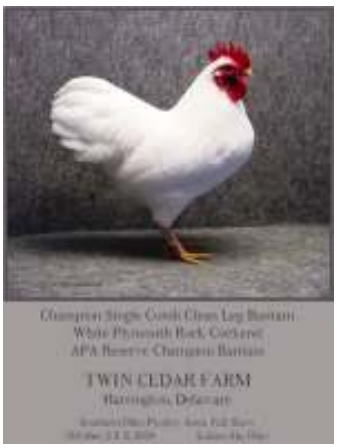
PLYMOUTH ROCK FANCIER'S CLUB OF AMERICA

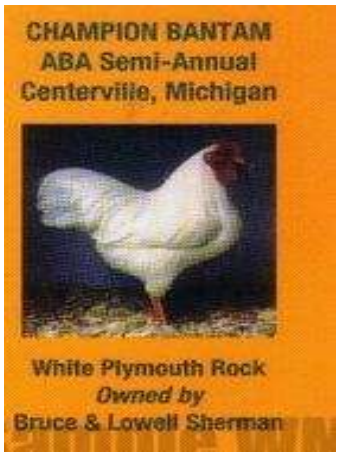
EST. 1973

2012 YEARBOOK

This yearbook is dedicated to the memory of

Shelby Harrington and Lowell Sherman





Forward

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE 2012 YEARBOOK

It gives me great pleasure to be writing this message for the 2012 Yearbook and our first version online. I know some would rather have a book version but with today's economy and cost of doing things we were just not able to do that. We have tried to do a book version a few times but just could not come up with the necessary funding to put it together. I would also like to thank Matt for his idea of doing the yearbook online and for putting it all together. I also would like to thank those that submitted articles and supported the yearbook with ads. There are some good articles from current exhibitors and also from some of the greats from the past. I would also like to thank all those that have taken the time to be officers of the club. I feel we have one of the best breed clubs out there and a growing membership. It is really good that we have all the new interest in the color versions recently in Bantam and Large Fowl.

I am also glad of the interest in Plymouth Rocks buy our junior members we have some juniors that have some really nice birds. Thank you to all those that help and support the junior members, without them we don't have a future in this hobby. I hope everyone has an enjoyable and successful show season and hope to see as many of you as possible down rock aisle.

Thanks again,

Greg English

EDITORS MESSAGE 2012 YEARBOOK

I hope everyone enjoys this new format of an Online PRFCA yearbook. Several of us were brainstorming at the NE Poultry Congress last January and I suggested to Greg English that we do an online version and eliminate the expense of printing and mailing. All ad revenue could be used for future national meets.

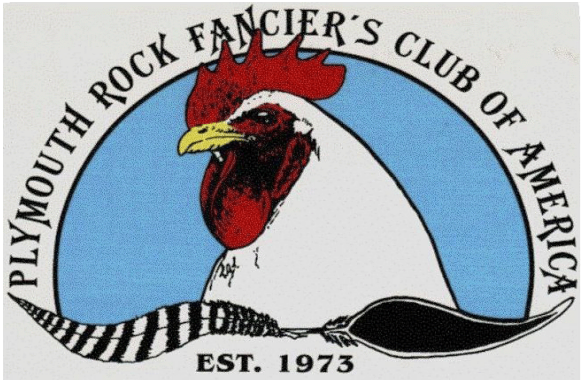
We met a little resistance from a few who have resisted technology but went ahead with this Yearbook. I tried to blend the old and the new and I am so proud of two new exhibitors, Scott Brazinski and Joe Emenheiser who took the time to write articles even though they are fairly new to Plymouth Rocks. I challenge some of the other old-timers like myself to write down their ideas and methods because once we are dead and gone, no one will remember the birds but there are articles that we can pass down to the future Plymouth Rock breeders who may need some help.

