

day requires two matings to produce the opposite sexes, then I say the sooner it is corrected so that the man who is only able to have one yard has as good an opportunity of breeding winners in both classes as he who is able to mate up two or four pens, the better. To illustrate, I have just read an article on breeding barred Rocks, and if there is any fowl in existence to day that certainly needs two matings, that one is the barred Rock. The writer maintains that he has only used one mating for a number of years and substantiates his claim as to its correctness by winning 1st and 2nd cocks, 1st and 2nd hens, 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th cockerels, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th on pullets, with scores of 90½, 90, 93, 92, 93½, 92½, 91½, 91½, 94, 93, 92½, 91

What constitutes a Standard color buff bird? In color it must be a rich golden buff, and when we speak of golden we do not have in our mind anything but a golden color, or as one puts it, cinnamon is not buff neither is red buff.

Some claim for breeding this color the female should be same shade as the male's breast, whilst others maintain the hen should be one shade darker. Personally I prefer the same shade and have derived good results as regards color from this mating. Do not if possible breed from birds showing black and white in the wings. This will, unless kept in check very soon be in such quantity as to make the bird or birds useless for either breeding or exhibition purposes. If I had my choice of the two colors *in dark birds* would prefer using those with white in preference to those with black, as the tendency of the black is to get darker, whilst the white would produce lighter color.

I have put myself in correspondence with some of the breeders of buff breeds and quote their letters, viz., Aug. D. Arnold, buff Leghorns, says, "In mating buff Leghorns to produce exhibition birds I should use exhibition birds in males and females if I could obtain the under color good enough in the females. In this way I should expect the best results, although I must admit that in buff Leghorns we are still in the experimental stage to some extent."

E. P. Shepherd, Secretary buff Leghorn Club says, "I send you feathers taken from two of my birds which come nearer to the Standard for buff Leghorns than anything I have yet seen, the shade might be a trifle lighter, **RED BIRDS ARE NOT BUFF BIRDS.** Then the color should extend to the skin one even shade, *also the shaft should be buff of the same shade.* This is the hardest of all things to get, even birds of a darker color than color of these feathers if of an even color free from mottling, black or white, should be given a great deal of consideration at the hands of judges."

In *Poultry Monthly*, Nov. 1894, Mr. Sternberg of Kansas,

who stands to-day as one of the best writers on poultry matters in America, and whose articles always command much respect and study thus writes of mating buff Cochins: "In breeding buff Cochins select females as near as possible to the desired shade of buff, as free as possible from dark or white in wing and tail. The male should, while of the same general shade, be two or more shades deeper in color. Considerable black in the wing is quite the thing, while the tail should be buff of a coppery lustre. This would give many correct pullets and some fine cockerels. For cockerels a pullet of almost cinnamon color free from black in hackle with black in flights, some black in tail is no serious matter, though objectionable. To such a pullet mate a male with clear buff tail quite light in color and some dark in flights."

This was written some three years ago, and I think Mr. Sternberg will have ere this satisfied himself that these are not the correct matings to produce the largest number of exhibition birds.

One more and I am finished. This is from a paper written on "Buff Cochins," read before the Birmingham and Mid-England Society: "The neck hackle should be a bright golden color coming well down on the shoulders and free from any twisted feathers. The saddle should be the same color as the hackle, tail chestnut or bronze, the former, I prefer. Wings should be free from black or white feathers, a most difficult thing to get in a cock. One of our most noted Cochin breeders told me he scarcely ever got a buff cock absolutely pure in the flights. The buff should be as profuse as possible and standing out well behind the thighs, and the same color as the breast. There are several colors in the buff Cochin. There is the dark cinnamon, very much admired by some of our breeders. Then there is the medium shade and the lemon buff. The latter I must say I prefer. I find fanciers like them, but they are more difficult to breed, in my opinion, than any other shade of buff. You invariably get them mealy in the wings, tail and feet, especially the cock. As to the buff hen, I am not an advocate for such immense birds if they lack color. Some of our judges seem to me to go in more for size than anything else. They seem to ignore the beautiful golden buff which seems to me so essential in a buff hen or pullet. I could show you a pullet perfectly even in color from head to tail a beautiful golden buff. This is difficult to obtain in a hen after she has moulted. They sometimes come out patchy and show white shaft a fault I should not despise a bird for, for the breeding pen. In mating buff Cochins I select the hens as large and as good in shape as possible, and get them as near the color of the cock's breast as I can. As I said before it