

writer saw but three male birds with the 1 w so considered perfect wing bars, today nearly every breeder has none other in his breeding pens. The smutty neck and copper stained saddles are disappearing and beauty as found in the color, silver gray and black is coming to the front and inside of two years more we will have a uniform breeding as to color so much desired. But the cuts that represent the hens are now being made too dark in their representation and its evils will soon be apparent. The silver edged black centers now to be prized in the females will be growing too dark and smutty in the hackles. To secure prime hackles, we can secure but very few perfectly black with pure white centers in the cushion plumage.

Were we to write out exactly that which should be accepted as free from being cut for color in females we should say: hackle silver color, striped with black; breast plumage, white laced with black; wings—bows, with white centres that cover one half the web surface; wing coverts, the white covering one half the web surface. Back, black with a white center covering one fourth the web surface or if the white be one half the surface, the lacing coal black, the white more or less pencilled with pure black—such to be considered free from punishment further than to place the specimen second in case of a tie with one with pure white centres. The primaries and secondaries should be like the male. Outer web in primaries a silver gray or white and the outer web of secondaries fully two thirds white, but any color other than black in balance of primaries or secondaries must be cut as defective. As near black thighs as possible, is desirable in both sexes, but in lower part of body in front of thighs, a slight frosty look of no importance to be cut. Fluff of a pure stone color is the most beautiful and a quite dark one should not be cut, but smutty black fluff in females must be cut as defective. Judges have winked them in, heretofore, because of

the prevailing lighter color of the specimens, but if breeders persist in going to the black extreme, judges will be compelled to cut even severely for the smutty black in back and fluff and the dark penciling in the outer silver color of secondaries: Cut in fluff and wing secondaries when quite dark have been dealt with kindly, but the dark color desired to secure the wing bar must be controlled. We do not in the breed want breeders breeding nice males to black females to secure males, and dark males to light females. This breeding continually extremes and we will have the Plymouth Rock experience over again.

If the breeders act in harmony, securing first, prime females by mating dark males with light females, then mating the standard females from such mating with standard males, the progeny of dark males from standard colored females, the fact that the sires in both cases being dark, the power of reversion will control the waste in color of breeding and the dark cockerels from dark sires from standard females mated to the faded hens that have lost color in breeding the previous season will be made valuable as breeders and the darker males (cockerels) secured against loss in color of their progeny.—I. K. FELCH in *Fanciers' Weekly*.

Pigeon and Pet Stock Department

Address all communications to CANADIAN POULTRY REVIEW, 168 King street East, Toronto.

THE ENGLISH POUTER.

BY OLLUF.

(Continued.)

In addition we have what are known as the "non-standard" or "off colors" useful in breeding but seldom seen in the show pen.

1st Mealy.—A soft red mealy with red bars, useful for crossing with blues too dark in color.

2nd Sandy.—A hard colored mealy without bars, useful for breeding with blacks and reds.

3rd and 4th Black chequer and Blue chequer.—Differing chiefly in depth of color also used to breed with blacks occasionally.

5th Silver.—With dun bars, a rare color but useful to soften the color of blues.

6th and 7th Dun and Dun chequer.—Both occasionally bred from black and may be crossed to black again.

8th and 9th Kite and Kite chequer.—These are blacks with a bronze or brown tint on them, bred from blacks but a very undesirable color to breed from.

10th Splashes.—Whites more or less mismarked or splashed with color, generally on head or tail.

The eyes of all these birds should be a deep orange or gravel color except the white which has brown or "bull" eyes. A white with gravel eyes is a splash even though no colored feathers are apparent, it is a hundred to one they have been extracted and in any case such a bird is ineligible to compete in a class for whites. The toe nails of all birds should of course be white, if colored they are evidence of colored feathers on legs or feet. The beaks of blacks and blues should be black, those of reds and yellows flesh color, and of whites white. A stain on the beak of a white bird is evidence of colored blood and should disqualify it in a class for whites only. Finally astomarking. When held up by the wings, the whole of the body below a line drawn round the waist under the wings should be white, except in blacks and blues which have the tail and tail coverts colored. In reds and yellows the tail should be white, though it is usually more or less stained with the body color. The line across the breast or "belt line" should be sharply defined. If any colored feathers are found on the legs or thighs the bird is said to be foul-limbed or