

very low, being on an angle with the head when the bird is standing erect. The tail is of a lustrous green black.

Games are a very deceiving fowl in appearance, their actual weight not being perceptible. The average weight of a male bird is eleven pounds when they reach maturity, although some specimens have reached fourteen pounds.

The female does not lose any of the male's beauty in symmetry or style. She differs only in color of plumage, which is a chestnut brown with a beautiful double lacing of metallic black. She has a small pea comb, red face and wattles, and red ear lobes.

They are good layers of medium-sized eggs, light brown in color. They are excellent sitters and mothers, tending to their little charges with untiring efforts. The chicks mature rapidly, making excellent broilers, the flesh being fine in grain, very juicy, and of an exquisite flavor. As they are a short-feathered race, the food given them goes into flesh instead of feathers. For caponizing, the males are superior to other varieties. A chick hatched in May, caponized in August, and properly fed and not stinted till the following March, will weigh from fourteen to fifteen pounds.

Those who desire a market bird, as well as an egg producer, will not err in breeding Indian Games, and will find them money-makers. They stand confinement as well as any of the American breeds of fowls, a low fence being sufficient to harbor them. They are of an affectionate nature, being very tame when not abused.

They are not inclined to disease, and are one of the hardiest fowls we have. Lice do not harbor in their short plumage like they do in that of some of our heavier classes of fowls. When they are at liberty the farm is made merry with their cackle from morning till night. They are very quick and sprightly, and the males will defend their mates against all comers, although they are not quarrelsome, and are not considered a pit bird. One grand use made of the males by several large broiler raisers is to cross them with purebred females of some other variety to produce a first-class broiler. The short feathers, heavy breast meat, and quick maturing qualities make them for the market or broiler raiser a choice bird to meet his desired wants.

I have one pen of Games this season that have laid remarkably well. They have been confined in a 75 x 12 foot run, with house attached, since last January; and they have never shewn a desire to eat feathers, and have always been ready for their meals. Eggs from this pen have hatched, on an average, ninety per cent.

Males in Laying Pens.

The advice is very commonly given by modern poultry writers that where eggs are wanted for the table simply, and not for breeding purposes, keeping a male in the flock is not only useless, but a positive disadvantage, the reason assigned usually being that the eggs will keep longer if no male is kept in the pen. The reason is doubtless a good one, but is not the only one. A series of experiments covering the point, undertaken at the New York Experiment Station, made it very conclusively appear that where hens were kept without males, eggs were produced at about 30 per cent. less cost than in exactly similar pens where cocks and cockerels were kept. In some pens, too, the production of eggs was nearly a third larger in pens where no males were kept than in others of precisely the same kind, and managed in the same way, except that the presence of the male was permitted. Keeping males in laying pens, therefore, except where fertile eggs are wanted for setting, is a mistake in a variety of ways. Eggs are produced less economically, they are liable to be fewer in number, and their keeping qualities are not so good.—*Homestead.*

The Fowl and the Horse.

The following article by H. B. Greer, which appeared in the *Poultry Herald*, is certainly worth publishing in our columns. There are far too many farmers who lose sight altogether of utility in their desire to breed exhibition stock. Both should be combined. Mr. Greer says:

"Aside from its intrinsic value, or to the extent in which it is superior to the dunghill as a layer or market fowl, the purebred fowl ranks with the racehorse, of which we have so many down here in Dixie.

"The racehorse is a pretty thing to look at, a handy thing to gamble on at the race-track, but when that is said all is said. So be it also with the exhibition fowl. It is fair to eye and a good thing to have in the showroom, if it be a 95 pointer. But let's knock the bark off. Its beauty is only feather deep, and, stripped of its plumage, the finest bird in the show is levelled to the dunghill—unless, mark you, it be of a breed that is a better layer, or of one that is first in the race from the nest to the skillet.

"Utility is what counts. We must not go daft about fine feathers, and lose sight of the main chance—the economic value of the fowl we invest in fine plumage.

"There are some breeds that are beautiful, and