I also am proud to dedicate this Yearbook to two outstanding breeders that have gone on to the Big Show in the Sky! Shelby Harrington was not only one the best Plymouth Rock breeders who ever graced the breed, he was my friend. I often sit at a show and think of what he would have to say about this or that in the fancy today. I miss his honesty and perfectionism of conditioning birds. I never had the pleasure of meeting Lowell Sherman in person but I have seen and judged his birds and he was also a true master of the White Plymouth Rock Bantam. I know he is missed by many out on the West Coast and his son Bruce is doing a fine job of carrying on their family tradition of breeding and exhibiting the best in White Plymouth Rock bantams.

Lastly, I want to thank those who have taken time out of their busy lives to serve as an office or director in the club so others may enjoy the hobby we all love. I have done this in many clubs and I am currently working to help keep the ABA at the forefront of the hobby. Keep up the work and hope to see all of you at the shows.

Sincerely Yours in the Plymouth Rock Fancy,

Matt Lhamon



An Experimental Outcross by Kraig Shafer

In the Fall of 2010, Matt Lhamon came home from Arkansas with a batch of eggs that were from the male line of the Cobb- Vantress broiler breeder birds. I incubated those eggs and had a terrific hatch on November 11 . The chicks showed real vigor and in 2 weeks it was apparent these were not ordinary chickens. I gave some to Clay Mills to use as an outcross on his Cornish and Matt and I planned to use some as an outcross on some standard Barred Rocks just to see what happened.

These birds showed very early feathering and the growth rate was unreal. As they matured, I sorted them down to about 8, a few males and the rest pullets. The next spring at about 6 months of age, the pullets began to lay. I put them with a Barred Rock male that showed very good Rock type, and hatched every egg I could. A lot of them came white, a couple blue barred and one pretty nice Barred pullet. We had been warned by Dr. Bramwell from the University of Arkansas that we may see a variety of colors, as the Cobbs carry a really diverse gene pool. In November of 2011, I met Dr. Bramwell at the Ohio National, and during a long discussion on the Cobb-Vantress breeder birds, he stated that in the breeder flocks, a small percentage of birds will come barred. In the whites, you can also see what he referred to as “ghost barring”. Apparently the Barred Rocks were bred into them extensively in the early breeding. This sounded great to me! The ½ Cobb pullets feathered quickly, and have a body that would make Raquel Welch jealous! I’m talking breast here. And true to form, they started laying at about 6 months of age and I bred the barred pullet and the two blue barred pullets back on their sire. The chicks so far are predominately black like a pure barred, along with a couple blues. These are ¾ Barred and ¼ Cobb.

The white ½ Cobb pullets, along with a pure Cobb hen and Cock are now with my friend Joe Emenheiser in Virginia who is working a large Blue Rock project. Joe has found that the growth and feathering rate is continuing to show up in his crosses as well. As I understand, Joe is sending some of them along to Scott Brazinski to incorporate into his Columbian Rocks. Stay tuned for more updates next year.

Original Cobb Male

Here is the Barred Male original used in the cross when he was a cockerel

Top pullet is 1/2 Cobb and 1/2 Exhibition Barred Plymouth Rock and looks like a Barred Rock

Bottom Pullet is 1/2 Cobb and 1/2 Exhibition Barred Plymouth Rock and exhibits a Blue Barred coloration.

Chicks in the pictures are 10 days olds. Chick on the left is a pure Barred Rock, chick on the right is 1/4 Cobb 3/4 Barred Rock. Note the early wing feathers developing. The legs show the heavy bone these crosses have.

A Simple Breeding Plan

By Matt Lhamon

When I was asked to write this article for the Plymouth Rock Fanciers of America Yearbook, I thought "What single thing could I share that would help my fellow fanciers?" I got started in poultry through my great-great uncle Fred Lhamon, who was a pure-bred stock farmer. He raised Guernsey Dairy Cattle, Polled Hereford Beef Cattle, Hampshire Hogs and Belgian Draft Horses along with a production flock of White & Barred Rocks. His mother gave him a copy of the 1911 Conkey's Stock Book for his 18th birthday. He used this all his life as a reference to breeding and husbandry of his livestock. I have this rather worn out copy in my collection of old poultry stuff and it is a prized as much as the old family Bible.

