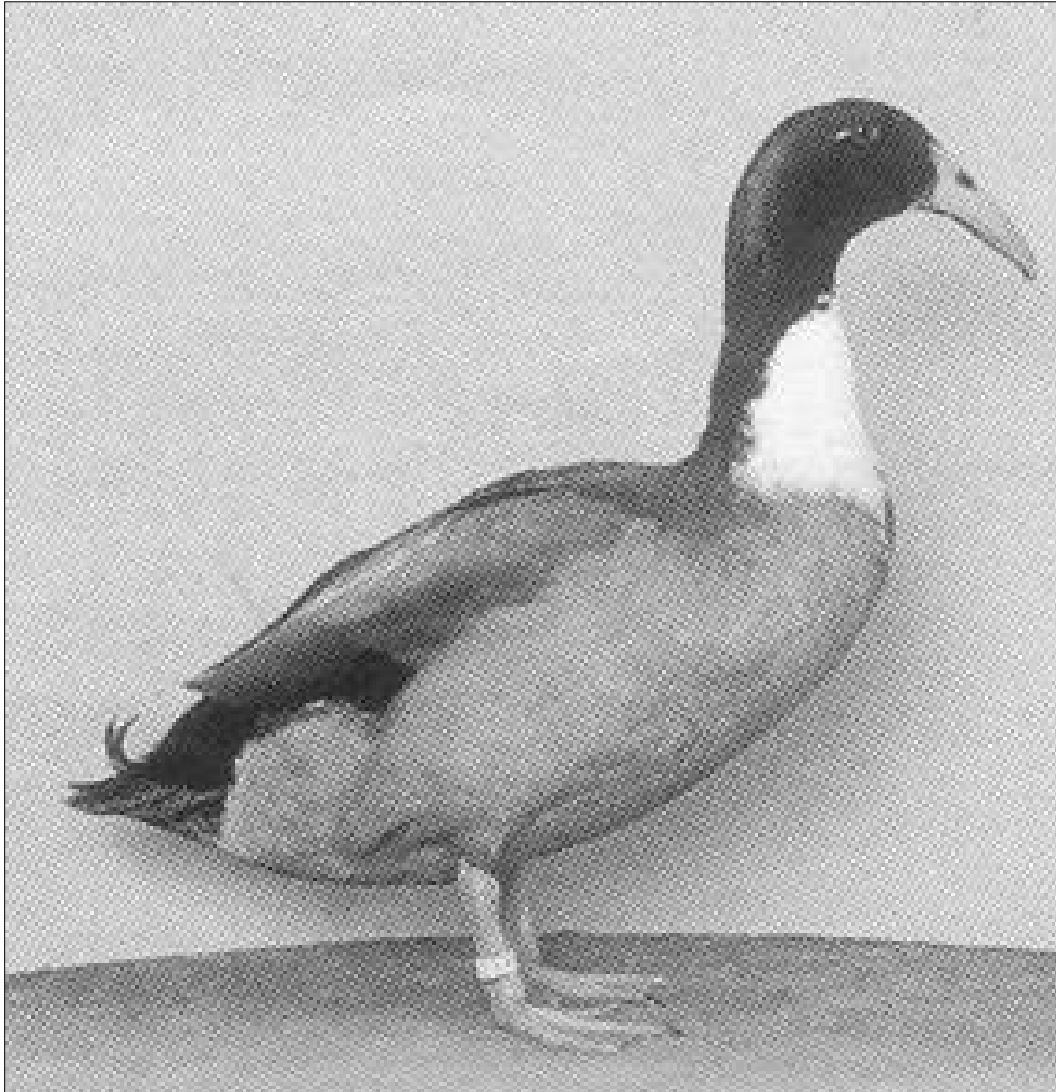


Uniform



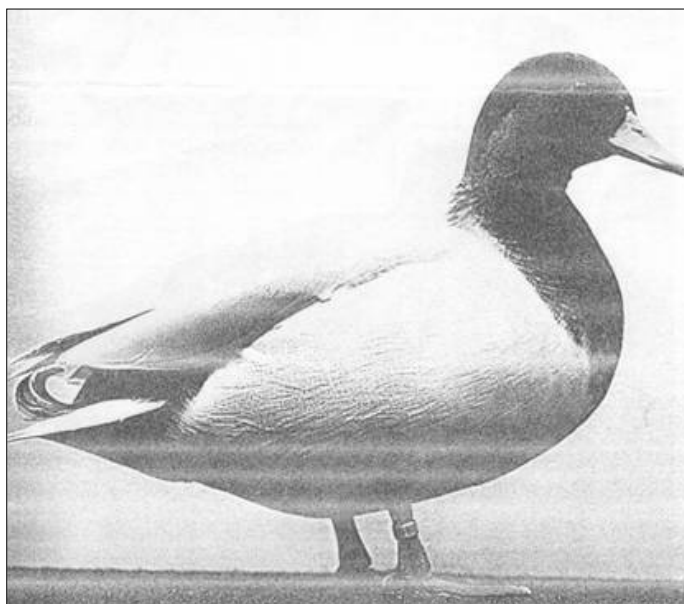
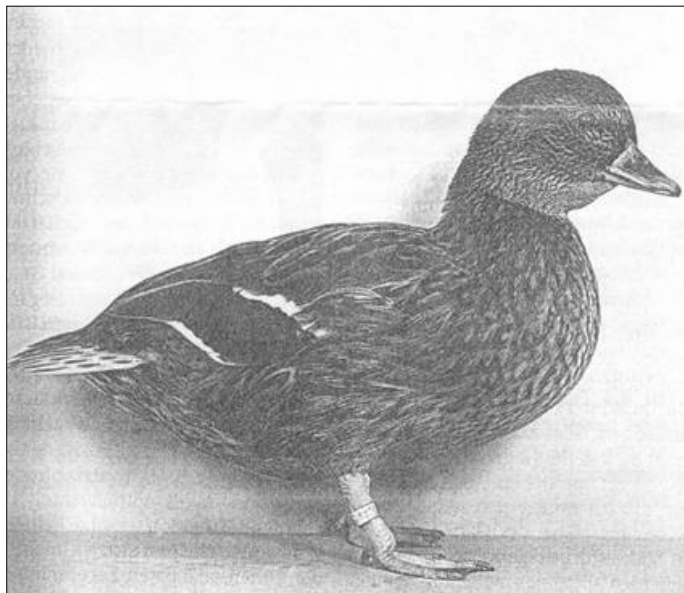
Saddle

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE



**Hooked bill** (It will be rare)

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS – SHAPE

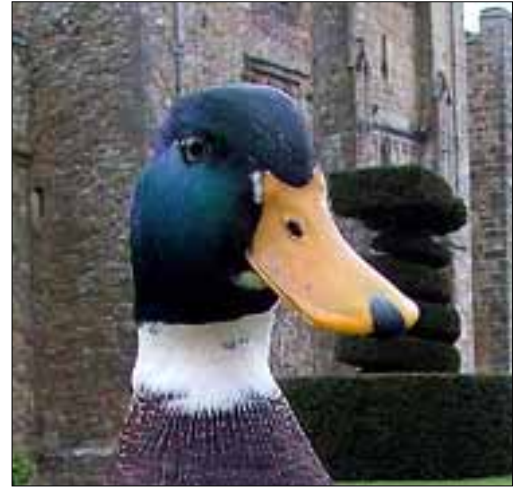


