

The Brown Red Game Bantam

Due to the wonderful exhibit of Brown-Reds at the A. B. A. Winter Meet at Baltimore this past show season, and the huge interest manifested therein, it is our great pleasure to present a few facts in connection with this, one of the most beautiful varieties of the beautiful Game family.

The Brown-Red Game Bantams were made from what were formerly known as Brown Breasted Red Game fowls; so called because of the brown or reddish-brown breast in the male. Being dependents of the Old English Game fowl of the same name the Brown-Reds inherited the reddish brown breast color and other markings peculiar to this breed; but with the coming of the modern type a desire arose for a more beautiful Brown-Red, and it was gradually transformed from a fowl with a brown streaked breast and red top color or the black breast laced with bay and the orange-red top color into a fowl whose breast and body plumage was black and whose feathers were laced with lemon. From the breed so produced small specimens were selected and bred and the offspring rebred. The chicks were hatched late and the smallest inter-bred until they were reduced to bantam size. The Brown-Red Bantams first became popular when they were first shown equal to the large Game in Color, station and type. The type of the Brown-Reds as bred today is identical to that of all other varieties, namely, trim, hard feathered, long shanked and snakey headed. The top color of the male is lemon; the breast, black laced with lemon; neck hackle, lemon striped with black; rest of body, entirely black. In the female the neck hackle is lemon striped with black and the breast is black laced with lemon; rest of body, black. The lemon in the male is darker and of a brighter finish than in the female. The beak and eyes in both sexes are black; the face and its belongings, dark purple, the nearer they approach black the better.

Most successful breeders of this variety claim that Brown-Reds for exhibition can only be produced by separate matings for both male and female. Exhibition males are produced by mating a male perfect in exhibition requirements to females with an over amount of black in hackle, but with deficient breast markings; females with almost black head feathers should be given preference in this mating. A male laced down the thighs and beneath the wings mated to females lacking in these qualities may produce good cockerels, in the estimation of some breeders. Show pullets may be bred from exhibition females mated to males deficient in breast lacing. The above matings are based on the supposition that defects in one parent may be eliminated in the offspring by an excessive amount of marking in the corresponding section of the other parent. However, this may be, better results in greater proportion can be obtained by single mating fowls, correct in form and color, and the offspring mated in turn until a strain has been perfected with color and markings that will be of better quality than could come from chance mating of fowls deficient in some respects to others, that are excessive in these points. It is not a good policy to mate Duckwings or Birchens with Brown-Reds to obtain good color, because, though some good specimens have been produced that way, as a rule the results are very uncertain. It is wise to use males and females of the finest color if clean cut black and clean lemon markings are desired. Too much lacing on breast and throat is apt to appear and it is therefore advisable to use males deficient in breast markings, and mating them with properly marked females. Color can be generally be governed through the male, and for this reason he should be as perfect as possible.

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