

KUBAN (Kubanskaya)

A breed developed at the poultry breeding department of the Kuban Agricultural Institute by backcrossing Gorki geese with the Chinese. Another population of Kuban geese, with white plumage, was obtained by crossing white Gorki geese with the Large Grey, the Embden, and the Vishtines.

The first population of Kuban geese is widely distributed, predominantly in the southern regions of the Russian Federation. They are also kept in the central regions, in the Volga area and in Ukraine, Moldavia and Kirgizia. In 1974 these geese numbered 20 500 birds; in 1980 their numbers reached 82 300 but at present they have declined somewhat.

The body is of medium length, raised in front. The head is large with a knob on the forehead at the base of the bill. The breast is rounded and the legs are of medium length. The back and wings of the Kuban Grey are light greyish-brown with a dark brown stripe on the head and neck; the feet are dark. The Kuban White has white plumage and pale feet and bill.

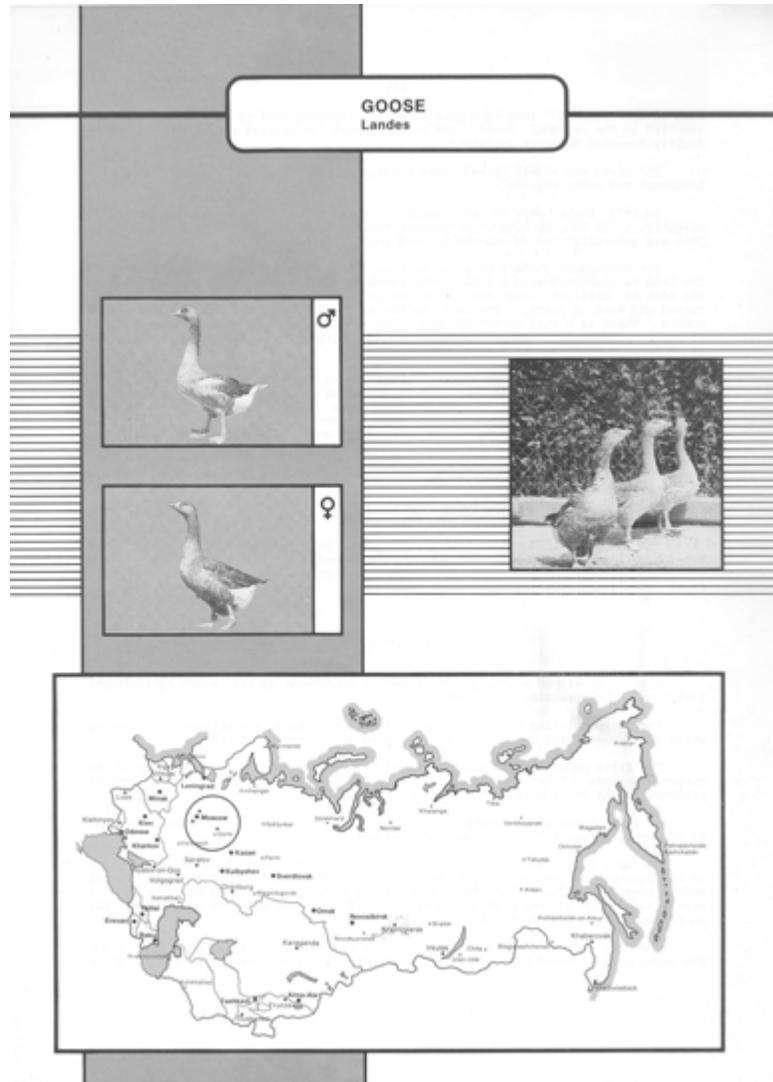
The live weight of adult males is 5.0-5.5 kg and that of females is 4.5-5.0 kg. The geese of this breed have a high egg production; egg weight is 140-160

g. Birds mature at the age of 240-250 days. The egg-laying period lasts 7 months. The hatching rate is high - 75-85%. The survival rate of young is good - 85%. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.4-3.6 kg.

The breed is known for its high reproductive performance (egg production may reach 100 eggs per layer, fertility and hatchability are up to 90%, survival rate of young is up to 95%) and good adaptation to the climatic conditions of Krasnodar territory and adjacent regions.

The weak points of the breed are the slow weight gain of the young and low carcass quality because of the colour of the plumage and skin.

