

Dorkings are non-sitters and the eggs from these breeds have to be hatched artificially or by hens of other varieties. It will, therefore, be seen that the general purpose breeds lay tinted eggs and are good sitters and mothers.

GENERAL PURPOSE BREEDS.

Plymouth Rocks. There are five varieties in this breed—three of which are common—Barred, White and Buff. The Partridges and Columbian are not so common. This breed is undoubtedly the most popular among farmers. The best strains are good winter layers, fair summer layers and make first-class roasters and fair to good broilers. It is one of the hardiest breeds. The standard weights are: Cock birds, $9\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, 8 pounds; hens, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; and pullets, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds.

Wyandottes. There are several varieties in this breed among which might be mentioned White, Buff, Silver Laced, Golden Laced, Black, Columbian, Partridge and Silver Pencilled. The most popular variety from a commercial standpoint is the White. This breed has practically the same characteristics as the Plymouth Rock, but is more blocky in type and usually longer in the feather. They have rose combs, which to some is supposed to be an advantage in cold climates. Wyandottes make good broilers and roasters. They are also good mothers and good layers. The standard weights of these birds are one pound less than those of the Plymouth Rocks.

Rhode Island Reds. There are two varieties of this breed, Single Comb and Rose Comb. As compared with the Plymouth Rocks and Wyandottes they are longer in appearance and not so massive. They were originated by the farmers of the State of Rhode Island and are very popular in that State. They have also grown in popularity in this country to such an extent that they now rival the Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes. They are hardy, good winter layers, and fair summer layers. In color they are a rich, bright red, with black tails and more or less black in the wings. During warm weather our experience has been that they are more given to incubating than the two breeds mentioned above. The standard weights of this breed are: Cock birds, $8\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; cockerels, $7\frac{1}{2}$ pounds; hens, $6\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, and pullets, 5 pounds.

Orpingtons. This general purpose breed differs from those previously mentioned in that they have white legs and skin, the other breeds having yellow legs and yellow skin. The common varieties of this breed are: Buff, White, Black, and Jubilee. At the present time, there are probably more Buff Orpingtons bred than any other variety, but the White may outrival the Buff. The Blacks are being bred more by the fanciers than by the farmers, for the reason that their black plumage and dark colored legs are somewhat against them for market purposes.