

Lesson on Breeding Blue in Modern Game Bantams

By Charles J. Schullin of St. Louis, Missouri

The origin of the blue color in games of any type or variety is the same. Given any black variety, either Self Black, Brassy Black, Brown Red or Birchen, in fact any variety in which the hen's body feather is dominantly black, you, when breeding them, occasionally get from them a "white sport" of either sex. By mating this "white sport" back to a black Bantam you will produce a blue bird. Every one of the white sport's chicks will be blue possibly many shades of blue, but nevertheless, 100 percent blue.

Therefore, anyone breeding Brown Red Modern Game Bantams or Birchen Modern Game Bantams occasionally get a white sport and this white sport bred back to a Brown Red will give percent Blues, most of which will be Lemon Blue. Of course, had we mated the white sport to a Birchen we would have gotten 100 percent Blues, many of which would be Silver Blue.

The Lemon Blues, mated back to the Brown Reds, will give 50 percent Lemon Blues and 50 percent Brown Reds and these Brown Reds will be vastly improved in lemon top color. The Silver Blues mated back to the Birchen will produce 50 percent Silver Blues and 50 percent Birchens, and these Birchens will be improved in their silver top color and the Silver Blue as well improves the dark caps in the Birchens. The Lemon Blues will improve the dark caps in Brown Reds.

If one mates a perfect lemon colored Brown Red cock to a hen also perfect in top color the chicks from such a mating will not have a good lemon top color and as a matter of fact some of them will come gray in top color. Irish Greys were made that way — posit: the same thing happens when you mate perfect lemon top colored Lemon Blue male to a perfect lemon colored Lemon Blue hen. Many of their chicks will be too light in their top color.

The solution is to always use a dark top colored male, cock or cockerel, in Brown Red or in Lemon Blue matings, using, the light colored female always. This is because the light lemon top color is dominant and acts the same as silver in a silver x gold mating,

When mating Blue chicks to Blue chicks, one always gets 50 percent Blues, 25 percent Blacks and 25 percent Whites. Always, in any kind of Blue chick matings. These Black and Whites may be self colored or they may possess all the colors of the rainbow. Normally, however, the Black chicks have a little red or lemon in their hackle feathers, while the White chicks come splashed with blue or with black feathers and these latter look Erminettes. These white splashed chicks are very valuable because if mated to a Brown Red or a birchen, they will produce 100 percent Blues - some of them Self Blues, and some of them Lemon Blues, if a Brown Red was used, while, on the other hand, if the birchen was used, you will get Silver Blues; i.e., Birchen Blues.

If one mated a blue to the Splashed Whites, they get 50 percent Blues and 50 percent Splashed Whites and incidentally the blues from this mating will come with the beautiful even shade of light blue similar to the ground color of blue pigeons.

The above was prepared and submitted for publication by Charles J. Scullin, St. Louis Missouri. He has devoted many years to the breeding and experimenting with the colors. Reprinted from the American Bantam Association by permission.