Pedigree breeding of Kuban geese is carried out at the poultry breeding department of the Kuban Agricultural Institute which is working on the development of new highly-productive strains. The research work is aimed at producing a maternal line for broiler production by crossing with breeds of good meat qualities.



LANDES (Landshskaya)

Landes is a breed imported from Hungary. At present, there are small flocks of these geese in Gorki and Moscow regions, their total number being some 6000 birds.

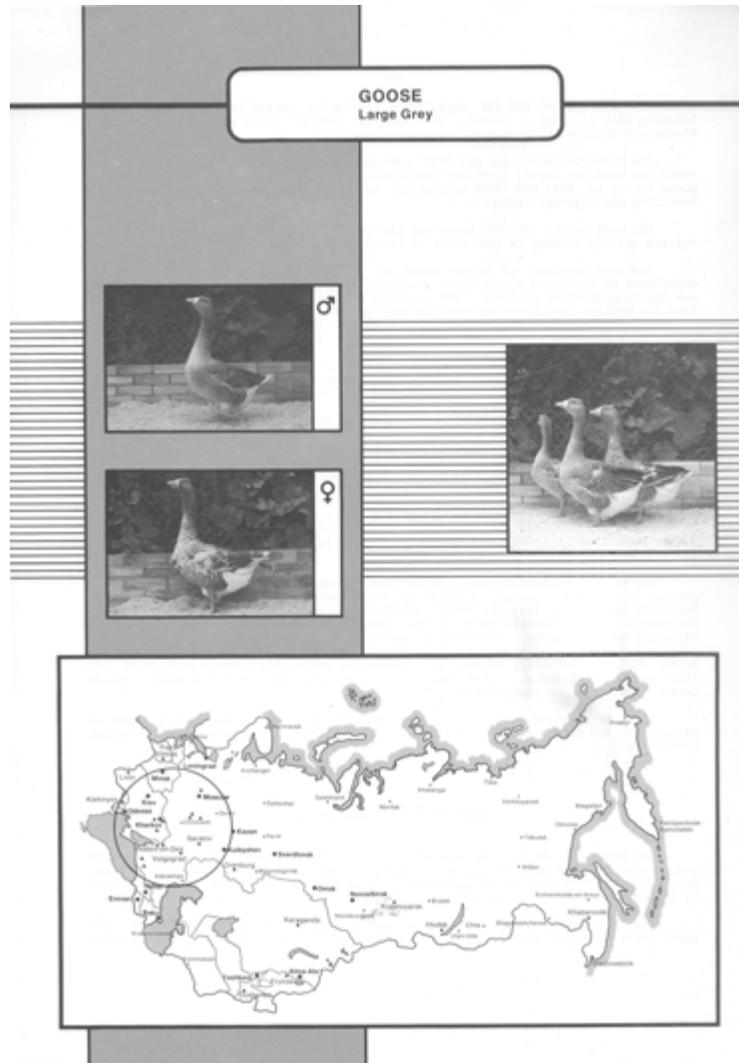
In constitution, size and colour Landes geese resemble the Toulouse but with a lighter plumage. The body is massive, the head broad, the neck thick and short, the breast broad and deep. The legs are of medium length.

The live weight of adult males is nearly 6 kg and that of females is 5 kg. When fattened to produce fat livers, the live weight reaches 8 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.5 kg. The average egg production is 25-30 eggs; egg weight is 170 g. The hatching rate is 45-50%.

One of the biological properties of these birds is that they can be fattened to produce enlarged fat livers. Young with a live weight of 8 kg have 700 g livers. Fertility and hatchability are 75-80 and 60-65% respectively. The survival rate of the young is 80%. Purebred birds of this breed are not popular because of their low reproductive performance. The breed is used

as a paternal strain in crosses for the of fat livers. The live weight of goslings obtained by crossing with the Rhenish breed, which are currently raised on a commercial scale, may reach 9-10 kg with the liver weighing 700-800 g. Good results are also obtained by crossing with Italian geese. The liver may reach 520 g or more.

Pedigree breeding is carried out at Lindovsk enterprise in Gorki region and on Kashira poultry farm in Moscow region. Flocks of this breed are kept at Complex enterprise.



LARGE GREY (Krupnaya seraya)

The breed exists in two populations, the Ukrainian and the Tambov. Both populations were obtained by crossing Romny geese with the Toulouse. The first population was developed by the Ukrainian Poultry Breeding Institute, and the second at Arzhenka breeding plant in Tambov region. The Large Grey is the most popular among local breeds in the USSR. In 1974 these geese numbered 196 000 and they reached 314 200 in 1980. At present their numbers have declined somewhat due to the large-scale commercial introduction of the Rhenish and Italian breeds.

