

XIII) THE BREED STANDARDS

DUCKS

(*Anas boschas*)

Ducks are web-footed, short-legged, broad-billed waterfowl of the Anatidae family, comprising fresh-water and woodducks (Anatinae), the sea and bay ducks (Fullgulinae) and the mergansers (Merginae).

It is generally accepted that all breeds of duck, with the exception of the Muscovy, originated from the wild Mallard. This is quite clear with a breed like the Rouen. Some consider that the Black East Indian, the Cayuga and the original white ducks of the world originated from sports of the Mallard. Some may have been developed for body size and table qualities, by domestication and selection, resulting eventually in the Aylesbury as we know it today. The Mallard also played a part in the make-up of the Khaki Cambell.

The wild Muscovy (*Cairina moschata*) is a native of South and Central America where it was being domesticated long before Columbus arrived in 1492. It is a distinct breed and when crossed with other breeds of ducks, its progeny is sterile.

Ducks are not only popular for exhibition purposes but also useful and profitable for the production of meat and eggs. The many variations in size, type and colour patterns give breeders a wide range from which to choose a variety most suited to their desires. From the large heavily-meated White Pekin to the racy Runner or from the large White Aylesbury or the massive, beautiful Rouen to the tiny Call Duck and East Indian, there is ample variety from which to choose.

The S.A. Waterfowl Association classifies the Carolina, Mandarin and all other South African or foreign breeds of wild ducks as ornamental ducks.

The wild Mallard

