

is nothing short of fraud or dishonesty to show a bird with a pulled tail. A Game Bantam or a rosecomb Bantam with a pulled tail would not be acknowledged by the judge. Then, I say, why should the Pekin be made an exception, and be allowed to score in the prize list, as is now the case in 50 per cent. of the present-day Pekins?

I will now describe what I consider an ideal Pekin, and, for simplicity give the shape and type first, which is the same in all the varieties. In the first place, the Pekin is intended to represent the large Cochin in miniature, and should therefore be as near as possible the same shape as the Cochin. Commencing at the head, the comb should be single and finely serrated, and the smaller the comb the better, although it is almost an impossibility to breed Pekins as small in comb in comparison to the Cochin; eyes red, or nearly red, face red and smooth, lobes free from white, neck short and thick, chest broad and carried well forward, back short and broad, shorter the better; cushion full and nicely rounded, tail short and full, the feathers of the tail proper, twelve in number, being much softer in the quill than in any other breed of Bantam, and should be curved, not straight, as in other varieties. In addition, the cock's tail should be well furnished with side hangers corresponding in color with the body. The wings should be short and tightly tucked up, legs short as possible, so that the body almost touches the ground; the legs should be abundantly feathered right to the end of the middle toe without being "vulture hocked," which is a great defect in Pekins. The color of legs in all the varieties of Pekins should be yellow, and the richer the yellow the better, although it is a difficult point to get in blacks. Willow or green should count heavily against the bird in the show pen. The one prevailing weakness in all Pekins is scaly leg, but this can be prevented by proper care and attention in keeping the houses and runs dry and clean. Where the birds are kept on nice dry sand scaly leg will rarely appear.

Color will now engage our attention, commencing with the leading variety, Buffs. The exhibition cock should be a rich dark orange, not red; one uniform shade throughout, including tail and flight feathers, when the wing is opened out. The fluff should also be solid buff, not white or dusky, which is often the case. White or black in the flight feathers or tail is a

serious defect, more especially white, and a cock showing this defect should not be retained as a stock bird, for in all probability a great percentage of the produce would be useless. The hen to match the cock should be a rich golden buff, just a shade lighter than the cock; or to be more definite should correspond as near as possible with the breast color of the cock. This is also a capital guide in matching up the breeding pen. The color should be even throughout, not paler in breast than in body color, but one rich level buff all through free from white and black, and buff in under color or fluff as well.

From outward appearance a bird may seem a solid buff, but when examined carefully may be found slaty in buff, sometimes almost black. The flight feathers when the wing is spread out may contain more black or white than buff and the tail likewise. It is, therefore necessary in judging buffs to examine each specimen carefully for these defects which are often hidden by outward appearances. In mating up buffs preference should be given to a male bird of the darker shade, providing he is pure in flights and tail, especially free from white, which is highly important. When I say darker shade, I do not mean a red or dark cinnamon, but a rich, deep orange buff of a level color, not dark in saddle and pale in breast, the richer and deeper in under color or fluff the richer will the color of the produce: this is one of the most important features in buff breeding. The bird may appear to be an excellent top color but on examination his under color may be white or nearly black, both of which is detrimental to producing satisfactory offspring.

The hens to match this cock should be as rich and level in color as possible; don't breed from pale mealy hens, or those showing a mixture of white in the feather, and, above all, avoid those white in flights or tail. By selecting a pen as described, say not more than four hens and a cock, exhibition specimens of both sexes can be produced from the same pen. Unlike most varieties of Bantam, the Pekin does not attain perfection until after the second year, as it is not fully developed until twelve months old. They can be hatched as late as July with success and by hatching late the size and length of leg are reduced, both important features in Pekins.