**Short bill less than 3 cm (Call ducks)**

## BILL CHARACTERISTICS – BEAN



White

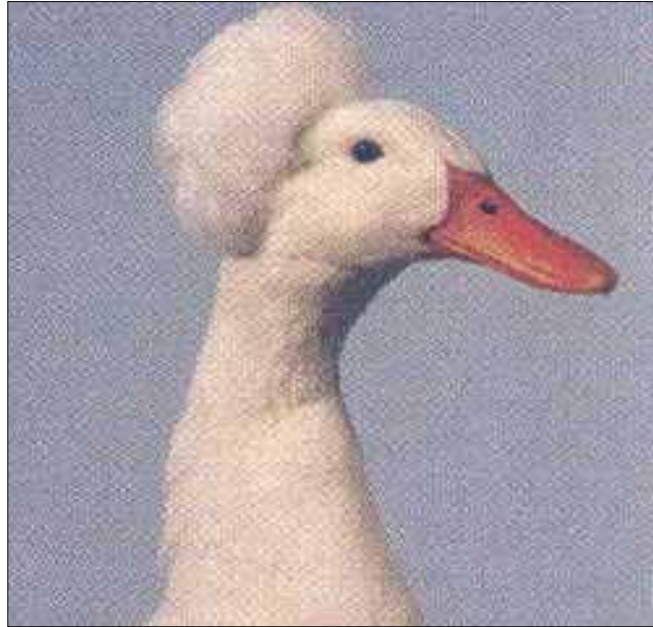


Black



Dark brown

## CREST





## Eyes colour



**Yellow**

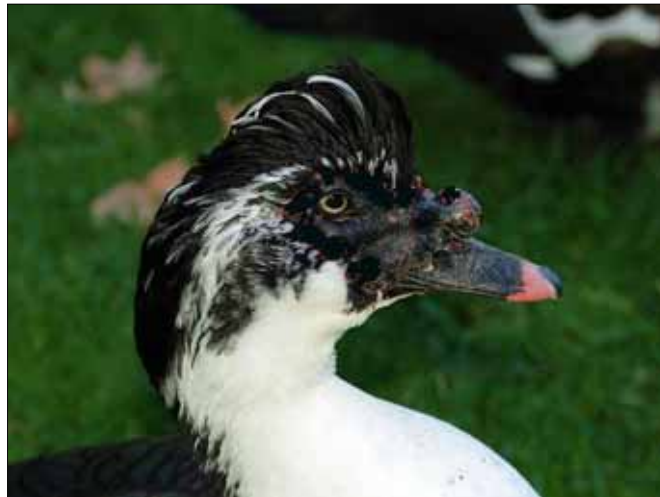


**Dark**

## OTHER CHARACTERISTICS IN MUSCOVIES DUCKS



Caruncle colour red



Caruncle colour black