

SERAMA

Text: Sigrid van Dort
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BLUES

the obscure history of the blue American Serama



Jeff then started to breed F1 back to Serama and continued this for 2 generations a year. In 2007 Jerry got such a 4x back crossed OEGSerama from Jeff and he did the same. After 6x back on good Serama I got some eggs from Jerry and the advice: cull hard although you can run them over with a car, never had such strong and reproductive birds before. So I started to cross these few 6x back Serama to my best Serama and did the same. Because I also got blacks from these OEGSerama and they were extremely vigorous in health I used the

black in my chocolate/bronze breeding, aware of the OEG characteristics like white eggs, abundant by-sickles and longer backs and better feather quality (less soft compared to Serama). Later I had to choose between all the projects going on and decided to quit with the blues and continue the bronze birds which were similar to the blues at that time in problems, I just like choc/bronze more than blue (is ordinary colour).

Evert Timmer got a few blue

OEGB x Serama, x Serama (F2 back cross) from Jeff Summers. Note the narrow sickles and abundant by-sickles, the short primaries (no scissor wing) and very good feather quality.

There was one colour Jerry Schexnayer missed in this Serama flock and this was blue. He never found blue in the thousands of birds he bred over the years since the importation of the Serama from Malaysia. In Malaysia and Indonesia there is blue in the Serama, so its not 'unknown'. All colours are present and also new ones in the Serama...

It was in 2005 a Serama breeder Jeff Summers from the North (Carolinas) thought to add blue to the Serama and he crossed a black Serama hen of very good type to a splash OEGB with horrible OEGB and good kind of serama-type.



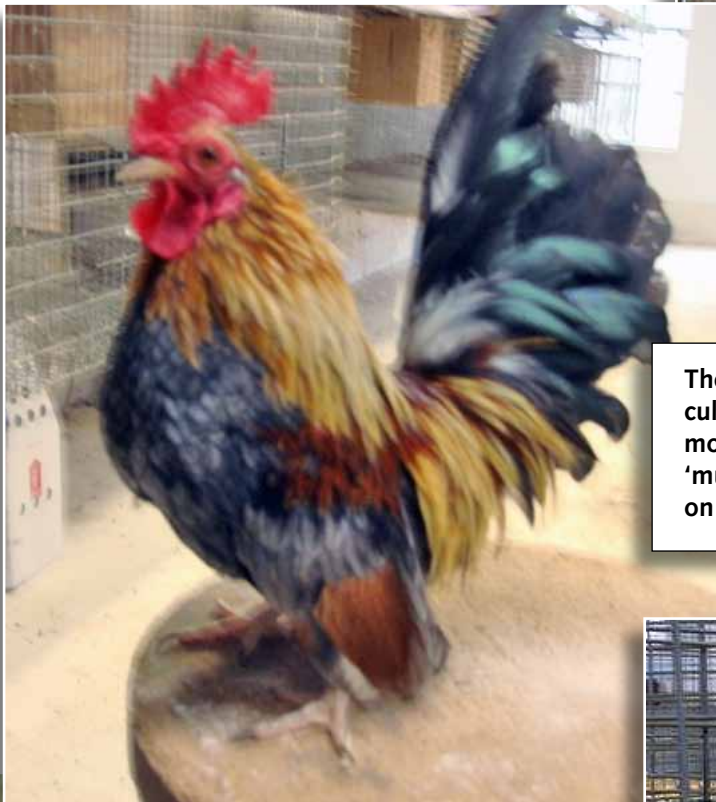
birds and I kept an old hen for the blood in case something would happen and to try out how bronze x blue would work out. This bird was adopted by my son and just recently died at high age (she came from Jerry as an egg).

When people say: watch out the Serama are crossed to Japanese, Dutch bantams this might be true and dates back to the time the Serama were not available yet (fast money). When Europeans say: we heard there is OEGB blood in the Serama but we never saw those, they are just not looking good enough.

All blue Serama descending from my birds, also the culls which went to France till the end of 2009 are OEGB mixes in the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th back cross to Serama. Actually its easier to breed a bad pure Serama than to mix to Japanese or Dutch Bantams... why do the effort if there are enough bad pure Serama out there?