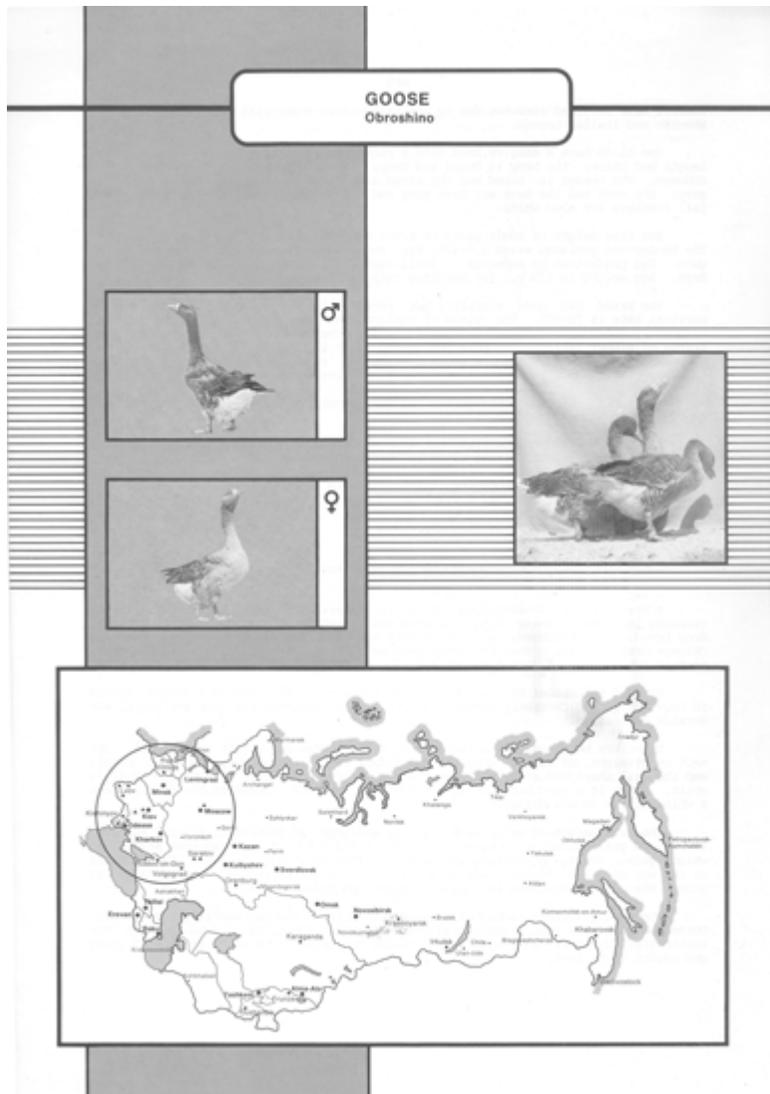
The birds have a massive head with a short orange bill. The neck is of medium length and thick; the body is broad and deep; some birds have two skin folds on the abdomen. The breast is broad and the wings are close to the body. The plumage is grey; the neck and the back are dark grey and the abdomen is white. The tips of the tail feathers are also white.

The live weight of adult males is 6.5-7.0 kg and that of females is 5.8-6.0 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.5-4.0 kg; feed consumption is 3.1-3.2 kg

per kg of gain. Egg production is moderate - 35-40 eggs. Birds mature at the age of 250-260 days. Egg weight is 175 g. The hatching rate is 55-58%. The breed has good viability but reproductive performance is poor. The survival rate is 78-80%. The yield of goslings per layer is also low - 18-20 head. Large Grey geese are bred pure and also used as the paternal line in crossing with breeds of higher reproductive performance and lower live weight. They are also used as paternal or maternal grandparental lines which are crossed to form the maternal line which is then crossed with the highly productive Rhenish geese.

Large Grey geese are widespread in the central and southern regions of the Russian Federation and in the Ukraine.

Pedigree breeding is carried out at the Ukrainian Poultry Breeding Institute which has a selection programme aimed at producing new strains. Breeding is also carried on at Arzhenka breeding plant in Tambov region. Large Grey geese constitute good genetic material for producing crossbreds with fast weight gains up to the age of 8 weeks and a live weight of 4.2-4.5 kg.



