

E-Book

BROODY HENS EXTRA

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 - * Interviews with top breeders
- Much more

E-Book

E-Book BONUS

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Introduction

Welcome to **Broody Hens Extra** - the bonus e-book which was available for a limited time FREE with the **The Broody Hen Hand Book**. If you missed the offer and have paid the small fee for this e-book, I hope you will find it useful. Please click below to talk to us about discounts on future products.

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Well, it was deeply satisfying to finally complete **The Broody Hen Hand Book**, and a few people were surprised that a book could be made of the subject. In good spirits, my response is that there's so much more I could have written, but I had to end it somewhere, otherwise printing costs would have been out of reach. I am really excited about these bonus chapters, which I'm sure will be invaluable. I am indebted to good friends Geoff Tinson and Emma Armstead for agreeing to be interviewed. Enjoy, and to your success! **Grant Brereton**

“2 Days!” (A Humbling Experience)

Do we always take our own advice? It seems not! Not long after the launch of The Broody Hen Hand Book, we in the UK had to bring our birds indoors in response to some nationwide Bird Flu outbreaks. I had a pair of Partridge Wyandotte bantams, which were a new line I was developing, and the yearling female was laying well. I removed the eggs daily and was uncertain about trying to hatch any, but bearing in mind they were important birds, I thought I should probably try and hatch some, and it was a bonus when she began making broody noises.



**Grant's
new line of
Partridge
Wyandotte
bantams**

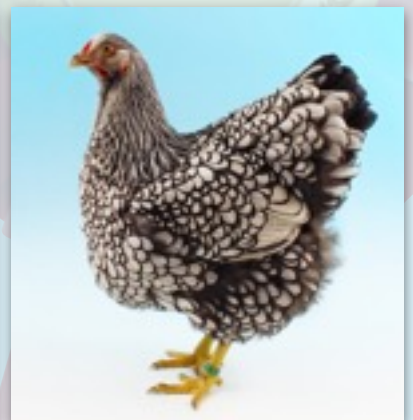
All appeared to be going well, as she gradually made more broody sounds, and in a couple of days was sitting at one end of the pen looking the part of a broody hen. At this point, I had 8 of her eggs saved and planned to put them beneath her. The cockerel was removed and she was sitting on 3 rubber eggs for a few hours without moving. This hen, although an outcrossed line, came from very broody ancestry and I was confident that (like all her female relatives), she too would be a great broody hen!

So, being a bit 'overconfident,' I went against all my own advice and set the important eggs beneath her on the day she appeared to be fully broody. She seemed to settle well on the 8 eggs, and I believed they would be fertile. I was very happy that day!

Sadly, on my return that evening, I would discover the 'broody' nowhere near the eggs, and the nest all scratched up with eggs hidden in the litter. Fortunately, none were damaged but they were stone cold, and could have been for a good few hours. How disappointing, but a lesson learned... **take my own advice...!** (Contd.)



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My advice is the same as many other people's advice on the subject - that 'potential broody hens' need to be sitting tight for at least 2-3 days before the important eggs are set beneath them. She has to fully convince you she is broody. I was fortunate to have a small incubator at hand, so the eggs could be rescued, but out of interest I thought I would monitor the movements of my disappointing broody. She spent the next couple of days appearing broody, but was on and off the nest of rubber eggs a lot, scratching it up each time, and on day 3 of her 'proposed broody journey' an egg arrived.

So it would appear that her clock was all of balance, and likely wasn't helped by the light in the building being kept on till around 9pm each night (when only a couple of weeks earlier she was subject to winter daylight hours).

In normal and natural circumstances she might have been a reliable broody, but I won't take that chance in future.

A Broody Hen sitting tight



A good broody hen should be like the crossbred hen above, and be sitting tight with her head drawn close to her body, giving off a serious and protective demeanour. When approached, she should make broody clucks (or even growls) and raise her neck hackles to let you know she'd rather be left alone. Good broody hens aren't in the habit of getting off their nests very often; usually once a day, maximum. Any more times and you should be suspicious!

Have an Incubator!

The whole point of you wanting to hatch the natural way might be to get away from incubators and artificial incubation. So if that's the case, you likely won't want to hear that having an incubator is **absolutely essential** if you are using broody hens. The small dome incubator below was there to rescue the situation when my disappointing Partridge Wyandotte hen let me down.



Incubators, quite simply, are insurance. If a broody hen lets you down, it is very reassuring to know that the eggs or even hatching chicks can be transferred to an incubator. Most models heat up to temperature within the hour. And you don't have to buy an expensive one, or even one with much capacity - but just get one!

As mentioned in the Tricks & Chicks chapter of The Broody Hen Hand Book, incubators can be used to add more chicks to broody hens, or increase the chances of fertile eggs by setting more eggs. They are also great for backup heat sources should your heat lamp in the chick brooder blow in the first 2-3 days; simply transfer them to the incubator for a few hours (35°C) while you replace the bulb.



