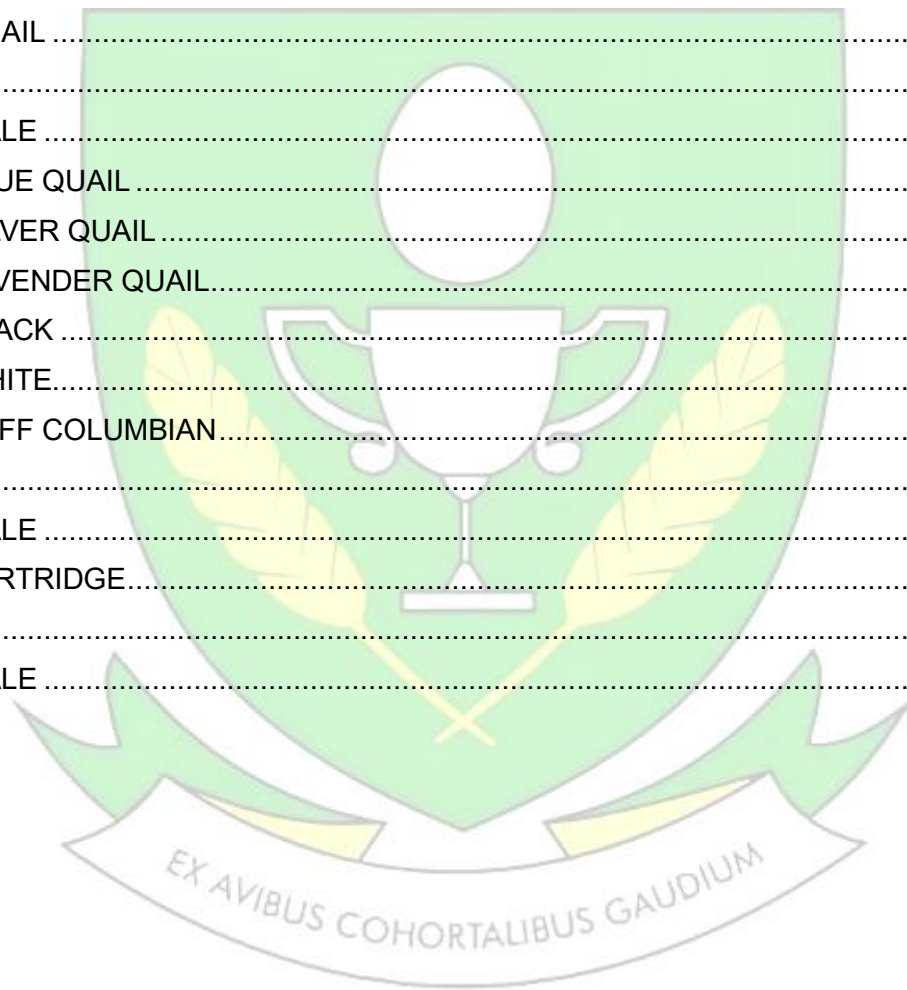

BASSETTE

Table of Contents

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS	2
THE MALE	2
THE FEMALE	3
DISQUALIFICATIONS	3
COLOURS	4
THE QUAIL	4
MALE	4
FEMALE	4
THE BLUE QUAIL	5
THE SILVER QUAIL	5
THE LAVENDER QUAIL	5
THE BLACK	5
THE WHITE	5
THE BUFF COLUMBIAN	5
MALE	5
FEMALE	5
THE PARTRIDGE	6
MALE	6
FEMALE	6





COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:	Belgium
CLASSIFICATION:	Light Breed: Soft Feather
EGG COLOUR:	Brown (Sitters)
MASSES:	
Cock	1000 g
Hen	850 g
Cockerel	1000 g
Pullet	850 g

The Bassette as a standard breed was created from birds of good laying abilities found around the South-Limburg and Liège region in Belgium at the beginning of the twentieth century. Although the name Bassette had been used to describe the local poultry population many years previously, it was Mr. W. Collier who standardised the breed as an excellent small laying fowl, first exhibiting it in 1917. The breed very nearly became extinct after the Second World War. The few remaining birds were brought together at Gendt University and the breed was saved. However, locating available stock may still prove problematical. However, as no truly Large Fowl is in existence, it could just as well have been placed in the True Bantam section. The Bassette stands as a half-size breed, part way between a Large Fowl and a Bantam. Selection on egg-laying capacity formed the basis of this breed. The Bassette only showed one-third of the feed intake of a large chicken, while on the other hand the average weight of an egg is two-third of that of a large chicken. This means that if a Bassette hen is mated to a rooster of a heavy broiler breed, the result of this mating is fast growing chickens with low feeding conversion.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage: Upright, alert and active.

