

GAME BANTAMS.

A few months ago I was asked to contribute some information about Game Bantams, and should have complied with the request earlier if time had permitted.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

Game Bantams should be Game Fowls in miniature, and when full grown and in good showing condition the cock should weigh from 24 to 26 ounces, and the hen from 18 to 20 ounces.

There are four leading varieties recognized as the standard colors, viz.:—Black-breasted Reds, Brown-breasted Reds, Duckwings, and Piles; and of these the first named are the most numerous.

Shape and carriage, otherwise style, is the most important point in the Game Bantam, and the nearer you get to the Game model the more valuable becomes the bird. The points required are fine, long, narrow, gracefully curved heads and necks, broad shoulders and chest; short bodies, wedge shaped, tapering away to the fine narrow stems: short wings, carried well forward, and close up to the sides of the body: long straight legs, standing well apart, long straight toes; the back toe well developed, and flat on the ground, straight out behind, not twisted sideways: the tail carried close and tightly together, at a very slight elevation; not drooping as if spiritless, but carried firmly and gracefully well back. It should be composed of short and narrow feathers—and while speaking about style, I would remark that the points specially to be guarded against are long or drooping wings; prominently projecting breasts; spread or fanned tails, carried high, or over the back; short and broad heads; thick necks; narrow shoulders and broad sterns; long bodies; short thick legs. All these are common faults, and should be scrupulously avoided. Color is the point second in importance. Then

hardness and closeness of feather, then markings, then size, and of course condition is always of great importance, and this applies not only to the health of the bird, but to the state of its feather, &c.

I will now describe the colors according to our present exhibition standard, which I believe is a very good one, and has been the result of much experience.

Of course this standard applies equally to Game Fowls and Game Bantams.

COLOR OF BLACK-BREASTED RED COCK.

Face, bright red: *Eye*, clear vermilion red: *Beak*, upper mandible dark horn, under mandible greenish horn brown. *Neck hackle and head feathers*, rich orange red, free from black stripes. *Back and wing bow*, rich clear bright crimson, gradually shading into orange in the rump hackles, which should correspond with the neck hackle: *Shoulders, breast, thighs, and tail*, bluish black: *Wing-bars*, steel blue: *Wing-flights*, rich clear bay: *Legs and feet*, willow or olive green.

COLOR OF BLACK-BREASTED RED HEN.

Face, Comb, Wattles, and Earlobes, bright red: *Eye*, vermilion red: *Beak*, dark horn to match the cock's: *Head and Neck Hackle*, gold and black, the gold predominating, each feather having a golden shaft and margin, with narrow black stripe between: *Back, wings and top outer tail feathers*, uniform light brown, inclining to drab, very finely and delicately pencilled with black; any red or yellow markings are very objectionable; the rest of the tail black: *Breast*, rich salmon red, the centre of each feather one shade lighter: *Belly*, ashy grey: *Thighs*, ashy grey tinged with salmon: *Legs and feet*, willow or olive green.

COLOR OF THE BROWN-BREASTED RED COCK.

Face, dark purplish red: *Eye*, the darkest brown, nearly black: *Beak*,