I divide exhibition poultry people into four different groups. First there are the **Collectors**: they have way too many different breeds and varieties and never do any serious improvement to them. Next, there are the **Exhibitors**-they chose to purchase birds to exhibit and not raise any themselves. Then we have the **Propagators**- they multiply birds but seldom make any improvements to them. Finally, we have the **Breeders**- they continually strive for consistency in their birds and work every year to improve them better than the previous generation. I know in my lifetime in the fancy, I have been all four of these types and pretty much settled out as a breeder so that's what I will concentrate on in this article. I think one of the most common misconceptions in the exhibition poultry hobby is that you need to raise hundreds of chicks from several different matings to get good exhibition birds. My idea was to present a simple breeding plan that the average person can use without all the mumbo jumbo and charts the genetics guru's use.

My great-great uncle Fred believed that any breeding program, for any species of livestock needed to start with the best Sire (male) that you could buy. His breeding method was rather simple but he had great success with it in all kinds of animals and birds. He called it the **"Get of Sire"** formula and the goal of the whole breeding program was to concentrate the qualities of an exceptional Sire into several generations of its offspring. I have had great success with this in several of my lines of exhibition poultry and rabbits and you don't need to have lots of breeders and raise hundreds of babies. I have never shared this method with anyone before and look forward to your feedback and comments.

Basically, you find the best male that you can get and a related female but not a mother or sister to the Sire. I also like to get a completely different female from an unrelated line. This enables me to start two distinct families both tied back to a common Sire. I have attached a scan of the "Get of Sire" chart from the Conkey's Stock book so you can follow along or use for a reference.

In the first generation, I cross our Sire to the two females and make sure to mark or toe-punch the chicks so I know which female they came from. This generation will carry 50% of the blood of the male and 50% of the blood of the females. I am trying to concentrate the good qualities of the Sire and gain consistency in our line. I also keep in the back of my mind that I maybe concentrating any bad qualities in the line. From these matings I try to raise about 25 chicks each. Cull them out and keep a couple cockerels from each cross for spares in case we lose the original Sire. The cockerels need to as good as or better than their Sire. Keep as many pullets as you want; I use two from each mating in the next generation giving me two trios to breed from. I want the females to look almost identical. Remember all the extra birds can be used to show or sell to others. I never show the birds I am using in the breeding plan as they are too valuable to risk their loss.

In generation 2, I use the original Sire on two females from both of our lines. These are his daughters and have 50% his blood. I either rotate the male to each pen every two or three days or hatch from one pen till I get about 30-40 chicks and then move him to the other. Mark the chicks so you know which female line they came from. I do not mark each individual female's chicks just the chicks from the mating. These chicks from this mating will contain 75% of the original Sire's blood. Once again we cull all the inferior birds and we should notice some similarity in the males and even some of the females will start to look alike. I like to keep a few extra cockerels for show birds and spares and as many females as I have room for from both lines. Once again I select two of the females from each line for use in generation 3 and keep in mind we want them as identical as possible.

In generation 3, once again I use the original Sire on two females from both of our lines. Basically do the same steps we did in gen-