Type:	Body: well built along constitutional lines. Back: broad and long. Breast: full, well rounded and broad. Wings: moderately long, carried closely to the sides. Tail: fairly large and full, carried high, but not squirrel. Abdomen: long, deep and wide.
Head:	Symmetrical, well balanced, of fine quality without coarseness, excesses or exaggeration. Skull: refined, especially at back. Beak: strong, short and deep. Eyes: keen in expression, bold, full, highly placed in skull and standing out prominently when viewed from the front or back; pupils large and free from defective shape. Comb: single, of medium size, firm, upright, free from any twists or excess around nostrils, clear of nostrils, and of fine silky texture, five broad and even serrations, the back following closely but not touching the line of the skull and neck. Face: smooth, open and of silky texture, free from wrinkles or surfeit of flesh and without overhanging eyebrows. Ear-lobes: small and almond shaped. Wattles of medium size, fine and silky texture and close together.
Neck:	Fairly long, slender at top but finishing with abundant hackle.
Legs and Feet:	Thighs to show clear of body without loss of breast. Shanks of medium length, medium bone and well set apart, free from feathers and with soft pliable sinews, free from coarseness. Four toes, long, straight and well spread out. Back toe to follow in straight line, free from feathers between toes.
Plumage:	Tight, silky and waxy, free from excess or coarseness, silky at abdomen and free from bagginess at thighs.
Handling:	Compact, firm and neat bone throughout.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences. Handling pelvic bones fine and pliable; abdomen pliable, flesh and skin of fine texture and free from coarseness; plumage sleek, abdomen capacious, but well supported by long breast bone and not drooping; general handling of a fit, keen layer. Laying Bassette hens show a heavy developed belly. This is the reason why they seem to stay low on their feet or seem to have short legs but that is not reality. The Bassette is single comb with 5 spikes. The hen we expect to show a comb with the end falling a little bit over, but in the modern poultry standard the lack of this feature is not qualified as a failure.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Comb other than single. Side sprigs. Feather on legs, hocks or between toes. Other than four toes. Legs other than Slate -Blue. Badly crooked or duck toes. Any body deformity. Coarseness, beefiness and anything which interferes with the productiveness and general utility of the breed.

COLOURS

THE QUAIL

In both sexes: Eyes dark brown (nearly black) with black pupils. Legs and feet slate-grey. Beak and nails dark blue coloured.

MALE

Plumage: This is a very striking colour scheme, with the head feathers dark green-black, finely laced with gold. Neck hackle: brilliant black ground colour sharply laced with buff, having a golden lustre and yellowish buff shafts. Back: black ground colour with gold lacing, starting in middle of feathers and narrowing towards the tips, forming lance-like points with golden-silky barbs and well defined light-ochre coloured shafts from root to point. These feathers are relatively broad under the neck, but narrower and longer nearing the saddle hackle. Colour more intense and the black ground colour more pronounced towards the saddle hackle. Wing bows: light gold, lower half of each feather black and clearly defined from the upper half, which should be nankin. Wing bars light ochre, each feather having a black triangular tip, the triangles forming two regular bars across the wing. Bottom third of secondaries: chamois-colour, other two thirds: dull black. Primaries: dull black hidden when wing is closed. Tail: dull black with metallic green lustre, finely bordered with brown and faintly defined light shafts. Sickles: black, sidehangers: black, laced with chamois, with welldefined light shafts. Breast: nankin, each feather finely laced with ochre (yellowish-buff), the shafts being distinct and clear. Thighs: same colour as breast. Abdomen and underparts: greyish brown, with silky golden barb-shaped tips. The general effect is that in this variety all upper parts are dark and the lower parts light, giving the appearance of being covered with a dark chequered cloak. The dominating dark tint is chocolate-black, with a soft silvery lustre known among artists as "umber". The general light tone is Nankin or yellow-ochre, and well-defined light shafts are important.