**Broody
Fail:**

Chicks in a
brooder
under a dull
emitter heat
bulb

Resurrection

If you've ever wondered just how important heat is to a day-old chick, believe me, it is crucial! Over the years I've managed to rescue chicks that have got cold for only a short time - by wandering off from 'mum' and for whatever reason, not making back beneath her. I've rescued chicks that are cold and look convincingly dead, only to see them cheeping and running around the incubator in as little as an hour later. One such chick, 'lucky' is below, which I posted on Facebook...



Grant Brereton

January 10, 2018 · 🌐

My Facebook Post...

...

Anyone remember 'Lucky' the chick I brought back to life? What a difference a couple of months makes!! 😊



Emma Armstead, Michael Glenn Evans and 80 others

7 Comments

**Lucky's
offspring, who
wouldn't be
alive without
him being
rescued...**



Sometimes a chick that has got cold *will* actually be dead and rescuing it won't be possible. BUT, please ALWAYS give it your best shot first. It is truly astonishing how a chick that looks long dead is actually recoverable. I was so glad I did with Lucky, who I found cold and lifeless. I brought him into the house immediately, and after 20 minutes cupped in my hand held in front of a hot radiator (while the incubator was heating up), he began showing signs of a heartbeat. Then a slight jerking and breathing action started happening, at which point I transferred him to the incubator.

At around the 30 minutes stage, a weak cheeping began, which became stronger by the minute, and after an hour or so, 'Lucky' was booming around the incubator like a chick that was 24 hours old. He went back under the broody hen and both were moved to a secure coop. He went on to become a great specimen of a White Wyandotte bantam, and sired many chicks that went on to be shown and helped invigorate some breeders' lines. A crucial rescue!