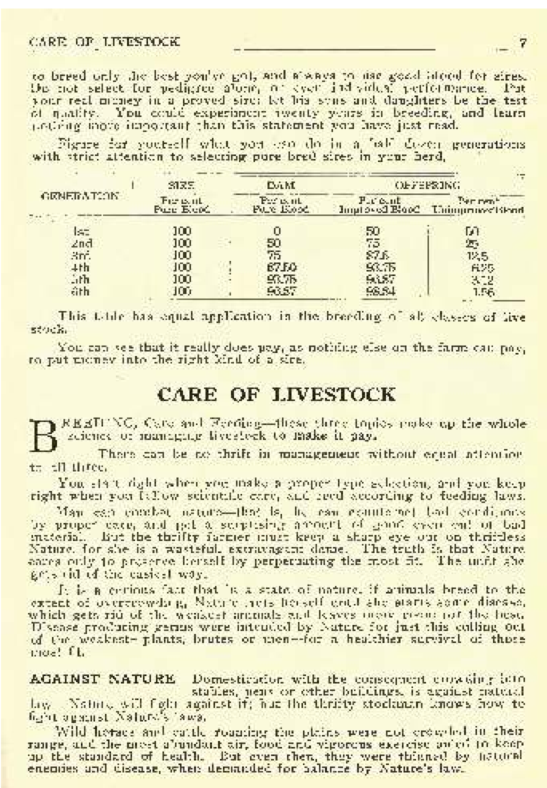
eration 2, raise 30-40 from each set of females, cull hard and keep two identical females back for generation 4. Keep the other birds back to sell or show. These chicks in generation 3 will contain 87.5% of the original Sire's blood.

I repeat the same process for generations 4-5-6. Generation 4 will contain 93.75% of the Sire's blood, generation 5 will contain 96.87% and generation 6 will contain 98.84%.

As you can see this method involves line breeding, in breeding and cross breeding all in one simple plan. Every year you are basically working with no more than 5 breeder birds. Your birds will be more consistent in type and color and hopefully improved along the way.

The first thing you are thinking is "How can I use the same male for 6 generations?" I was able to do this only once, with my Black Wyandottes. But I have used the same male several times for 4 or 5 generations. Another common question is, "By in breeding this close, will I lose productivity and get genetic defects?" Productivity and fertility is something I cull for every year. I want females that lay well and males that produce fertile eggs. If any of the birds fail in that respect, don't use them and start over. I have abandoned breeding programs because the birds did not lay well or fertility was too low.

The beauty of this simple breeding plan is I don't need a lot of breeders or chicks from them. By using an unrelated female in generation 1, I have built some hybrid vigor and genetic diversity into the plan. After 5 or 6 generations, I have enough similar birds to work with, that I can start several separate but related families and should be able to go several years without an out cross as long as I cull diligently for production and fertility. If I need an outcross somewhere down the road for whatever reason, we find another Sire and start the process over again. If the chicks from any of the generations appear to be worse than their parents, we can back up a generation and try it again. If at any time you produce a male superior to the original male, either start over with him or start a separate breeding program. I would like to challenge all my fellow fanciers to try this method and see if it works for you. While you are at it, try it on one of the rarer colors of Plymouth Rock as we have several that need work in preserving their beauty for future generations of poultry fanciers.



CARE OF LIVESTOCK 7

to breed only the best you've got, and always to use good blood for sires. Do not select for pedigree alone, or even individual performance. Put your real money in a proved sire; let his sons and daughters be the test of quality. You could experiment twenty years in breeding, and learn nothing more important than this statement you have just read.

Figure for yourself what you can do in a half dozen generations with strict attention to selecting pure bred sires in your herd.

GENERATION	SIRE	DAM	OFFSPRING	
	Per cent Pure Blood	Per cent Pure Blood	Per cent Improved Blood	Per cent Unimproved Blood
1st	100	0	50	50
2nd	100	50	75	25
3rd	100	75	87.5	12.5
4th	100	87.50	93.75	6.25
5th	100	93.75	96.87	3.12
6th	100	96.87	98.84	1.56

This table has equal application in the breeding of all classes of live stock.

You can see that it really does pay, as nothing else on the farm can pay, to put money into the right kind of a sire.

CARE OF LIVESTOCK

BREEDING, Care and Feeding—these three topics make up the whole science of managing livestock to make it pay.