OBROSHINO (Obroshinskaya)

A breed group developed on Obroshino Experimental Farm in the Ukraine by crossing local white geese with good down and feathers with ganders of the Chinese Grey breed. The crossbreeds were mated with the offspring of Large Grey ganders and Chinese Grey females. Then the crossbreeds were bred inter se. There are two types in this breed group (C_1 and C_2), which differ in plumage and productivity.

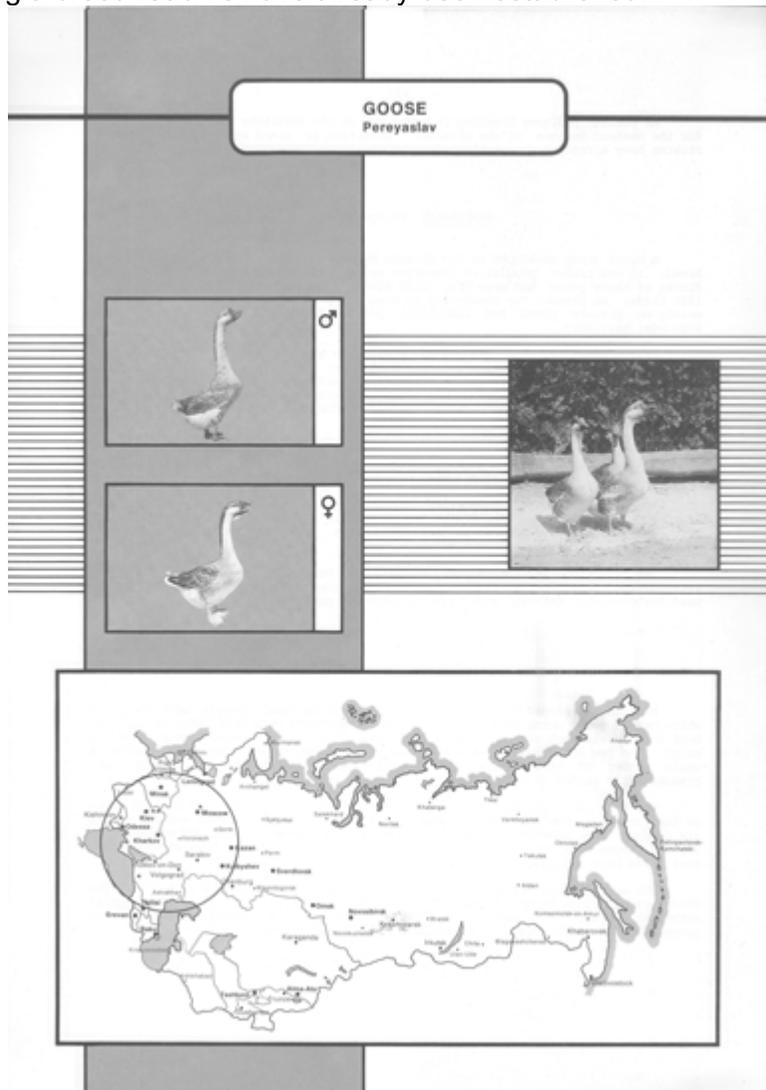
In 1980 the number of Obroshino geese exceeded 4 000. They are mainly raised in Lvov, Volyn and Cherkassy regions, as well as in Moldavia and some regions of the Russian Federation.

The birds have a strong constitution, a small head and bright orange bill. The neck is straight, of medium length. The breast is broad and deep, the back erect, and the tail short and straight. The plumage is grey except for the abdomen which is white. There is a dark brown stripe on the head and neck. Geese of the C_2 type have a white stripe on the breast.

The live weight of males is 6.8-7.2 kg and that of females is 6.3-6.8 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 4 kg or more with 2.9-3.3 kg of feed required per kg of weight gain. The egg production in the first cycle is 40 eggs or more. Birds mature at the age of 9-9.5 months. Egg weight is 155-160 g. Reproductive performance is good. The average hatching rate is 65-70% but can reach 80-82%.

The meat qualities are good, and the fertility and hatchability are 80-89%. Obroshino geese are good grazers and well adapted to the climatic conditions of the southeastern Ukraine. They have fine down and feathers. The survival rate of young and adults is 90-100%.

At present pedigree breeding is under way at the Institute of Animal Husbandry for the Western Regions of the Ukraine. Selection is aimed at obtaining a breed. Strains have already been established.



