

ITIK ALABIO

Chris Ashton - IRDC Newsletter 2018

The Alabio duck has long been known as the egg-laying strain from the area of Borneo now known as Kalimantan. The Alabio has usually been noted as a Trout-coloured duck, rather brownish in the female, with eye stripes. Drakes were often not shown because of the economics in a subsistence smallholder society – they were probably mostly culled by 16 weeks or earlier.

At present, searches on the internet reveal a lot of interest in the Alabio as a profitable side-line in Kalimantan. But the interesting thing for us is the colour! The females have lightened up, and the drakes have those face-markings typical of our 'Appleyards'. They are certainly seen to be more like the mallard restricted (M^R). And another interesting fact is that Chinese research is now using F M Lancaster 's terminology. The Chinese now have their own mallard restricted Shan Ma duck. In the race for healthy egg layers, unrelated strains are crossed, and the M^R colour genes selected are much more in evidence in the Far East than they have been in the past - all thanks to Chinese research papers, and accessibility on the internet.

This is the info from an Indonesian government site:

<http://bibit.ditjenpkh.pertanian.go.id/content/itik-alabio>

Short description: Alabio Duck is one of the local ducks of Indonesia, originally from South Kalimantan province. The breed/strain has been established through a decision of the Minister of agriculture Number 2921/Kpts/OT 140/6/2011 17 June 2011. The Alabio duck has a characteristic that is not owned by the ducks from other Nations and is part of Indonesia's livestock genetic resources that need to be guarded and kept preserved so that it can provide benefits in increased welfare and the prosperity of the people of Indonesia.

Characteristics:

1. Slender posture like the bottle.
2. Duck feather colour: Adult Male: black or white at the top of the head; brown-gray on the back with a black tail arched upwards; white chocolate-coloured chest ; the wings are brown silver with green bluish ?speculum . Adult Female: black and white at the top of the head; brown on the back, chest, and tail wings with straight back. Ivory yellow beak and claws to a duck males and females.
3. Bluish green egg shell colour.

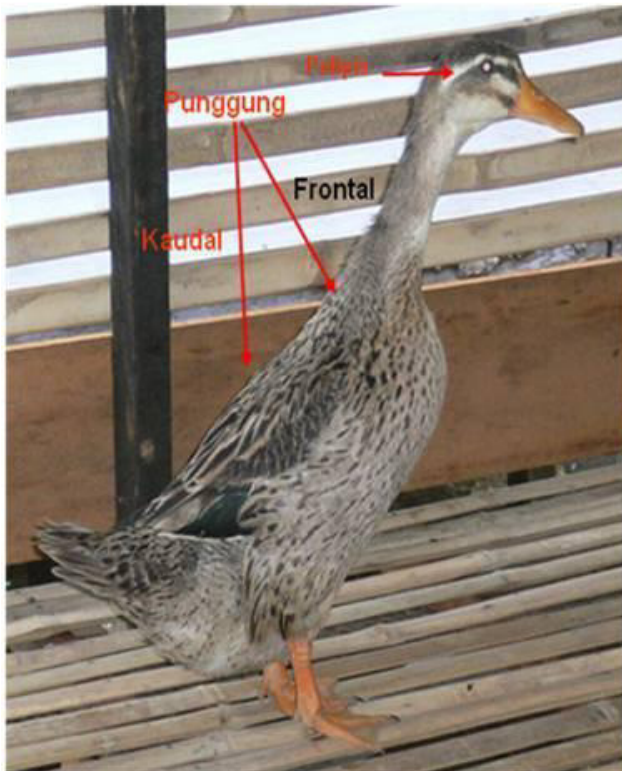
Specific quantitative characteristics:

1. Body Weight of adult males and females: 1.59 – 1.72 kg
2. Egg production: 67.11 – 76.48% or 220 – 250 eggs per year
3. Peak egg production: 92.70%.
4. Egg Weight: 59 – 65 grams
5. Adult duck ration Consumption: 155-190 g/head/day 6
6. Females come into lay at 5 – 5.5 months (20-22 weeks)
7. Long egg production: 2.5 – 3 years

Male Alabio



Female, who is more like the original 'Trout' colour, though she is too pale in the facial eye stripes. She also shows barred fathers on the flank behind the legs. The colour photographs of a group of drakes (probably being fattened so that they are not wasted) and a group of ducks also show how close they now are to mallard restricted.



As you can see, these are typical Indonesian ducks in their upright carriage, designed for foraging in the paddy fields. They are smaller-egg laying types. The weight of 1.6 kg (3.5lbs) is very similar to the Indian Runner.

Appleyard Runners

I'm sure a lot of breeders have already twigged that these birds are very close in form and colour to 'Appleyard' Runners. This colour form in the Runner first seemed to appear in Germany and Holland around 2003 in both the normal green-headed colour, as well as in the Apricot. These birds then got crossed with Trouts and Silvers and, in the muddle of Runners sold as pets and hatching eggs, the 'Appleyards' have now corrupted a large proportion of the UK stock.

The Trout Runner always tended to be a trim, small Runner. But a cross with these 'Appleyards' pushed up the size and produced a wonderful straight-line or even slightly Roman beak (see the cover photo). What a wonderful bird! Unfortunately, the more obvious 'Appleyard' characteristics then emerged in subsequent generations, and many of our beautiful Trouts have now been lost.

It is a long way back to obtaining true-breeding Trouts. It is only by 'culling' unwanted birds that Trouts can be produced again to the reliable colour standard that they were in the 1980s. And they can only be selected from adult males in spring i.e. the drakes need to be kept for a long time in order to see when they go into spring eclipse. They need to retain a completely green head until at least April to be a reliable Trout breeder. The females take even longer to weed out, and it needs an experienced eye to reject those with too pale eye stripes, and barred feathers instead of a neat 'tick'. Suspect birds also have 'mossy' feathers on the back – though this may also be due to the introduction of the harlequin gene rather than light phase.



An 'Appleyard' Runner illustrated on 'Feathersite' website, (USA)

These 'Appleyards' certainly seem to have winged it round the world – even though can't fly. They commonly turn up in photographs of Runner in Germany; they have been used on the cover of an American book; they have been incorporated into British Waterfowl Association advertising material and appear in UK 'for sale' adverts as well. To my mind they are best weeded out and forgotten. They will forever contaminate pure colours if they are promoted. The best thing they can do is to remain on Kalimantan as a local egg-laying breed where they are valued genetic resource material. I wonder who crossed them with exhibition Runners and brought them to the West?



<https://steemkr.com/homesteading/@vanirfan/some-important-things-in-layer-ducks-preparation>