

can, Seymour Township, Ryleston P.O. During our conversation about fowls, his "Irish Grey Games" in particular, he told me he had a hen (Irish Grey) that lived till she was twenty-seven (27) years old, and in fact, to use a Hibernianism, she didn't die then as she was killed, either by a horse kicking or stepping on her.

Wishing you every success with your valuable journal.

Yours truly,

C. E. BONNELL.

Bobcaygeon, March 31st, 1886.

WILL MR. HAWKINS OR MR. BINGHAM PLEASE ANSWER?

Editor Review:—

On looking through the April number of the *Review* I notice two cuts of Wyandottes; the first represents the birds that took first prize for breeding pen at New York city, and owned by Mr. A. C. Hawkins, the other by Mr. C. S. Bingham. I would like to ask, how are beginners to know which cut is correct? I have also received large fine circulars from Mr. L. C. Denham, Mr. Geo. A. Preston, and other American breeders, where the cuts are different again, one cut I find the same as Mr. C. S. Bingham's, others, I find, have all got a greater proportion of white in the centre of the feather, than the cut of Mr. A. C. Hawkins, and not so much as Mr. Bingham's. In fact, every noted American breeder seems to have a standard of his own, which differs from that of his neighbors in some respect, yet they are all prize winners and score away up. If I read the American *Standard* aright, Mr. A. C. Hawkins hens are too dark. The *Standard* reads:—Hen, breast full and round, breast-bone straight, plumage in under color slate, web white, each feather distinctly and evenly laced with black." According to this Mr. C. S. Bingham's are evenly laced with black, in fact all the cuts I see are more

evenly laced with black than the cut first represented, which is too dark, you cannot call the birds laced at all. I would like for the sake of new beginners that some of our American brothers that framed the *Standard* would give us a faithful cut and description of the Wyandotte.

ALEX. DELAPORTE.

Toronto, April 15th, 1886.

Editor Review:—

With your kind permission I would like to occupy a short space in your excellent journal, in looking into, and considering the two cuts of Wyandottes that appeared in your April issue. It looks very presumptuous on my part, to attempt to criticise the fowls of such breeders as Hawkins and Bingham, but the old saying is still true, "fools rush in where angels and good men fear to tread."

In the first place if one cut is right the other must be wrong; that much is sure.

My own opinion is that neither of them is correct, and if this is the case, the next question is where are they wrong? Well, the highest and only resort we have in cases of this kind is the *Standard of Excellence*, and I might say just here, that although there are some journals and fanciers who find a great deal of fault with that authority, we must remember it is the best guide we have at present, and I think it is the duty of all to follow it as nearly as possible until such time as we get something better.

To return again to our subject with this as a basis. Take the *Standard* 9th, Edition, 1883, for Wyandotte Cocks, it says, "Breast, under color slate, web of feather, black with *medium* sized white centres which taper to a point near the extremity." Would any one call the white strip in Hawkins' cut, *medium* size? I should call it small in fact very small.

In the Bingham cut it is the very reverse, large and not tapered to a point

at all. There is a medium between the two, and I think the standard calls for it if I read and interpret its meaning correctly. I think also, that a bird between the two is handsomer than either of them. At any rate, that is what I am trying for, and so far with good results.

We must not however in our endeavours to get standard marked fowls, sacrifice other more important points. While I give to feather all the importance it deserves, and say, get your birds right in that respect, I also claim we should breed for size and laying qualities as well, as, to the great majority of people the market is the place from which they are to realize their profits, not from selling at fanciers prices.

The secret of mating for size, is in mating large hens with a fair size cock,—not "vice versa" as is too often supposed. In the great majority of cases the offspring will take size from the hen, and plumage and symmetry from the cock, so that to insure best results we should look more at plumage and symmetry in cock and less at size, and more at size in hens.

We can improve the laying qualities of our birds by watching the pullets in the fall and picking out and marking those that begin earliest to lay, and breeding from them in the following spring. I cannot see why it is so many breeders complain about Wyandottes being hard to breed true. I have had no such difficulty the last year or two, of course all are not show birds, but I last year had only one single comb hatch and not one with the least sign of feathers on legs.

I am afraid I have imposed too much on your good nature in occupying too much of your valuable space, if I am wrong in any of my opinions I hope some one will show me where and why as my sole object is to get at the right.

Yours truly,

D. H. Price.

Aylmer, Ont. April 9th.