

**Jenny Chase &
Björn Holzauer**



Goose

West of England Geese



Gander

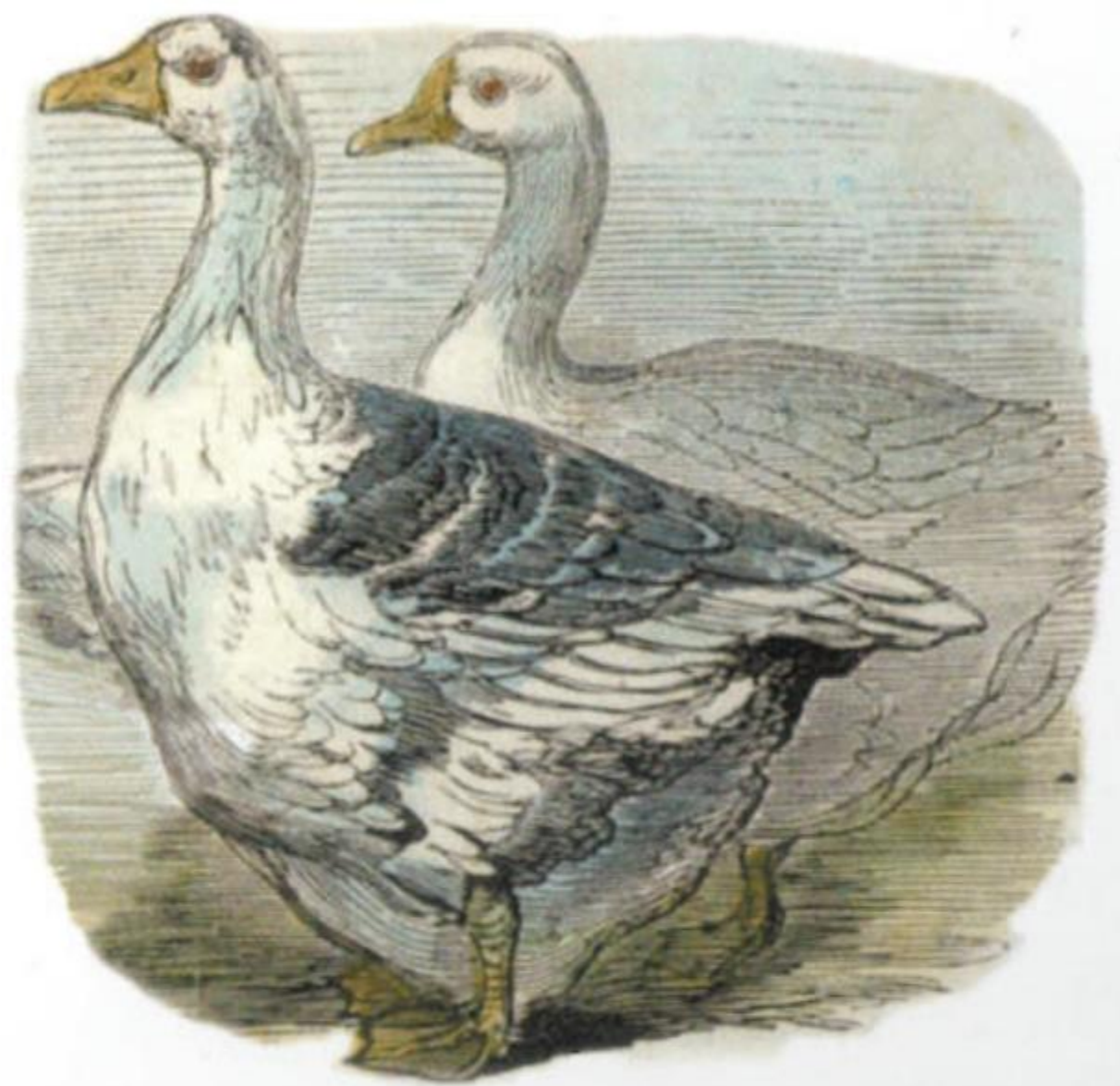
This presentation was prepared in German for a meeting of Rassegeflügel Schweiz, the Swiss rare breed poultry association, on August 29, 2020. Since West of England geese will probably be standardized in Switzerland soon, this presentation aims to explain to judges what they are looking for and what faults they are likely to see.

The authors are Björn Holzhauer and Jenny Chase, a married couple who introduced West of England geese to Switzerland in 2014 and have been breeding and exhibiting ever since. Any opinions and errors in this presentation are our own.

With thanks to Jenny's parents, Geoff and Sue Chase, who have been breeding and exhibiting West of England geese in the UK for decades and helped to coordinate the British Waterfowl Association breed standard in 1999.



- The West of England is descended from the medieval “Common goose”, ie the goose you keep on the common
- Standardised in 1999 by the British Waterfowl Association



The Common Goose 1854

Source: “Keeping Geese and Ducks” (2009) from Chris Ashton
ISBN 978-0715331576



1.0
(gander,
European
notation)



0.1 (goose,
this is
European
notation for
a female in
this context)

West of Englands still
have the instinct to
hatch their own
goslings





0.1
(goose)

1.0
(gander)

A close-up profile of a white duck's head. The duck has a bright blue eye with a red ring, a straight orange beak, and white feathers. It is standing on green grass. Three callout boxes point to specific features: the eye, the beak's straightness, and the beak's color.

Blue eyes

Beak should be straight,
not bent like that of a
Steinbacher. No knob.