PEREYASLAV (Pereyaslavskaya)

A breed group developed in the Ukraine by crossing local geese with the Chinese breed. It was rather popular in Chernigov region and adjacent

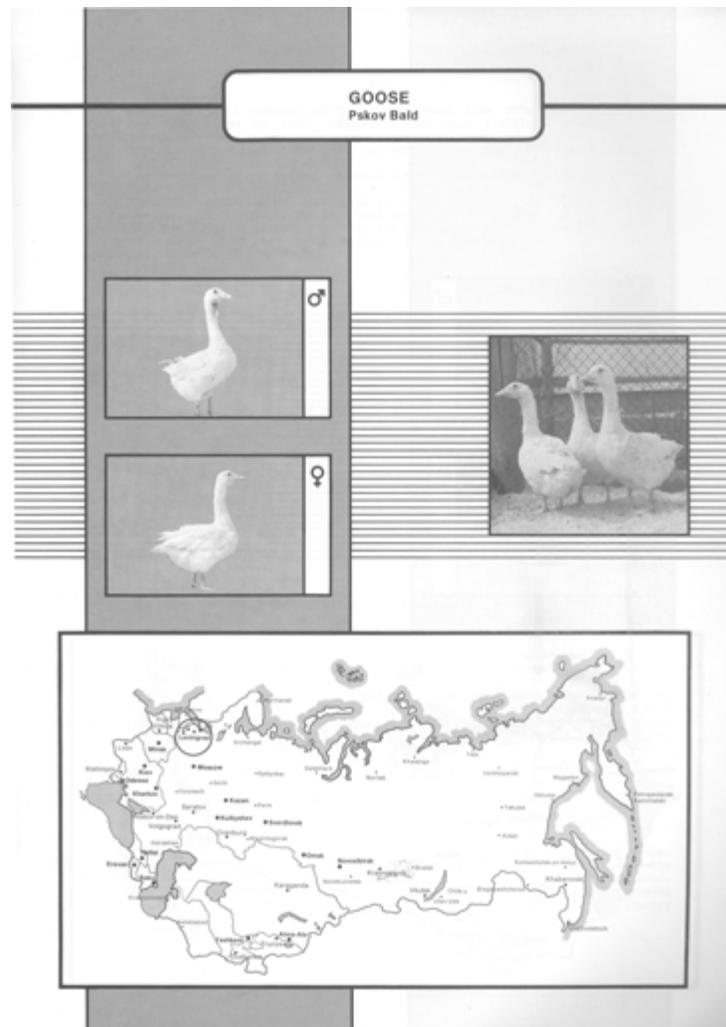
areas. In 1974 the flocks of these geese had more than 2100 birds; in 1980 their number declined to 1500 birds. At present the population is even smaller. Pereyaslav geese are raised mainly on private plots and individual poultry farms in Chernigov region and Krasnodar territory.

In conformation, size and colour Pereyaslav geese resemble the Chinese Grey breed. The body is medium-sized, raised in front; the neck is long. The head is large with a knob on the forehead. There is a "purse" under the bill and a fold on the abdomen. The plumage is dense. Back and wings are dark grey, with a dark greyish-brown stripe down the back of the neck. The bill is dark and the tarsi are rose-coloured.

The live weight of adult birds is relatively low; males weigh 4.5-5.0 kg and females 3.8-4.0 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.0 kg. Egg production is high -50-60 eggs. Egg weight is 140 g. Meat qualities are poor.

Among the biological properties of these geese one should point out their reproductive performance. The fertility of eggs is 80-90% and the hatching rate is 70%. The breed is well adapted to local conditions. The survival rate of young and adults is 85-95%.

The reduction in the former numbers of Pereyaslav geese is due to the introduction of new breeds with better meat qualities. However these geese can be used for obtaining material with high reproductive performance.