There can be no thrift in management without equal attention to all three.

You start right when you make a proper type selection, and you keep right when you follow scientific care, and feed according to feeding laws.

Man can combat nature—that is, he can counteract bad conditions by proper care, and get a surprising amount of good even out of bad material. But the thrifty farmer must keep a sharp eye out on thriftless Nature, for she is a wasteful, extravagant dame. The truth is that Nature cares only to preserve herself by perpetuating the most fit. The unfit she gets rid of the easiest way.

It is a curious fact that in a state of nature, if animals breed to the extent of overcrowding, Nature sets herself until she starts some disease, which gets rid of the weakest animals and leaves more room for the best. Disease producing germs were intended by Nature for just this culling out of the weakest—plants, brutes or men—for a healthier survival of those most fit.

AGAINST NATURE Domestication with the consequent crowding into stables, pens or other buildings, is against natural law. Nature will fight against it; but the thrifty stockman knows how to fight against Nature's laws.

Wild horses and cattle roaming the plains were not crowded in their range, and the most abundant air, food and vigorous exercise acted to keep up the standard of health. But even then, they were thinned by natural enemies and disease, when demanded for balance by Nature's law.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

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Oats in Show Poultry Rations

By Kraig Shafer

I have spent a considerable amount of time researching poultry diets in hopes of finding a ration that would help condition birds for the show pen. Various grains, seeds and blends have been researched, primarily by those seeking performance for economic ventures. This is not my motivation, but rather to create the healthiest, most robust bird I can. Excellent health allows the genetic potential to be realized.

So we must take a look at the components of poultry feed that allow our birds to develop from egg to show pen. First and foremost of course, we all check those feed bags to see the protein content of our feed. They often range from 16 to 24%, usually depending on the age of the birds we are feeding. How much is enough and is too much possible? If we're feeding broilers that have a life expectancy of 6 to 8 weeks, high protein would be well tolerated with no ill effects. Note that pullets being grown for layers are not fed as high protein levels. Their life expectancy is 18 to 20 months and the growth rate must be contained to allow the bird to mature before it becomes over finished or fat. Similarly, our show birds need to mature over a longer period of time to allow them to reach maturity without becoming overly fat. Still, we need a protein level that allows growth and adequate feathering. The first 6 weeks, our chicks can handle a 20% protein feed that gives them quick feathering and adequate energy for a quick start. After that, many have settled on an 18% Game bird breeder pellet that is fortified with many trace elements and vitamins intended to make breeder game birds and their eggs prepotent for good hatchability. These are traits we also want in our show birds. Feeding higher protein levels after 6 weeks creates some problems in digestion for birds that can impede rather than help maturation. High acidity in the gut caused by fermentation of undigested protein can erode the gut lining and decrease absorption of nutrients. So feeding an appropriate protein level for the type and age of fowl becomes apparent.

