

yet, by so doing, white birds are occasionally obtained.

The head and beak of the black-breasted Game should be very long, and the beak should be a dark horn color, about two shades darker than the legs, showing a little bronze. The comb is preferred as erect as possible, the wattles very short, and the eyes large, bold and bright, and of a hazel color. The feathers on the neck should be very short; these are termed hackle feathers. The centre of the feathers should be a pale brown, the remainder being a black edged with a bright lemon color. A good bred hen should be very broad, shoulders tapering off thin at the back. The tail should be small and not spread out, or what is usually termed a whip tail, meaning that the feathers are very closely set together. The centre of the feathers upon the top of the body, shoulders and back should be of a pale color, showing the bright drab, or what some people call a very pale brown.

There are two shades—one dark, and the other a trifle lighter, while the edge of the feathers shows a pale brown, edged round, quite free from any red in them. The underneath part of the body should be marked in just the same way, only much paler, the breast appearing almost like a salmon color, each feather showing a white line up the centre. The top feathers of the tail should show the same kind of gray as that on the top of the body, only of a darker shade. The underneath feathers of the tail are in almost every case black, the bottom part of them being edged a little with a mixture of brown. The short feathers just at the root of the tail should reach well up and lie on so as to cover the bottom part. In good bred specimens they should be from $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; occasionally they will be 4 inches in length. No other breed has a tail with so neat appearance as the Game. The feathers on the body should be as short as possible and lie close. The flight feathers should show the same three colours as the others, only a trifle darker shade.

The thighs and legs in good specimens are very long, and the feathers should be very close, so that when the hen stands erect her thighs show right up to her body. The legs should be of a darkish green hue, which some people call willow. Hens in their second year—that is—after they have moulted once—are of a much lighter color. The feet should be the same color as the legs, with very long toes, spreading out well. The middle toe should be at least 3 inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long—that is, when measured right to the end of the toe nail; outside should measure from $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Legs $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and the thighs

measure just under 8 inches up to the joint in the body.

There are many people who keep Game, even prize-bred birds, and occasionally show them, and yet know but very little about the management of them as regards preparing them for the show pen; they require more care in this respect than any other variety, particularly in the feeding. If the birds are not fed properly the feathers upon the body grow too long, which gives them the appearance of not being well bred birds. For the benefit of those who are not used to preparing Game for the show pen Mr Cook tenders the subjoined hints:—

Now to begin with, it must be understood the harder the flesh and the tighter the feathers are in Game, the more likely the bird is to win in the show pen. Some people make a mistake in giving Game chickens too much soft food as well as the wrong kind of stuff. Some poultry keepers will give from two to twenty guineas each for their Game cocks, and very often do not breed birds worth more than ten shillings each, simply for the want of knowing how to feed and manage them properly.

If Game chicks are bred from short legged birds the owner cannot expect the progeny to have long legs, however they are fed and managed. Many people who go in for Game fowls, give the chickens too much soft food; by that we mean too much meal and not enough grain. They should not have soft food after they are three weeks or a month old—they may have it to that age, as it helps them to feather. In most breeds the more feather they produce, as long as they are of good quality, the bigger the chickens look; but it is not so much the size in Game as it is quality. They may have a little meat occasionally, and it is best in all cases, where possible to give them a good range.

When Game chickens are brought up in a back garden there should be a narrow path, so that the birds can be let out for a little exercise. In some cases the owner has an opportunity to let the birds out on the road, without danger of being injured—that helps them very much. The natural way of course, to get Game into the pink of condition is to keep them on grass: then they get plenty of insect life and green stuff. When they have a good run they should be fed on barley and good French buckwheat. When wheat is given to young growing Game it usually makes their feathers a little loose, but the two other grains mentioned tighten the feathers.

If the chickens are kept in confined runs they should be supplied with a little meat to make up for insect life. If they are looking