

## **Lemon Blue Modern Game Bantams**

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Some ten years ago articles appeared in *Poultry Press* that "unless more use was made of the 'Lemon Blue' cross with the Modern Brown Red Game Bantam that the latter would fade to the proverbial oblivion."

Today there is seldom seen a Brown Red Game Bantam and what few exist are in the hands of so few that extinction of the Brown Red is in sight unless something is done about it. Some have tried the Birchen cross but that has not helped; improved type undoubtedly, but wrought havoc with that beautiful "lemon top color," twenty years ago the pride and joy of the Entwistles, Claytons, Smiths, Rooses, Cathcarts, Smalleys of England and the Havemeyers, Barbers, Riggs and Glasgows of America.

The origin of the Modern Blue Game Bantam was obtained by crossing an Old English Blue Game with a Modern Game Bantam. What shade of blue was desired depended upon the variety of Modern Game Bantam used for the cross.

If a Lemon Blue was desired then the O. E. Blue was crossed with a Modern Brown Red, being careful to select a blue hen with a dark or black hackle so that the lemon top color would be finely etched on the hackles, and sickles of the resultant Lemon Blues from this cross.

If Blue Reds were desired then a Modern Black Red was crossed with Blue hen.

If Wheaton Blues were desired, a Wheaton hen was bred to the Blue male and so on down the line.

In other words, if one wants variety in Blues the procedure is to mate a type Modern Self Blue male with the following pen of Black Red, Brown Red, Golden Duckwing, Red Pyle, Birchen and Wheaton hens. From this pen so mated, it really is a revelation, the various colors one will produce.

One variety particularly is most valuable for the production of the Self Blue Moderns and that is the splashed Blue and White ones, either sex mated back to a Blue cock will produce that beautiful light shade of Blue and by the judicious back crossing of the Selfs with the splashed Blue and Whites will bear fruit in fixing this shade of blue.

In mating blue to blue one must expect wasters, for this mating will produce Blacks, Whites and splashed Blue and Whites and splashed Black and Whites as well as the self Blues.

The Brown Red cross with the Blues will produce Lemon Blues, Lemon Blacks and Lemon Whites as well as the splashed Blue, Black and White. These Lemon Blues and Lemon Blacks mated back to the Brown Reds will fix the Lemon Black and Lemon Blue color provided that the Brown Red used is a pure bred one. If any Birchen blood is in the Brown Red used for crossing with the blues then you are in it for some fun because the Brown Red-Birchen blood instead of producing beautiful Lemon top color will produce a dirty, rusty straw top colored Blues and Blacks. This can be bred out of course by using the best lemon top colored ones back to lemon white, which one gets occasionally. If you are in a hurry for Lemon Whites then you can use a willow (dark) legged light colored Pyle. The formula being Lemon Black crossed with Lemon White will produce Lemon Blue. Of course from this mating there are the usual number of wasters.

Yours to command, "Lemon Blue."

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