FEMALE

Plumage: Head, face and neck: covered with feathers which increase in size as they near the body, ground colour umber with very fine gold lacing. Neck: velvety, darker than the back and clearly detached from it. Shaft: lacing clearer and more golden towards the breast. Back: covered with umber coloured feathers having a silvery, velvety, lustre, each feather dark, finely laced with chamois and with bright nankin shafts showing in strong contrast. Wings: same colour as back, dark umber, finely laced with chamois, feathers broader and brighter towards the lower part of the wing. Primaries: hidden when the wing is closed and are dark, intense umber. Tail plumage and cushion: similar to back and of same character. Breast: clear even nankin, the shafts pale and distinct, feathers nearing the wings finely and progressively bordered with dark umber, forming a distinct colour pattern.

Defects to be avoided: Salmon or brownish colour on breast.

THE BLUE QUAIL

The colour is the same as the Quail except that the black is replaced with Blue.

THE SILVER QUAIL

The colour is the same as the Quail except that the golden buff markings are replaced with silver white.

THE LAVENDER QUAIL

The colour is the same as the Silver Quail except that the silver markings are replaced with Lavender.

THE BLACK

In both sexes: Rich glossy black with beetle-green sheen throughout. Under-colour: dark. Beak: dark horn or bluish. Legs and feet: dark slate.

Faults: Any white feathers. Purple banding. Light under-colour. Red in hackle of males. Tendency to gypsy face. Wrong leg colour.

THE WHITE

In both sexes: Pure snow-white throughout, free from any yellow or straw tinge or any black splashes. Beak and legs: slate-blue or light slate-blue.

Faults: Any yellow or straw tinge or any black splashes or peppering.

THE BUFF COLUMBIAN

MALE

Plumage: Head: golden buff. Neck and saddle hackles: golden buff with a sharp stripe of brilliant black in the centre of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from buff shaft. Saddle: golden buff preferably, but slightly striped with black in birds having very dark neck hackles. Wing primaries: black or edged with golden buff; secondaries: golden buff outside and black on part of inside web. Tail: black, or edged with golden buff. Remainder a clear golden buff, with buff under-colour.

FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle: golden buff striped with black (dense at the lower part of the hackle) the black centre of each feather entirely surrounded by a golden buff margin. In other respects the colour of the female is similar to that of the male.

THE PARTRIDGE

MALE

Plumage: Head: orange reddish brown. Neck hackle: a gradual transition from orange to light orange yellow, each feather having a greenish black middle stripe. Back: deep reddish brown; side hangers corresponding with the neck hackle, a little darker permitted, Breast: black with green sheen, free from markings or spots. Wing bow: black, shoulders deep reddish brown, wing band iridescent greenish black; inner web black; outer web chestnut brown; internal web and tip black, tip being brown when the wing is closed. Flanks and thighs: deep black with green sheen, free of markings and spots. Underpart and rear: black. Tail: main feathers, sickle and tail coverts green iridescent black; the tail coverts nearest the side hangers with a brownish edge underneath at the tip. Under-colour: greyish.

FEMALE

Plumage: Head: gold brown. Throat: greyish white. Neck hackle: golden yellow, with a black middle stripe. Wings: back, saddle and tail coverts greyish brown with fine black pencilling, as even as possible, free of rust or red. Tail: main feathers blackish, the top feather on each side with brown pencilling. Breast: light salmon brown, shading to brownish grey near the thighs. Thighs, flanks and down: ash grey.

Faults: Any miss-marked feathers. Any splashing or coloured feathers in the black parts of the male. Rusty colour in the wings of the female.

SCALE OF POINTS	
General type	20
Handling, size, and indications of productiveness	30
Head	10
Legs and feet	10
Colour	20
Condition	10
TOTAL	100