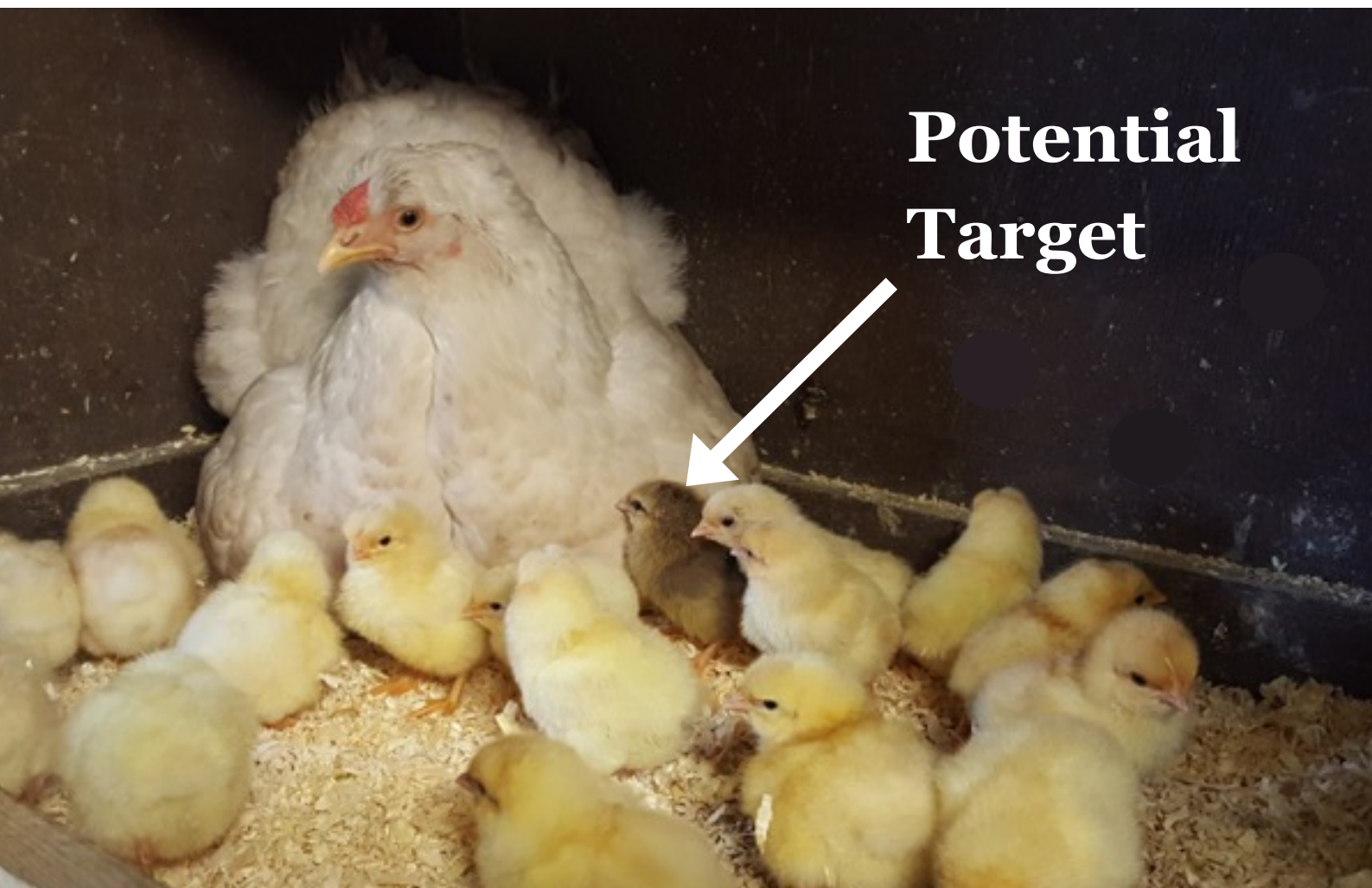
Common Sense



Throughout *The Broody Hen Hand Book*, I talk about ‘common sense.’ The above hen was mine, and I was happy to let her sit for most of her broody duration in the black tub, but I removed it on about the 19th day (when she was replenishing feed and water levels). The nest was simply lowered to the ground, to appear similar to what she knew, and she happily returned to it as if nothing had changed. Had I left it as it was, chicks could have easily fell to the floor and been unable to get back up to their mother. You have to think of every danger.

Broody Prejudice

Sadly, 'broody prejudice' is a thing, but fortunately doesn't happen too often. It usually occurs when one of the late-hatchers (or foster care chicks) are a different colour to the rest of the hatchlings, and the broody makes a point of singling it/them out. It is horrible to witness, so please reduce chances of it happening by ensuring all chicks will be the same colour, or if you can't guarantee down colour, make sure the broody sees the variety of colours as early as possible after hatching, where she's less likely to pick up on the fact her chicks vary in colour.





Martijn's Cochins & Poultry



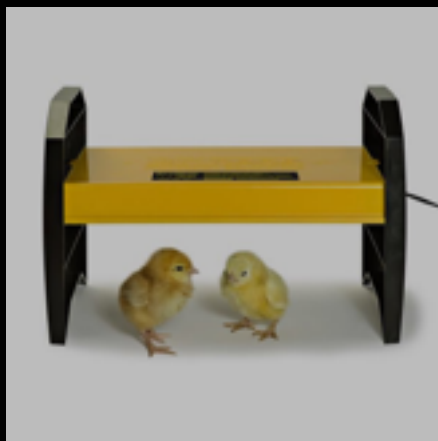
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Manual Lifting

If you've opted for very confined sitting quarters (such as a broody box), then daily manual removal of your broody for refreshment purposes is what you signed up for. This approach needs some consideration and care; if broodies are lifted off their nests too quickly, they can kick their legs (in stress) and cause all sorts of damage to the eggs beneath them. The best way to remove a broody from her nest is to approach her calmly with both hands, palms facing upwards and slide your fingers gently over the eggs, at the same time securing her legs and lifting her swiftly but carefully off the eggs.

When returning her to the nest, if it has an open front like a broody box, it can be easier to just place her in front of the nest and let her get back on herself. In more confined spaces, place the hen on the edge of the nest so that she sees the eggs and then can determine how gently to walk onto them before settling. If you have no option but to lower her back on manually, then let her feet sense the eggs and release her gently back on them. If she's suspended for too long, it increases the chances of kicking in frustration.

Cracking Time

Sometimes developing eggs get cracked and then the poultry keeper has a decision to make. The obvious conclusion is to disregard the egg, and many writers state that such eggs risk infection through the cracked shell. Although this analysis is sensible, I have birds on my property today (2021) whose great, great grandmother was from an egg that had cracked, and then been repaired with sellotape. She (Rosie) still hatched and became a very important breeding bird. You can see in her in the pic below just after hatching, and you can also see the sellotape on the egg...



Interview 1: Geoff Tinson

Geoff Tinson is a good friend and a phenomenal breeder of Silkies, Longtail fowl and Pheasants. His success rate is beyond question and he's an absolute pro at breeding...



Geoff hatches and rears the majority of his stock under Goldtop broody hens. He produces his own broodies by breeding large White Silkie males to bantam Light Sussex females. So not only are his surplus Silkies in high demand for showing purposes, but people (including hatcheries) also want them for making their own Goldtop broodies. Geoff's strain of large White Silkies click well with his strain of Light Sussex bantams, and as you'll discover, there's a little more to it than breeding 'any old' Silkie male to any old Light Sussex females.

**Geoff's
Goldtop
breeding pen**



**A Goldtop
broody with
Goldtop
chicks and a
White Silkie**

Geoff, do you still breed your own Goldtops by using Large White Silkie males on bantam Light Sussex females - and are there any tips on producing the best Goldtops?

