

Where have all the varieties gone.....

Written by Courtney DuCharme, 1st published 4/25/17 PBC Newsletter Spring '17

As I am sorting out my grow outs this year, I feel like I am mainly holding back mine and my mom's project varieties verses good showable stock- which I have mixed feelings about. Mom has large fowl WC black and WC blue she shows, about 5 years ago I got a couple bearded cuckoo cocks from Doug Kamers to start working on LF WC cuckoos (I was jealous of all the bantam colors in WC). We are 6 generations off those first birds and have shown the WC cuckoos a few times in the last 4 years. We also picked up a WC bantam khaki boy from a friend 2 years ago and are on our 3rd generation of a WC chocolate (and WC Chocolate Cuckoo) large fowl project. And I have to say the 3rd generation is where I start seeing what I like again. First generation of the both the cuckoo and the chocolate projects I liked- but were not quite yet what we were working on, and 2nd generation had very few I REALLY liked. Now add in my tolbunts, which I have 2 types of polish splits for outcross I am using this year (golden/tolbunt cross and a golden/black/tolbunt cross).



My tolbunts are my passion when it comes to the birds, they are the only reason I ever wanted chickens- my gateway drug so to speak. I am very motivated to get them accepted as a variety in APA, that and the fact they are an accepted variety in other countries helps me justify to myself why I have them. I justify my WC chocolate and WC cuckoo projects as a

thought of working with bantam breeders at some point to get these 2 colors (and maybe WC Khaki) accepted into APA in both sizes for less confusion on which club recognizes which variety of white crested.

Where I am going with all of this is we have a lot of colors being created in Polish- "candy corn", crele/creole, blue laced reds, blue laced silvers, black tailed reds, WC reds, self reds, self blacks, lavender, Partridge, Columbian, mottled, and so on and on and on.

We also have varieties that ARE accepted varieties that few people are working on currently and we get requests from people looking for them and have few leads for them outside of hatcheries. I laugh when I see people refer to Tolbunts as “rare”- no, they are not, so many people jumped on the bandwagon 5 or 6 years ago to make a quick buck with them that they are pretty easy to locate. The quality of them varies greatly from one breeder to the next so they can be tricky to locate quality ones outside of finding a breeder at a show. But I can say the same for quality large fowl WC blacks and blues as well.

We have a “shortage” of many of the Polish varieties- silvers and goldens in both sizes- but especially large fowl right now. There is a demand, but few quality outlets. Black Crested Whites we get requests for those too, but only a few people working on them, and in early stages off of what they could get through hatcheries. Self blue bantams and bearded WC black and WC blue bantams are accepted colors- but rarely seen.

And we have 3 other breeds- Crevecoeurs, Houdans, and Sultans



that we get requests for off and on but are hard to locate quality stock of. I myself have been looking for black bantam sultans- they are an accepted variety in ABA, but I can't find them.

I just want to make one simple plea to those who, like myself, have a bit of mad scientist for genetic projects in them- for every project color you have, try to have one accepted variety you keep and work hard on as well.