PSKOV BALD (Pskovskaya lysaya)

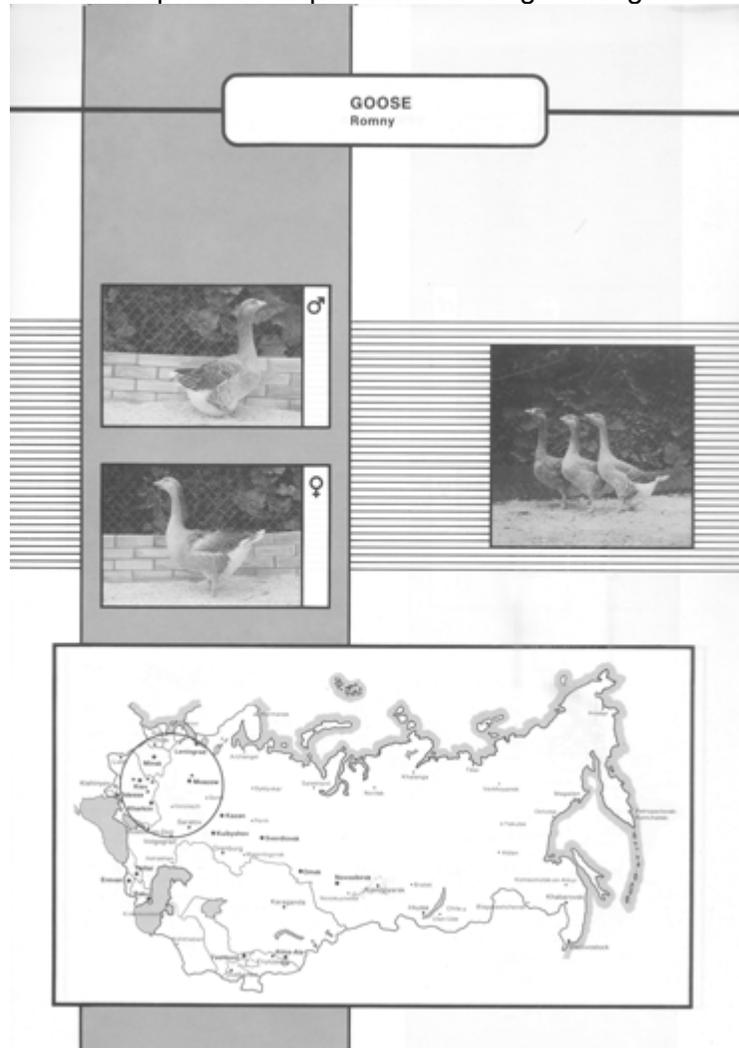
A breed developed in Pskov region by crossing local breeds with the wild white-headed geese which used to live there. Crossbreds were bred inter se and the best individuals were selected. During the war (1941-45) the breed almost ceased to exist. The few individuals remaining were used to restore the breed. At present a small number of birds exist in the Pskov and adjacent regions. They are predominantly raised on private plots.

The body is horizontal, broad and deep. The head is large, with a white spot on the forehead; the bill and the neck are short. The legs are short and the shanks are orange. The plumage of back and wings is steel-grey; breast and abdomen are lighter. Some birds are light grey, with a dark stripe down the back of the neck. Most birds have a fold on the abdomen.

The average live weight of males is 6.0 kg and that of females is 5.0 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.5 kg. Egg production is only 15-20 eggs. The females mature at the age of 10 months. In optimal conditions of keeping and feeding egg production reaches 30 eggs. The average egg weight is 180 g.

Major biological features of Pskov Bald geese, like other local breeds, are their good adaptation to local conditions and high viability under extensive conditions. They have good weight gains. Under optimal conditions of feeding and management the live weight of the young can reach 3.8-4.0 kg by the age of 60 days.

The reduction in the numbers of these geese is due to their low productivity. Pskov Bald geese are of some value as a genetic resource and will be included in the conservation flock of the All-Union Institute of Poultry Breeding. To this end, Pskov and adjacent regions are being searched for the most typical specimens in terms of colour, size and constitution. Their economic value and productive qualities are being investigated.



ROMNY (Romenskaya)