Yes I do still breed them, but not as many as previous years as I don't hatch the same volume of poultry. One tip I will share is to use a Silkie male that isn't too silky and trim the back end of the Silkie male so that he can reach better when treading the light Sussex females.

What is the best time of year to breed Goldtops and how much do they sell for these days?

I always hatch Goldtops at the back end of the year when I've finished breeding my other breeds, so that the Goldtops are mature enough for springtime. The average going price is usually around £15, but I have seen them sold in springtime for £25+ each.

How many hatches per year will you let each Goldtop carry out?

I usually sit a Goldtop average 3 times a year.

Are Goldtops any use as layers in the summer/autumn/winter months?

The Goldtops do lay a good-sized egg but the trouble is when they have laid about a dozen eggs they are wanting to go broody, even though you take the eggs away.

What exotic species do you let the Goldtops hatch?

I let the Goldtops hatch virtually every exotic species I keep i.e. ornamental pheasants, poultry, ducks. I even sold some Goldtops to an exotic bird park to hatch crane eggs, which was successful.

Where do you let broody hens sit, and what is your personal method of encouraging broodiness?

I have built a block of broody boxes for my Goldtops. Each box is about 2ft x 1ft x 1ft. Enough room so that the hen can get off the nest to feed, drink and defecate. If I am requiring broodies, I will feed them just neat wheat and put half a dozen golf balls in each nest box to encourage them to sit.



A sneak peek
inside Geoff's
broody shed...



How long do you let Goldtop broodies rear their chicks?

I usually let the broody hens rear their chicks for about 6 weeks (when the chicks are fully feathered) and independent.

Which of your Longtail or other breeds make good broodies?

I have a few light Sussex and Wyandottes which make good broodies. I don't usually use Longtail breeds for broodies, as they can be very feisty.

Do you have any tips for getting broodies to accept foster chicks?

If I have a broody hen that has already got chicks and I want to add more chicks beneath her, I always do it at night time, so that when it becomes daylight and the chicks come out from under the hen, she automatically thinks they are her chicks. I have added chicks up to a week after she has hatched her own.

Do you have any tips for the best chances of success with broody hens? (i.e move off nest every day, let sit a few days first, right type of feed, etc)

When I'm preparing my broody boxes, I will mix a bucket of slightly damp shavings, which I then use to line the nest in the broody box. Add a good handful of straw, then sprinkle the nest with mite powder, then I place half a dozen golf balls in the nest. I always sit the broodies on the dummy eggs at night time so they settle down onto the golf balls.

I will then leave the broodies for a couple of days till they are sat tight, and then exchange the golf balls for fertile eggs. Feeding them on just wheat.

Do you add incubator chicks under hens?

Yes. I will sit 3 or 4 broodies at the same time, and fill the incubators full of eggs. Once I have candled the eggs, at a week into development, I will transfer the fertile eggs under the broodies and any spare eggs remain in the incubator. Once they've hatched I will add to the chicks under the broodies.

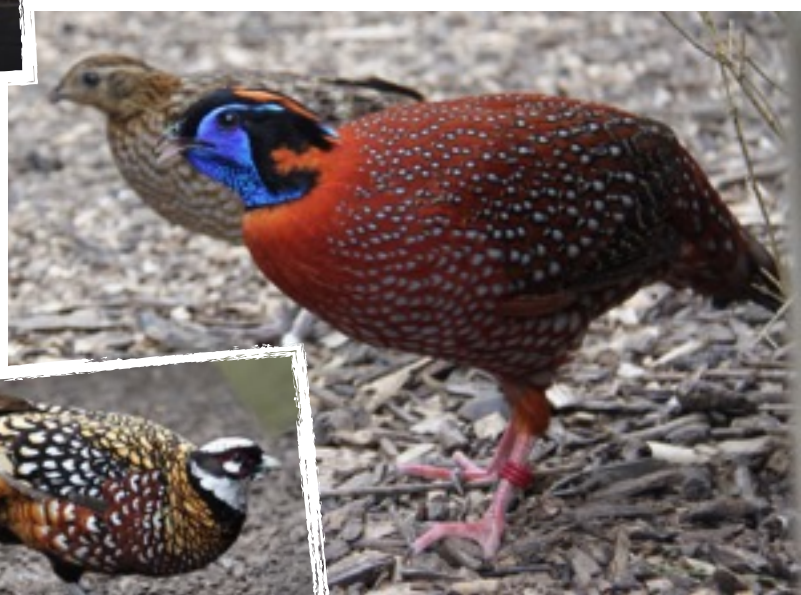
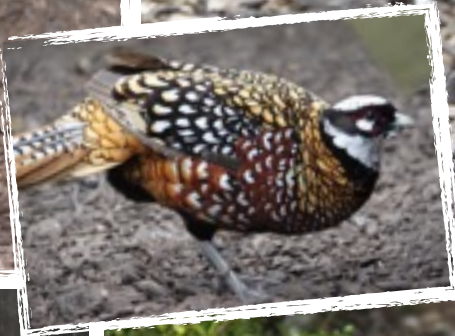
Do you think naturally reared chickens make hardier birds?

