## **Breeding Pyle Bantams**

By J. H. Carre

To breed real good colored (natural) Pyle Game Bantams requires a great deal of thought and care. The first thing to aim at in breeding any variety of Bantams is, of course, type. In Moderns we must have them, today, tall, straight on leg, fine in bone, narrow feather, short in body and well whipped up. The first thing a judge should look at as he goes through the class is to put a mark against three or four birds nearest standard type, then take them out and carefully examine them in his hand as to color, length and width of feather, etc. There is a great difference of opinion as to the color of the male. In my younger days, we had an almost crimson back with a shade lighter neck and saddle hackles; now we mostly condemn that in England. We want him more of a rich orange with lighter hackles and if possible full V shaped level wing end which is very difficult to get on a bright backed male but easy enough on a chestnut or crimson backed bird. The white must be white but alas how many are chemically treated? Peroxide of Hydrogen used to bleach out the red and chalk rubbed in, to whiten them. The number of really nice white ones are very, very few. The same with the females- to obtain a decent salmon breast and retain the white body color is a problem. Some breast colors in my humble opinion are too lively in color and not bright salmon.

In starting to breed, may I suggest that the birds selected must be as naturally white as possible in both sexes, for any red or smut will only be reproduced again and maybe worse. If it is an old male I should not object to a little lacing on breast, if the remainder is pure white. I have bred some really sound females from a Black Red Pyle bred male to white females, but see that he is perfectly black in his black or results will be poor. Breed Pyles pure as long as you can, then, if possible, to save time use a Pyle Bred Black Red male for the first cross of a pure Black Red to pure Pyle. As a rule, brings a lot of wasters.

I hope these few suggestions, the result of many years experience, will be helpful to some of your members. Pyles are probably one, if not the most difficult of the Modern Games to breed, at least, such has been my experience.

Original Editor's Note: I wish to personally thank Mr. Carre for his fine contribution to the 1928 edition. Mr. Carre has become one of our regulars and I know fanciers look for his article each year with much interest. Look up his advertisement in this issue and if you have any intentions of importing bantams of the variety he offers I would say buy from. Mr. Carre for he has a fine reputation of sending over full value for the money. Mr, Carre is one of the very best

Modem Game Bantam judges in England, also enjoys a high rating in Old English circles.

Thanks to the American Bantam Association for this article, which was published in the 1928 Year Book.