

MODERN GAME BANTAM SEMINAR

Winston-Salem, N.C. March 13, 1962

This seminar was organized and presented by Judge Carl Freeman (NC) and Wendell Adams (NC), breeder and exhibitor. Carl Freeman gave a word of welcome to the approximately 50 in attendance.

There were four birds in coops, for all to see — BB Red male, Brown Red female, Birchen male and Birchen female. These had been selected to illustrate strong and weak points of the breed. It was pointed out at the start that without type the Modern Game is nothing. There must be long legs, a fine build, well carved-away body and whip tail. The Birchen male showed a fan-tail carried too high.

There was a discussion on lacing with many comments from the audience. In the birchen pattern lacing should come down half way on the breast and be of good quality — fine and distinct. It is easy to get over-lacing, often accompanied by shafting but with the advantage of giving a good white head. The Brown Red female was used to illustrate under-lacing — with under-lacing it is difficult to get the deep orange head. It was pointed out that amount of lacing increases with age. A type of faulty lacing is where the lacing does not go around the feather completely. In response to a question from the audience no breeder would admit to double mating for proper lacing.

Under length of body it was pointed out that too much length results in a loss of the heart shape. If wings are too long they wrap around the back and spoil the type.

There was a brief discussion of color in the BB Red male with the ideal hackle of light golden to match the saddle but with a bright red color in the Back. It is unfortunate that the STANDARD OF PERFECTION and BANTAM STANDARD do not agree on proper color in the BB Red Modern. The ABA recognized a lighter shade in hackle and saddle than does the APA.

A point was made that climate and soil can affect leg color but this observer was not able to get down any specific details. It would be of value to have breeders with experience along this line to write up their observations for inclusion in the QUARTERLY.

Judge Freeman held forth on conditioning and made the point that keeping the bird clean is not faking. He likes to judge birds which show evidence that the exhibitor gave them the best of care. He washes, perhaps rinses in a better way of expressing it, his birds in warm water in which clorox was added at the rate of one half cup to a peck bucket. He uses no soap or detergent but admitted that perhaps whites would have to be handled differently.

Washing in water carrying soap or detergent tends to make the feathers soft and this is exactly what is not wanted in the Modern Game.

Finally dubbing was discussed. Weldon Idol dubs when the side sickles are about two thirds out. Dr. Alien Watts (veterinaraian from the State of Washington) described how he dubs. He injects a local anasthetic at the base of the comb and in either side at the base of the wattles.

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