

# From Rats to Riches



Described by Mrs Beeton in the first edition of *The Book of Household Management*, published in 1861, as 'deservedly a universal favourite' the Aylesbury duck was known around the world.

And much of this was owed to members of the Weston family.

Pictured above is William James Weston – known simply as 'Ducky' Weston – being interviewed for Canadian radio in 1954, just one of the countries where the family name was well known, others including Australia, America and even China.

He had begun taking an active part in the trade while still a schoolboy by helping his father at their duck farm in Mount Street, Aylesbury.



He went on to take over the 'Duckery' when his father died and immediately inherited the nickname 'Ducky' by which not only his father but also his grandfather and great-grandfather had been known.

It is on record that 'Ducky' and his father could kill and pluck six ducks in just 10 minutes!

He died six years after this broadcast was made, two weeks after his 70th birthday, and his only son, also named William Weston took over the business and is pictured (left) acting as a judge at a locally held competition.

He was the last in the family to be involved in the breeding of Aylesbury ducks, so ending a 200-year-old tradition.