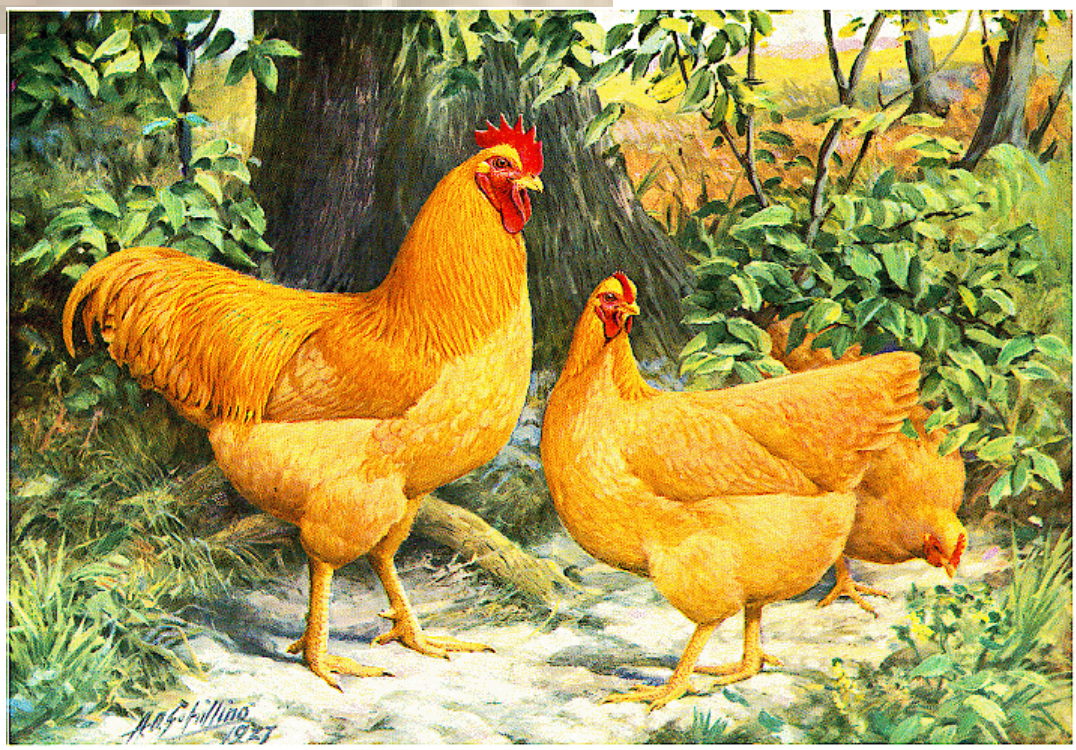
Next we should consider the carbohydrate portion of our feed as it provides the energy and fuel to grow and flourish. Carbohydrates are the easiest to provide in our hobby due to the availability of corn and wheat and to some extent, sorghum. Our birds can survive on these grains alone; however growth and production would be severely curtailed. When production is stopped, birds become overly fat on carbohydrates. Often this is seen in older show fowls in which age has reduced growth and egg production. Similarly, fats in the diet, while essential to life, can easily become excessive.

So what can the showman and breeder do to keep his fowl productive and healthy? A good case for letting fowls select their own ration or at least part of it can be made from trials made by others. Many breeders use a breeder pellet with all the fortification and adequate protein and carbs, but provide in separate feeders a source of whole grains and occasionally calcium in the form of oyster shells. The birds will feed at their own discretion, driven by what the body requires. Here's where I think we can supply something to aid in good general health that our show fowls need to compete. Fiber

Fiber in the digestive tract serves a very functional purpose as it moves through the intestine. It absorbs fluids and allows more exposure to the intestinal villa for absorption of nutrients. As it moves through the intestinal tract, it cleanses the interior lining and helps it thicken and remain healthy. Some would claim that fiber would impede intestinal function. This is proven incorrect as addition of insoluble fiber sources to low energy wheat increased its metabolisable energy value for poultry (Rogel, 1985). In recent years, there is increasing evidence to suggest that coarse, structural materials consisting largely of insoluble fiber enhances gut development in poultry (Choct, 2006; Hetland et al). We have at hand a very valuable source of fiber in whole oats. The fibrous husk of the oat grain is easily consumed by all poultry. Many claim their birds refuse to eat whole oats when provided. My thoughts are to let the birds decide. Lewis Strait of Cornish fame often told me he fed his Cornish breeder birds a diet of whole oats to keep them in breeding condition. They did not become overly fat, yet held excellent flesh and condition. I've taken that concept to heart and provided a separate feeder containing whole oats for my growing Plymouth Rocks, bantam and large. This year I hatched around 150 head, and I'm on my second ton of whole oats. The birds now seem to relish them and will flock to that feeder when I fill it. They also receive an 18% game bird breeder pellet free choice and are free ranged all day long. I've noticed a nice dif-