Yes, I believe that naturally reared chicks under broodies make stronger chicks and hardier birds.

Geoff's winning Phoenix
male, Silkie females and
Grey Jungle Fowl



**Geoff's Sumatra Game
and Silkie bantams, and
exotic Pheasants**



Why Goldtops over Silkies as broodies?

Well, basically, the reason I use Goldtops rather than Silkies as broodies is simple: in the earlier days I found that chicks hung themselves fairly easily in the 'silk' of the Silkies, whereas when using Goldtops it was very rare that this happened (obviously due to webbed 'normal' feathers).

In your early days of poultry, what disasters happened with broody hens?

One of the problems in the early days was if I'd forgotten to put mite powder in the nest, on the odd occasion red mite would get in to the nest and irritate the broody hen causing her to get off the nest and leave the eggs.

Also in the early days before I built the separate broody boxes, if I let them sit in the main shed, sometimes one would leave her nest and go in the adjoining nest box and share a clutch with another broody hen, leaving her own eggs to go cold.

What do you do to break broodiness when not wanted?

When I want to 'cool a broody off,' or if I have too many broodies at one time and not enough eggs, I put them in a wire cage with a wire floor, which usually discourages the inclination to sit. Sometimes I use poultry crates raised off the ground, so that the broody hens cannot sit on warm shavings, and so that the cold air can get underneath them to cool them off. Depending on the time of year, it takes 5-10 days for unwanted broodies to transition back to non-broody.



A Goldtop broody
with Black and
White Silkie chicks

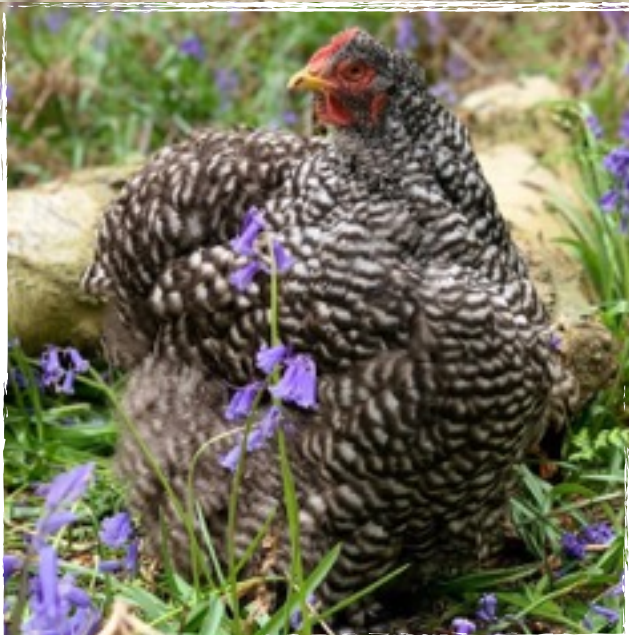
Interview 2: Emma Armstead

Emma Armstead is a good friend, and the current secretary of the Cochins Club of Great Britain (2021). Her enthusiasm for her different breeds is very infectious and she produces some fantastic stock that does very well at the shows.



Emma is a firm believer in hatching the natural way, which includes her waterfowl breeds like the adorable Crested ducks! She has had many successes with her different colours of Cochins (as well as other breeds) at the main UK shows, and also is very good at promoting this great hobby of ours to potential newcomers. Her photos are certainly very attractive, and I am pleased to be allowed to use them as part of this interview, which I hope will inspire you further.

Some of Emma's many Cochins...



Emma, the breeds you keep have reputations for being very broody - Cochins and Croad Langshans in particular. Is the natural way your preferred way of rearing?

In an ideal world, yes it would be, as I believe anything raised in natural conditions is best for the animal or bird. However, when you are looking at the best time of year to hatch and raise poultry, you can bet there won't be a broody hen available.

Do you have a personal method of encouraging broodiness or is it abundant in your flocks?

I house all my Cochins, about 70 in total, in a large barn which is sheltered very much from the wet and windy elements we experience here living next to the North Yorkshire Moors. They have warmth and extra lighting throughout winter, which means there is usually always a few eggs being laid in the cold months (which then usually means a hen will inevitably go broody). Come the spring through to summer, it's a job to stop the large fowl hens from going broody as they drop like flies and then as we approach

autumn they tend to ease off as they start their moults. We also keep a couple of breeds of Duck, the crested especially seem to be quite a broody duck, if I'm not on top of collecting their eggs I've had it and all the girls will tend to go broody at the same time which can cause mayhem as they insist on laying and sitting in the same spot, often I will find three ducks on top of each other.

