

Plainhead Markings

Posted By: Bob Bollinger

Date Posted: Mar 1, 2010

Description: More PH YBs. They are nest mates and see that one has a short cap and the other a long ... very interesting

Date Taken: January 2010



Hank Ebbelaar - Mar 2, 2010

Any crested birds in their background?

Bob Bollinger - Mar 3, 2010

Hank, the answer is yes and no. I do not mix crested into my PHs. I do know that over the years many of the birds I bought carried cr//+ as I occasionally see them show up in the babies. I keep records on all of my breeders to know who carries and over 50% do.

Bob Bollinger - Mar 3, 2010

The parents are a dun hen on a silver cock.

Colin Campbell - Apr 9, 2010

Hi Bob these birds look very well marked our marking are becoming a lot more stable since we imported birds back in the early 90`s sounds along time to get marking stable but to get the type and head structure it all takes time and we don't have that many breeders in Australia.

It is interesting with regards to the head marking I don't mind if the marks are a bit short but I have had a lot of trouble with the markings being too long and the young birds this year the better headed birds seem to have the longer markings, do you find that your better headed birds in general have longer markings.

Bob Bollinger - Apr 14, 2010

Several thoughts here; Quite frankly I am a bit disappointed with the range of these head markings. The two birds in the pic are nest mates. Note how one has a long cap and one a short cap. There are two other babies from this pair; one with a short and the other with a perfect cap. So while markings are more stable than in the past I would like to see mine become more stable.

Yes, I do see a bit of a correlation of big headed birds to long caps. I don't think there is as much of a genetic link here, but more of a breeder preference that carries though. The other thing we need to deal with is back skull. I find that some birds who have over developed back skull tend to tolerate long caps as the long cap looks straight with too much skull in the rear. So I think we have overlooked the long cap. As we focus more on the whole head I think cap length will start to play out as a key concern.

DENNIS MANNING - Apr 29, 2010

Good thoughts Bob. I have long been a devotee of a good marked PH. Half caps often but obviously not always, are a sign of crested cross. The crest's cap is short naturally. If it had a PH cap the first three or four rows of the crest would be colored like a SF Moorhead cap. We have a great deal of points on that marking but in the show room it does not always get the attention it deserves. I do not believe that the long backskulled birds have the correct PH head BUT when it comes to the marking if you view that bird from the side and that line appears straight from the intersection of the mandibles to the back point of the head you have got to give him the marking points. You can fault the head as not being correct flat on top etc. but he gets the marking points. I often see the long backskulled birds at rest in the show coop and the head appears to be over marked but when I see that same bird up in the judging pen and he is up on his feet and showing the line is straight.