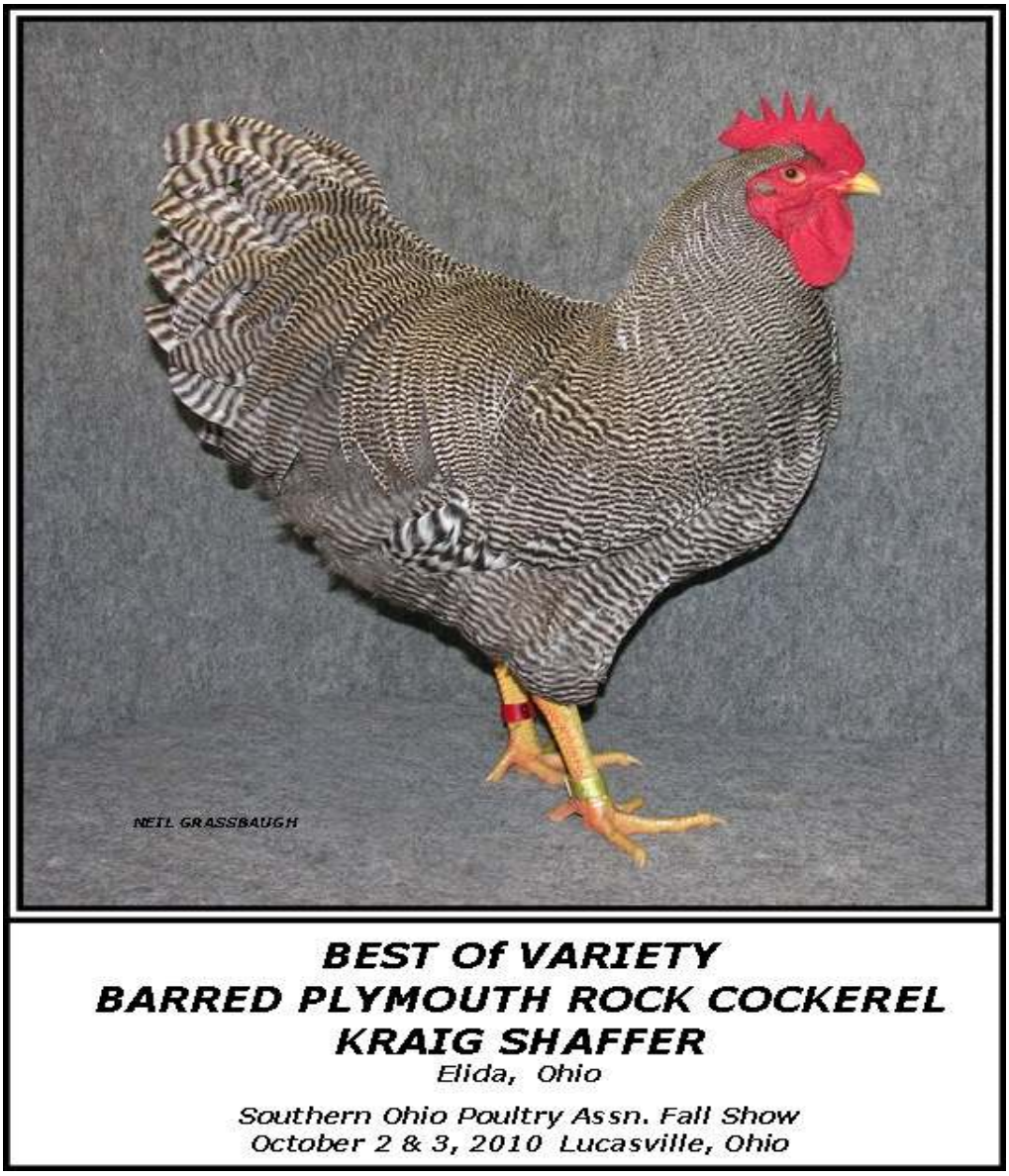
ference in feather development along with voracious appetites for all my birds. Oats have a protein level of 11 to 12 %, and the fiber is definitely doing its job. The droppings are much larger, well formed and there is evidence that high fiber in chicken diets helps alleviate worm infestations as well. I also provide whole oats free choice to my breeder birds and those being fitted for shows. If we keep the inside healthy, the outside is going to show it.