Blueboy, a show winner in 2007 from Jerry, look at the large eye, short wings and good feather quality.



The ugly blue Serama discovered in the culling pen from Jerry which added some more Serama although... he has just as 'much' (not) Serama type as the OEGBs on this page.



Left: Black OEGB from Soda Bottle Seramas Georgia.



Right: Splash OEGB from SunnyChick Florida (Newman Show).



Note the too big round dark eye - for a splash. OEGB 7x back to Serama, same line as Blueboy (2007 my bird).

Below, 2013, still the same line. There's not much left of OEGB-type.



It was at the time Jerry got the blue Serama mix that one morning SCNA judge Edgar Mongold was walking through the culling pen of Jerry when his eye fell on an ugly rooster and he said: this is blue! They took the ugly rooster out of the pen, no type, horrible coarse comb with dents as if he had a high voltage shock. Jerry mated this ugly bird to a nice Serama hen and improved type as usual. During the



Splash OEGB hen from SunnyChick Florida.



Magical photo of the blue OEGB hen Stacy from www.poopinacoop.com

past years these two lines of blues got mixed and today there is no trace left of the ugly blue cull Serama and the dedicated selection process of the initial cross of Serama x splash OEGB.

Sometimes, when you find a white egg, its possible this comes from OEGB ancestors and only the breeders with 'the eye' can identify OEGB genes in Serama which will not make it as a breeding bird today anymore...

OEG-characteristics in Serama, today no longer present unless no real breeding:

- better (less loose) feather quality
- narrow sickles and by-sickles
- abundant and soft by-sickles, Serama should have less by-sickles
- lots of shine on blacks
- longer head (less round)
- bigger eyes
- shorter wings, esp. shorter primaries compared to Serama
- hens tend to pinch tail
- horizontal stance, also when the back is short enough
- different in character; friendly but assertive?
- more active, hunters, vigilant, less dreamily compared to Serama
- longer legs
- white eggs

Why was using OEGB a blessing for the Serama anyway? Because hybrid birds (mixed lines totally not related) make 'bastards' which are super strong. In poultry industry hybrids are end-products and have best performance in the aspects they are bred for.

Its easier to breed a bad pure Serama than a mix which looks like a Serama.



Blue cuckoo Serama chick.

Accidently photo: seems the choc/blue experiment is also done by Jerry (right partly) mum is blue (left) 2013/14.

Below: splash x choc/bronze Serama pullets, experiment 2010 to see if choc/blue mixes like in the 'lilac' Orpingtons. And in Serama both black diluters don't mix, its choc and blue feathers of half of them (tail pullet on the right pic).





Blues photographed January 2014 randomly at Jerry's place for this article, no posing.



Unskilled people say often: its a mix with Japanese bantam (short thick legs, big comb, huge tail) or Dutch bantam (white in the ear pulled up wings, soft arched sickles), when they see a wrong Serama which doesn't have to be mixed at all.

When you have enough experience breeding Serama for many years, you've seen these so called mixes in your culling pen. We claim the Serama are 'pure', they are a rather young breed and not all genes are taken out of the pool we don't want to see in a few years. So you can expect surprises now and then.

From Jerry's imported flock all types arose over the years.

Also the 'extreme Malaysian type' came from his American Serama breeders. The American Serama segregates in many types. You don't need to cross Serama x Fantail pigeon to get a headless chicken (seen from the front), nor do you have to go to Malaysia if you don't want to do the work yourself.

'Faites vos jeux'



The normal (healthy type) Serama are also in blue, splash and mixed, and in all (st)ages.



Note for European chicken lovers who don't know Old English Game American Style.

These are different from the UK OEG(B) birds which have much smaller (shrimp) tails and a totally different type. I don't know the history and why there is so much difference between birds which carry the same name and that's the end of the similarity between the two. The Blue Serama is made with American OEGB, and as you saw on the previous pages, this is not an illogical choice. It will not work for Europeans because the UK OEGBs don't look like Serama at all. For Europeans it's: you can't try this at home. First you have to import American OEGB... and the blue Serama from them are in Europe since 2007 so you can save yourself the troubles.