

## **Modern Blue and Lemon Blue Game Bantams**

*By Charles J. Schullen*

Any fancier seeking many varieties will be interested in Modern Blue Game Bantams, because Blues do not produce true color. The Blue cock heading a pen consisting of Black Red, Brown Red, Birchen, Golden and Silver Duckwings, Red Pyle, Wheaten, White, Black and Blue hens will produce more color combinations than one can imagine even Columbian Modern Games.

The only reason for Lemon Blue Game Bantams is that these crossed with the Brown Reds will produce that beautiful Lemon top color so admired by all and seen so seldom.

Practically all strains of Brown Reds and Birchen MGB sport white and these bred back to either of the above will get Blues.

The blue color is heterogeneous and never can produce itself 100%; therefore a Blue cross Blue will produce Blues. Blacks and Blue or Black Splash Whites and the Blue color will vary from an even pigeon light Blue to a slatey Black Blue.

If the Lemon top color in a Brown Red Game Bantam were fixed then there would be no place for Lemon Blue Game Bantams except for the ones who admire their color scheme.

Any strain of Brown Red Game Bantams, inbred sufficiently and no new blood introduced, will eventually lose its Lemon, reverting year after year to a darker and darker orange and eventually turning red and ultimately to a self black and all because the Black pigmentation is dominant to the

Lemon Pigment.

But anyone breeding Lemon Blues finds that the reverse is true for if Lemon Blues are line bred long enough without new blood they will each year become more flourished with Lemon, the neck and hackle saddle feathers will come with solid Lemon color even including the shaft of the feathers.

In order to avoid this a dark capped Brown Red is introduced into such a strain of Lemon Blues the result of which gives 50% Lemon Blues and 50% Brown Red G. B., the latter with improved Lemon top color.

Fred Wardle Smith of Barnby Moor Lodge, Retford, England produced more perfect Lemon top colored Modern Brown Red Games and Game Bantams than any man that ever lived or possibly ever will live and since he bred and exhibited Lemon Blue Game Bantams, the only deduction I could make was that the Lemon Blue was responsible for the superlative top color of his strain of Brown Reds and really one can't go far wrong when imitating one who has succeeded.

*American Bantam Association*

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