Orange beak, not
pink


Female has white
around the beak, usually
increases with age

Tail should be
straight and flat

Posture upright and
alert, but not as
upright as a Chinese
goose

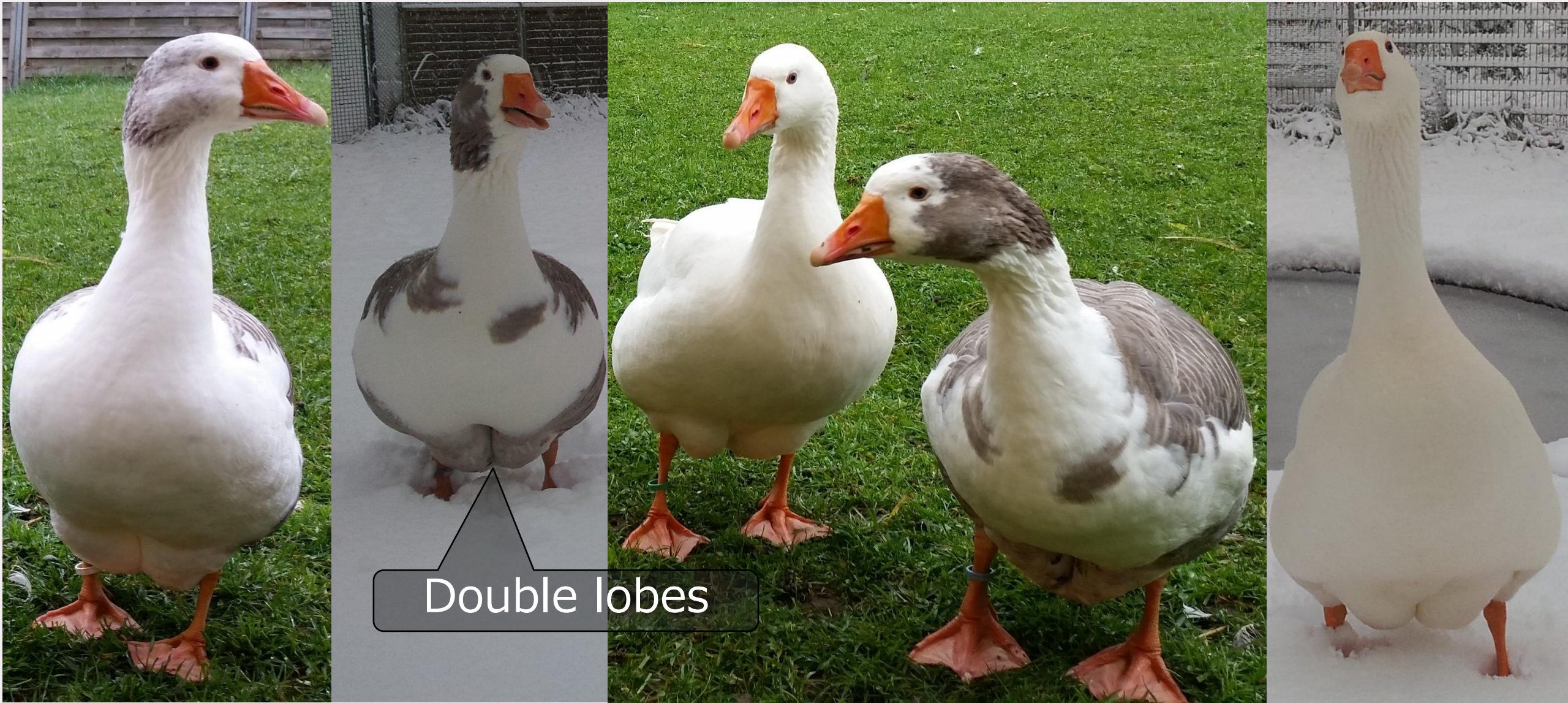
Grey thigh coverlets
on the female



A photograph of three geese in a snowy field. In the foreground, a large white goose with brown wing patches is shown in profile. Behind it, a smaller white goose with brown wing patches is also in profile. To the right, a third white goose is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The ground is covered in snow and green grass. A wooden fence is in the background. A text box with a speech bubble tail pointing to the middle goose is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Female geese become whiter in the face with age, and after ten years often have an entirely white head. This is not a fault.

Both sexes should have double lobes







BWA standard is
that the gander
weigh

7.3 – 9.1 kg

And the goose

6.3 – 8.2 kg

(personally we
think this is a bit
ambitious, but
they should be
substantial birds!)

It would be a major
fault if this gander was
as small as the baby!

Good: symmetrical grey, white neck. Grey neck is a very minor fault.
Grey will never be as clearly defined as in the saddleback Pomeranian.

Heart/ saddle-shaped grey markings on back

Much clearer/ darker grey might suggest the bird lacks a dilution gene and is just a (possibly male) saddleback goose.



Traces of grey in thigh coverlets and under the wings are not a fault. A complete lack of these might suggest the bird is Embden type, not a West of England at all.



Minor faults

Very little grey on the head for a young bird



Grey primary feathers



We would not breed these birds

Very unsymmetrical and splashy saddle, grey primaries



Too little grey on the back



Common, minor fault

White splashes in the saddleback, rough edge to saddle



Bad faults at exhibition

Too much grey in neck, grey primary feathers



Very asymmetrical markings



Problems for which we have no photo

- Not autosexing when bred! (A line that isn't autosexing is not West of England)
- **Too small** (but birds do take two years to reach full size)
- **Pink beak**
- **Single, asymmetrical or lack of lobes**

Questions?
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