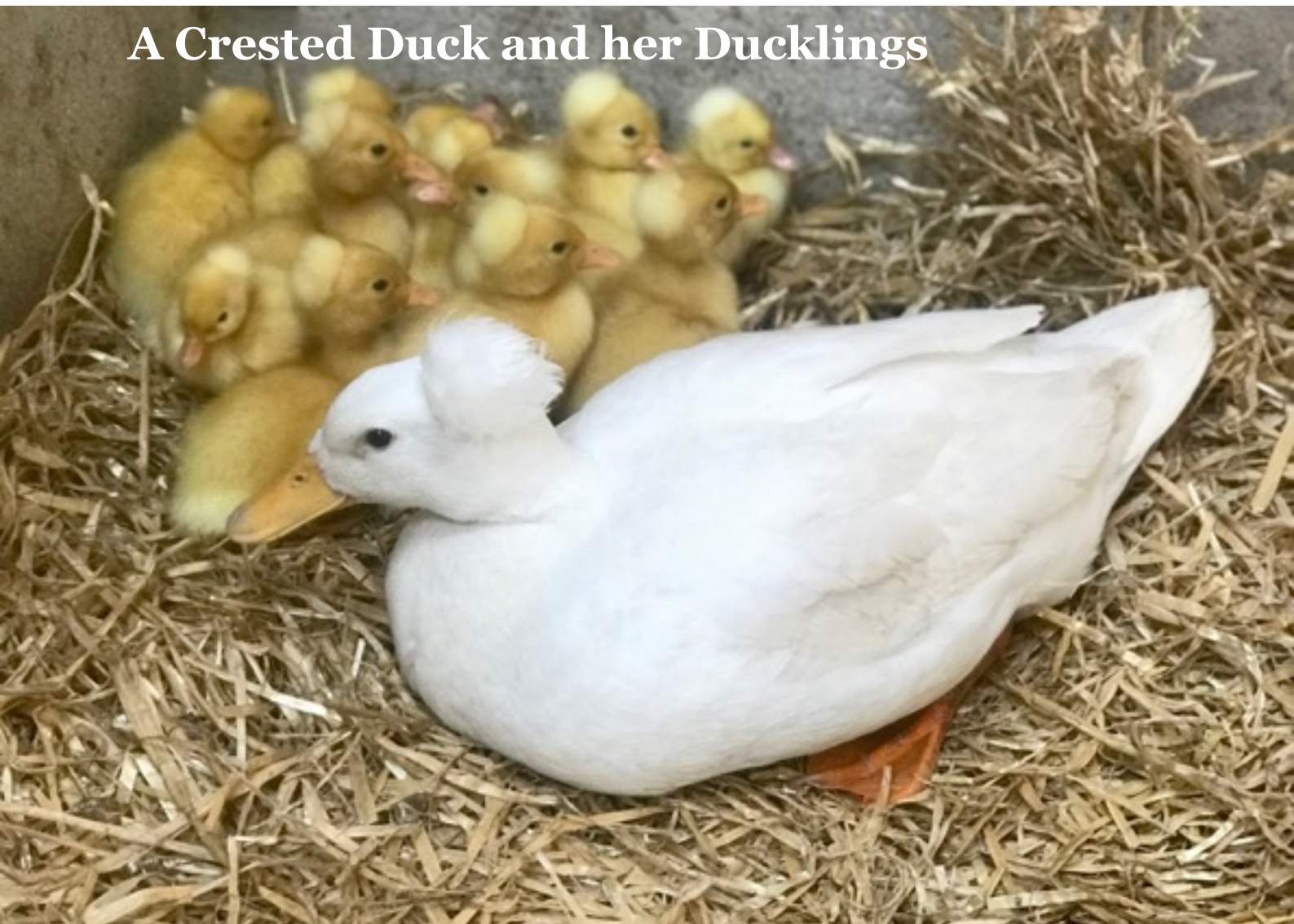
When one of your hens is ready to sit, what is your plan to let her successfully hatch chicks?

I normally leave her a few days where she is to make sure she is fully in the zone. I found over the years (after using a variety of different nesting boxes), the plastic cat litter trays with hoods on have proved to be very successful sitting quarters for my large fowl; they love them as they are nice and private, deter mites from hiding in them and easy to clean out.

When I know she is definitely committed, I will move her, including the nest box, into a separate pen on her own where she won't be interrupted by other hens for the remainder of the time. Again, the same with the ducks; I will separate them and put them individually into an outside

ark which is close by to their house. I find moving the ducks isn't always as successful as moving the hens; they are more sensitive to being moved and any such attempts can sometimes end in a fail. I usually have to leave them a good two weeks before I can move them, making sure they are really committed, and sometimes it proves easier to move the flock from them and let them stay in their original house.