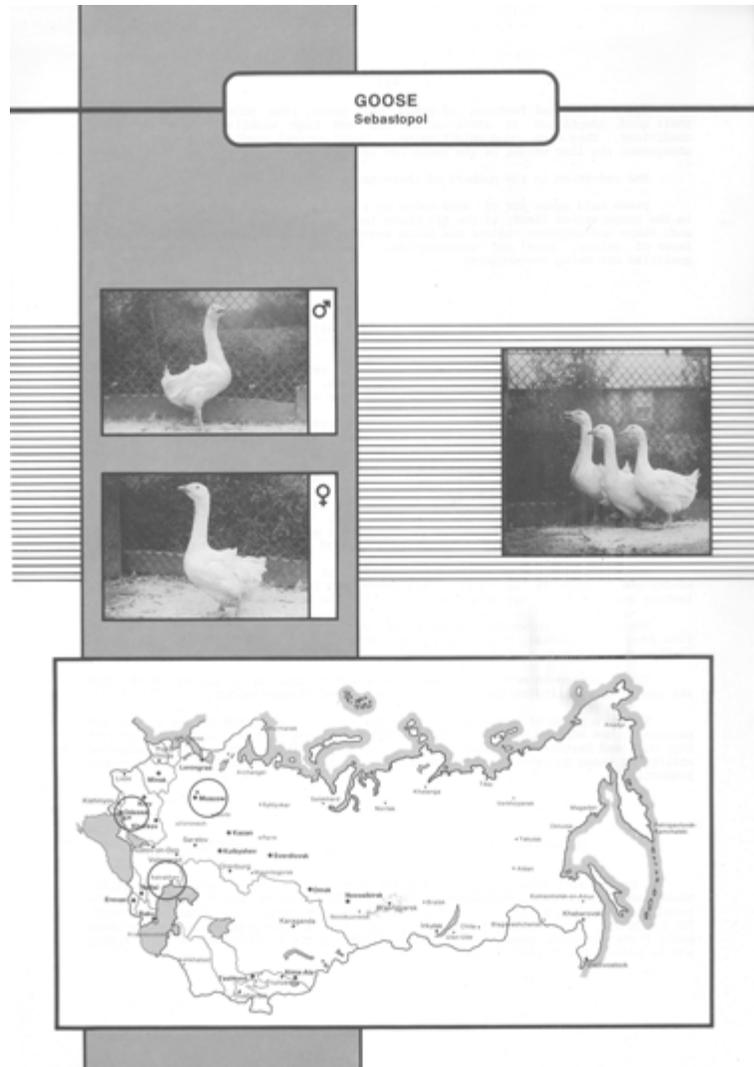
A breed obtained from local geese of Poltava region by means of mass selection aimed at improving their productive characteristics. Romny geese were widely spread in Chernigov, Sumy, Poltava, Kiev and other regions of the Ukraine.

In 1974 there were 38 500 birds of this breed; by 1980 their numbers had declined to 24 500. At present there are even fewer. They are mainly raised on general farms and on private plots.

The body is deep and broad. The head is small and rounded, with a short, straight bill of orange colour. The breast is broad and deep. The wings are well developed; the tail is small, slightly raised. Adult geese have one or two skin (fat) folds on the abdomen. The plumage is grey, white or pied. Most birds are grey; the neck and back are dark grey, the breast grey and the abdomen light grey. The legs are short and strong with orange shanks and feet.

Adult males weigh 6 kg or more and females 5.5 kg. The live weight of 60-day-old goslings is 3.4-3.5 kg. Egg production is 15-20 eggs in the first cycle lasting 4-4.5 months. Egg weight is 160-170 g. The hatching rate is 60-65%. The breed is known for its efficient weight gains, tender and fat meat, and fine down and feathers. The fertility and hatchability are sufficiently high, 80 and 75-80%, respectively.

The reduction in numbers is due to slow weight gain up to the age of 60 days and low market quality of the carcass because of the plumage colour. The germ plasm of Romny geese is useful for the development of new breeds and parental lines adapted to the climatic conditions of the Ukraine, and of groups with high down and feather qualities. Studies are under way to determine the combining ability of these geese with other breeds in order to obtain a maternal line of higher productivity.



