

Cross Breeding Modern Game Bantams and Example in Red Pyles

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At some time during their career, or whenever the mating season approaches, I find most breeders, especially those who are also keen fanciers and exhibitors of the best strains of Modern Game Bantams, regardless of what variety bred, are pondering this all-important question: What variety can I use with safety to improve my stud or strain of Modern Game Bantams?

Your particular need may be a cross-breeding example to improve station and type, or you may need a cross-breeding example to improve, strengthen and "fix" the color in some variety.

Whatever your needs may be, don't go at cross-breeding blindly or in a haphazard manner, because cross-breeding is not the mere mating of two breeds or varieties, but requires careful forethought, knowledge of the laws of nature, knowledge of the ancestry of the breed or variety in question. Also, knowledge of systematic line-breeding, and the merging and blending or fusing of unrelated blood-lines.

If you are a beginner, attempting cross-breeding, I strongly advise your getting some first hand information from someone who knows or, better still, buy a book on the subject and follow the cross-breeding example religiously and you won't go very far astray.

The Modern Red Pyle Game Bantam is one of the most beautiful "results" of cross-breeding, so I present herewith a Red Pyle Cross-breeding example which is an excerpt from my book entitled "Baldwin's Book of Modern Game Bantams," soon to be published.

This article, I trust, will teach some breeders of Modern Red Pyle Game Bantams how, in times of trouble, to strengthen, fix and maintain true color in this charming variety.

Example number one: Cross Breeding Modern Red Pyle Game Bantams:

As you may know, the Modern Red Pyle Game Bantam is a "made" variety and, after a number of years of straight Pyle breeding, we find, has a tendency to lose color and fade out to a pale lemon color, instead of red in plumage sections that should be red. Therefore, to correct this condition of fading out when it appears and to deepen the color, we find it necessary to introduce or fuse Modern Black Breasted Red Game Bantam blood into the Red Pyle blood-lines.

The following mating method is found to be most satisfactory, as it improves, strengthens and "fixes" the color in the Modern Red Pyle Game Bantam:

Mating A is your first important step, for your first season.

Mating A must be headed by the most perfect Modern Black Breasted Red Game Bantam male as to station, type and color obtainable.

Mate him to two tall, reachy Modern Red Pyle females, "sisters," exhibition females in every way except breast color, which should be an even shade of pale salmon in color.

Toe mark or ring the chicks from each female and, when chicks are mature, save one of the best type, best Red Pyle colored cockerels, and one of the best type, best Black Breasted Red colored cockerels, "yellow legged," and save four of the best type, best Red Pyle colored pullets and four of the best type, best B. B. Red colored pullets, "yellow legged."

These ten chicks are for the second season's breeders, for matings B, C and D.

Mating B is headed by the "yellow legged" Black Breasted Red cockerel, raised from mating A, and mate him to the two Red Pyle females used in Mating A, namely his mother and his aunt.

Mating C is headed by the Red Pyle cockerel raised from Mating A, and mate him to the four pullets raised from Mating A, only his half sisters, if possible.

Mating D is headed by the best stationed, best type, best exhibition colored Pyle cock, brother to Pyle females used in Mating A and mate him to the four "yellow legged" B. B. red colored pullets raised from Mating A.

Toe mark or ring the chicks from each mating to enable you to keep a perfect record.

As the chicks mature from these three matings you will note much improvement in color in both cockerels and pullets.

The third season's matings: Mate the young birds, raised from matings B, C and D, making three matings, namely 1, 2 and 3.

Head Mating 1 with the best Red Pyle cockerel from Mating B. and mate him to the four best Red Pyle pullets from Mating D.

Head Mating 2 with the best Red Pyle cockerel from mating D, and mate him to the four best Red Pyle pullets from Mating C.

Head Mating 3 with the best Red Pyle cockerel from Mating C, and mate him to the four best Red Pyle pullets from Mating B.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Now do a lot of culling each season, select only the best ones to breed from, and line-breed them, sire to daughters, sons to mothers, cousins in line, and keep on with the story with patience and intelligence, and you are sure to reap a harvest of true type, wonderfully colored Modern Red Pyle Game Bantams.

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