A Crested Duck and her Ducklings



**Broody Call Duck,
Crested Duck, and Silkie
(with Fayoumi chicks)**



Do you set more than one broody hen at a time?

Yes I have had up to 5 or 6 broodies sat at one time. It all depends if it fits in with my breeding schedule. Sometimes it can be too late in the season for me, as I generally stop hatching large fowl after May, as they won't be ready in time for the big poultry shows held in December that same year. I like all my young stock to be grown by winter, as I find raising chicks during the cold months quite hard. Often the chick won't see green grass for 5 months if hatched in winter, and I think it is important for any chick to be able to go outside during the day (if possible), after it has come off heat - to be able to forage and do what comes naturally to chickens.

In your view, are chicks that are reared by broody hens more hardy than artificially reared chicks?

No, I have found there hasn't been a difference in health between either. The only difference I've experienced personally is the acceptance of being handled. Naturally, at first, the chicks raised by hens are timid of humans and become stressed when removed temporarily from their mother; either to be examined or cleaned out.

**Broody Crested
Duck, Partridge
Cochins and
NeNe Geese**



Broody Fayoumi,
Brahma, Crested
Duck and Cochin



Regarding the ducks, I now prefer to let them raise their own young, manly down to the mess ducks make. I find raising ducklings and chicks together hard, because naturally, duckings like to make as much mess as they can with the water and require cleaning out constantly due to this instinctive urge. Therefore, in my view, it is better if the ducks hatch their own young, and then they can be raised outside in a movable and secure house and run, which personally I believe is a better environment for them.

How many eggs do you usually let a broody sit on?

The large fowl can accommodate 12 eggs quite happily. I won't usually put any more under her than that. If I have another 12 eggs, say, I will set them in the incubator at the same time and after candling them at 7 days will remove any infertile ones from the broody, and replace them with the fertile ones from the incubator. The ducks have been known to hatch a brood as big as 14 before.

What is your success rate of getting broodies to accept foster chicks, and what is your method?

I find that my hens will accept foster chicks in their own brood quite easily. Over the years, I have very successfully hatched chicks in the incubator (set to hatch at roughly the same time as the broody's eggs), and transferred them over after 48 hours to the foster mum.

It only proves difficult when the chick is over a week old, and mainly because the chick doesn't see the hen as its mother - as it is used to seeing YOU as its mother. Week-old chicks are often scared when placed in with a broody hen (and other chicks) and will hide away in a corner. The foster mum will pick up on this and can start to victimise the new occupant, knowing it is not one of her own.

The other trick I've found useful is setting the broody hen on a mixture of eggs from different breeding groups - so that she hatches all different colours at the same time: Black, Partridge, White etc. Then if the foster chick is a different colour to her eclectic mix of coloured chicks, she may not be quite so suspicious. However, if all of the broody hen's chicks are White and you are trying to introduce a Black chick, it is amazing how they know colours (Broody Prejudice, as you refer to it).

**Emma's Embden
Geese, Cochins
and baby chicks
(Crested Ducks
and Cochins)**



What do you do to discourage broodiness?

It is very hard when a hen is determined to sit in a nest of eggs. The best way I find to discourage her is to pop her in a metal dog crate, where she can't make a nest (it is very important that she doesn't have bedding). I leave her in it with food and water for at least 5 days, if not more. I will let her out each day to stretch her legs a bit, but then put her straight back in. I usually place the cage in with her flock mates (or at least in sight of the other hens) so she doesn't get stressed being separated from her friends. I find this method very successful.

How long would you store eggs intended for a broody hen?

The maximum storage time for intended hatching eggs for me is 10 days. However, this year I had a very successful hatch from a batch of eggs that were sent to me from Europe. They took two weeks to arrive and yet I had a 90% fertility and hatch rate, which was amazing.

At what stage do your breeds relinquish mothering duties?

I have found that Cochins keep going with the rearing for ages, and I've seen 12-week-old growers still snuggling under their mother during the rest period of the day. The ducks tend to give up around 6 weeks, as the ducklings grow at a much faster rate than chicks. The small group of Emden geese we have take their parenting duties very seriously, with the father and aunt stepping in to help too. It is definitely a real family affair raising Emden goslings; they carry on being protective of their young until they are at least 3 months old.

Of the breeds you keep, which would you say are the best at sitting?

It is hard to answer this question, as I would say all the breeds I keep are good at sitting. Once they are committed, they stay till the end. However, I would say by far the Cochins are the most broody.

What lessons/disasters have you experienced with broody hens?

Not to be too keen to move them, definitely give it a couple of days before you do so, as sometimes they appear to be broody, having decided to sit there for a day, but the following day when you've put eggs under them they have changed their

minds. It happens a few times a year with us... our Norfolk Black turkeys are very good at changing their minds. Also, if two hens have gone broody together, don't be tempted to keep them together, as this usually always ends in disaster, with them squabbling over the eggs during the incubation time - especially when one hen gets off the nest to stretch her legs and comes back to find the other hen has pinched her eggs (I know this is a point you agree with).