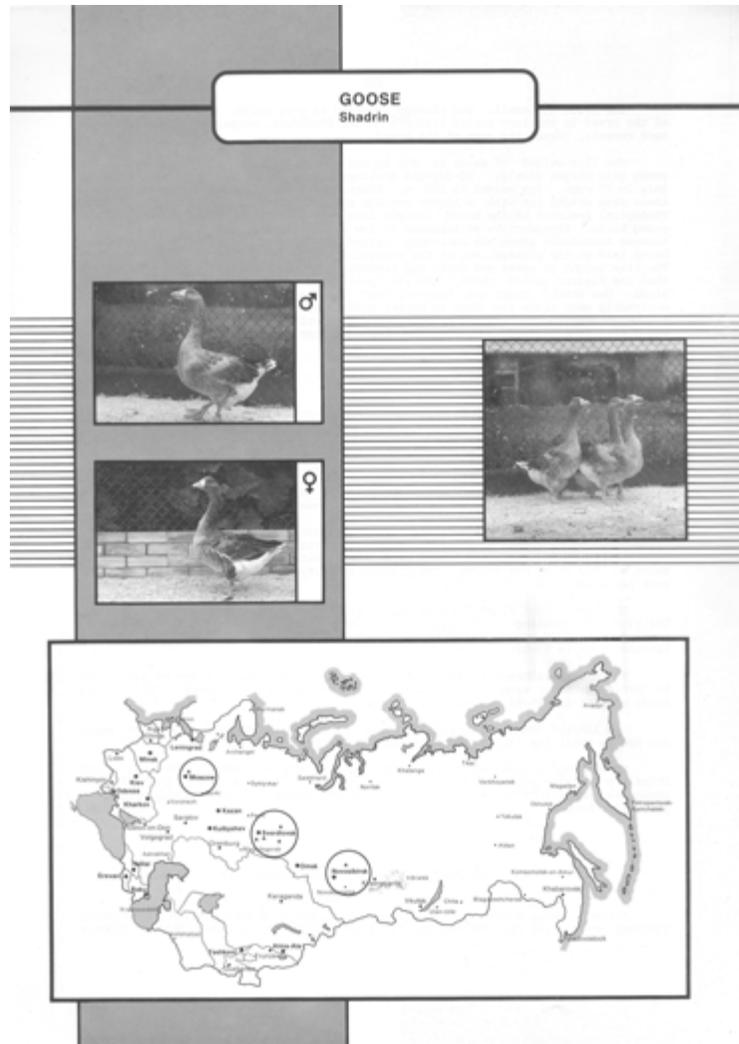
SEBASTOPOL (Curly or ribbon = Kurchavaya or Lentochnaya)

A breed also known as Silk, Astrakhan, Turkish or Sevastopol Ribbon geese. These names indicate the localities of their origin and distribution. Previously the breed was raised on a rather wide scale and it used to number more than 50 000 head. The birds also had a higher productivity than the existing population. At present small flocks of these geese are raised on private plots in the south of the country and by amateur poultrymen.

The birds are small. The plumage is white or grey white. The peculiar feature the breed is the long curled feathers on the shoulders, wings, tail, and among the pack coverts. Hence the name of the breed.

The live weight of males is 5-6 kg and that of females is 4.5-4.7 kg. The young gain weight slowly: 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.2-3.5 kg. Egg production is only 20-25 eggs. Egg weight is 160 g. There is a group of Sebastopol geese with a flower live weight but with a higher average egg production of 30-35 eggs per layer. -Biological features of the breed include

slow feathering and low growth rate of the young birds. Reproductive performance is low with fertility only 60-65%. For these reasons Sebastopol geese are currently raised on a limited scale, the main emphasis being laid on the plumage, not on the commercial value and productivity of the birds. The live weight of geese and their egg production in these populations are much lower than the figures quoted above. Amateur poultrymen raise these geese as ornamental birds. One should point out, however, that the productivity of the breed improves noticeably when birds are kept in better conditions. According to the data of the Ail-Union Institute of Poultry Breeding, the live weight of the 60-day-old young does not differ from that of many other small populations, and the hatching rate reaches 70-75%.



SHADRIN or URAL (Shadrinskaya or Uralskaya)

This is an old local breed obtained by long selection for adaptation to the severe climatic conditions of Siberia and the Urals.

The breed was not raised on a large scale. In 1974 there were 6600 birds; by 1980 numbers had declined to 1600 and at present remain at this level.

The head is small, the neck short, the bill short and straight. Shadrin geese differ from other breeds in having only 16 neck vertebrae instead of the usual 17 or 18. The body is compact and there is a small fold on the abdomen. The legs are short and the wings are strong. The plumage is grey, white or pied. The shanks and feet are orange-red.

The live weight of adult males is 5.5-6.5 kg and that of females is 4.5-5.0 kg. The 60-day-old goslings weigh 3.2-3.6 kg. Egg production is low and ranges from 20 to 25 eggs in four months; some birds lay 35-40 eggs. Egg weight is 150-160 g. The hatching rate is 50-55%.

Birds of this breed are well adapted to severe conditions and are characterized by hardiness under extensive conditions. The geese are good brooders and broody birds account for 45-55% of females:

The limited distribution and reduction of the former numbers of Shadrin geese are due to their low commercial value and reproductive performance. No meaningful breeding is currently under way with this breed. They are raised chiefly on private plots in regions adjacent to the Urals. On general farms Shadrin geese are usually raised on a limited scale and are used for crossing with more productive breeds.