How many times will you let a hen sit per year?

Only once with such big birds, as it takes quite a lot out of them physically. They lose a lot of condition and it takes them quite a bit to recover due to their size.

Do your birds get off the nest daily when broody, or do you have to physically move them?

Yes, I have to physically remove the Cochin hens; they would literally sit there for a week at a time, not even moving to go to the toilet. The ducks are much better replenishing themselves and usually come off their nests in the late afternoon for a feed, drink a good stretch and a swim each day.

What time of year do you set your broody hens?

I aim to hatch my large fowl hens between January and May, so will make use of any broody hens during this period. I have been known to use broody Cochins to hatch ducklings during the summer months, as they will sit happily for the 4-week period it takes to hatch ducklings and don't seem to notice the difference in the breed.

A Crested Duck and her Ducklings



Bonus 1: Keeping Warm!



If a hen of mine is laying outside and I want to encourage her to go broody, I simply let her keep on laying in the nest site (which is usually in a hedgerow), and then wait for the evening/night that she decides to 'drop' on them. I then carefully transfer her to a safe indoors broody coop, so that she has all night to get used to the idea of being broody where she is (as opposed to her favoured site - the hedgerow). If the eggs that she's sitting on in the hedge aren't the important ones, they can be safely transferred to her new nest - so that you are keeping as much as possible the same. If you put cold eggs under her, she might wise up and realise too many

things have changed and that she's being duped. Once she has been settled in the new quarters for a couple of days, then the important eggs can be placed beneath her - and it doesn't matter if they are only room temperature because she is settled now, and won't likely be too suspicious. A good time to make the swap of the important eggs for the non-important ones, is when your broody has left the nest site for refreshment (either by choice or you have lifted her off), so she won't be anticipating returning to really warm eggs.

If the eggs your broody is laying in the outside nest ARE the important ones, then you don't want to risk them getting damaged or eaten by vermin. A good trick is to swap the important eggs daily (or whenever she lays) with unimportant ones, adding to the nest, egg by egg (so that your potential broody is none the wiser and doesn't suspect any interference). The unimportant eggs will be building up in no time, and hopefully she should be broody by the time there is 12-15 eggs in the nest. You will have marked these with a pencil before placing in the nest, to avoid any confusion.

Bonus 2: Nest Sense!



Once I have placed an upturned piece of turf into the base of the nest (and made a bowl-shaped indent with my hand), it is lined with moss, shavings and straw, and then compressed once more before the eggs are placed in it. I have already made sure each corner is high with nest materials and compressed hard so that no eggs can disappear away into these corners. I then like to support the nest with either 2 or 3 bricks, or some 3x2 timber (for example). This gives the nest some stability and prevents eggs from rolling out. (See above pics).

Obviously the bricks or pieces of timber will be removed before hatch day, to prevent chicks wandering off and being unable to jump back up to the safety of their mother. At this point, the next best thing to bricks or timber is a bit more soil, moss and shavings compressed around the nest with a sloped decline and ideally, a bit of a rough terrain so that any wandering chicks can easily gain traction on their ascent back to the nest.

After decades of doing this, I have found that the easiest sitting quarters for a broody hen is when she's in an enclosed nest that still allows room to refresh herself. The picture below is the same nest as the one in the pics above. You can see she's had a near miss by defecating near to the nest, but fortunately missed the eggs.

They don't need much more room than the pic below, but just enough to relieve themselves, access clean and fresh water, and have a feed and a bit of a scratch if they feel the inclination. The broody poos can be cleaned out as and when they are noticed...



Bonus 3: Goldtop Hacks!

Understandably, when people discover that an unofficial broody breed called a Goldtop exists, they rush out to find some, but results aren't necessarily guaranteed. The problem is that not 'any old' White (or Gold) Silkie male crossed to 'any old' Light Sussex will always produce desirable results. The birds in question may look the part, but in my experience it is much better to obtain stock (or create your own) from tried and tested lines, such as Geoff Tinson's large White Silkies and Light Sussex bantams.



Tried and Tested Goldtop Breeding Pen at
Pear Tree Poultry

I once came up with this saying: *“There’s never a broody when you need one, and if you have one, you never have the right eggs!”*. Another mistake people make is assuming that Goldtops always want to sit. But they need keeping in the loop - and by this I mean being part of your breeding plans. So whilst keeping a few Goldtops ‘exponentially’ increases your chances of having broody hens available, they also need to be laying first, and in conditions conducive to going broody. If it is winter then they may need extra light so that their reproductive system is in the right mode - and to align as closely as possible with the important breeding birds.



I hope you enjoyed this bonus e-book. If you still haven't got **The Broody Hen Hand Book**, then please talk to me about getting a discounted version.

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