Another use for oats in poultry diets in the use of soaked or sprouted oats for winter feeding. The birds delight in eating the oats as a winter treat when green feeds are not readily available. They might stink, but the birds don't mind as they gobble them down. That tells me there is something there they need. Simply fill a 5 gallon pail with whole oats, cover them with water and sit them in a warm place for a couple weeks. You'll soon be filling more buckets in an attempt to keep ahead of the birds. The old-timers will tell you of the value of oats in show poultry diets. Believe them!



BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Supplement to Poultry Tribune, Mount Morris, Ill. U.S.A.



Barred Rocks in Bantam & Large Fowl

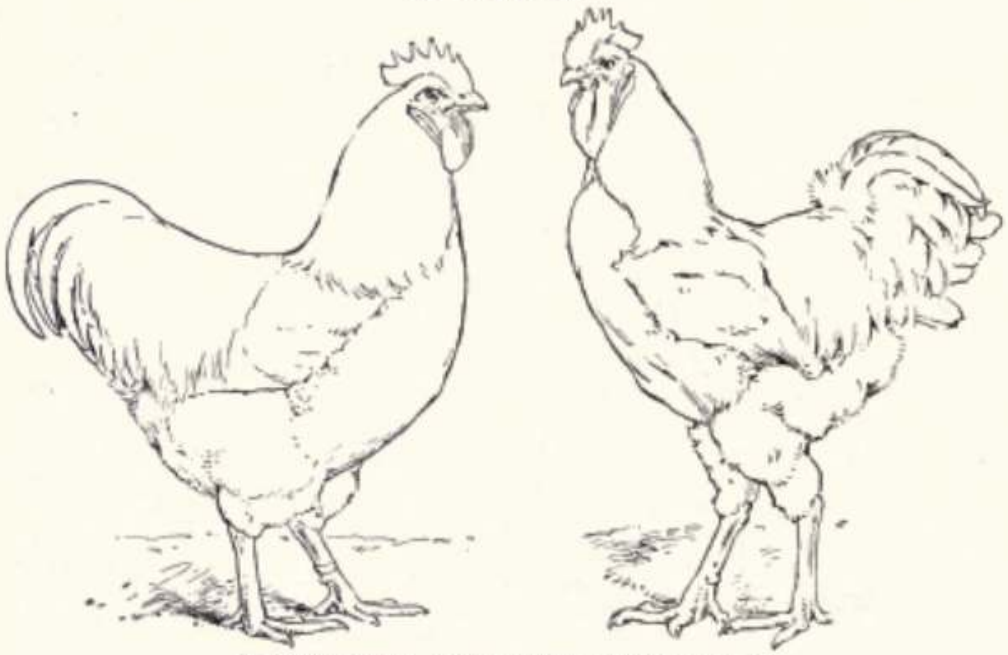
Hatching Eggs in the Spring

Started Birds For Sale in the Fall

Kraig Shafer, 1995 Hillville Rd, Elida, Oh 45807

kshafer@watchtv.net

PLATE 20



SYMMETRY AND AWKWARDNESS

1. Symmetrical, with all sections properly proportioned in relation to each other. Outlines of graceful sweeps and curves.

2. Unsymmetrical—sections forming angular junctions with each other, causing awkward, ungraceful outlines.—F. L. Sewell.

POORLY BUILT MALE

Narrow bodied. Legs too close together, indications of a weak constitution.

WELL BUILT MALE

Good development. Wide body and legs set well apart, indications of a strong constitution.

PLATE 11

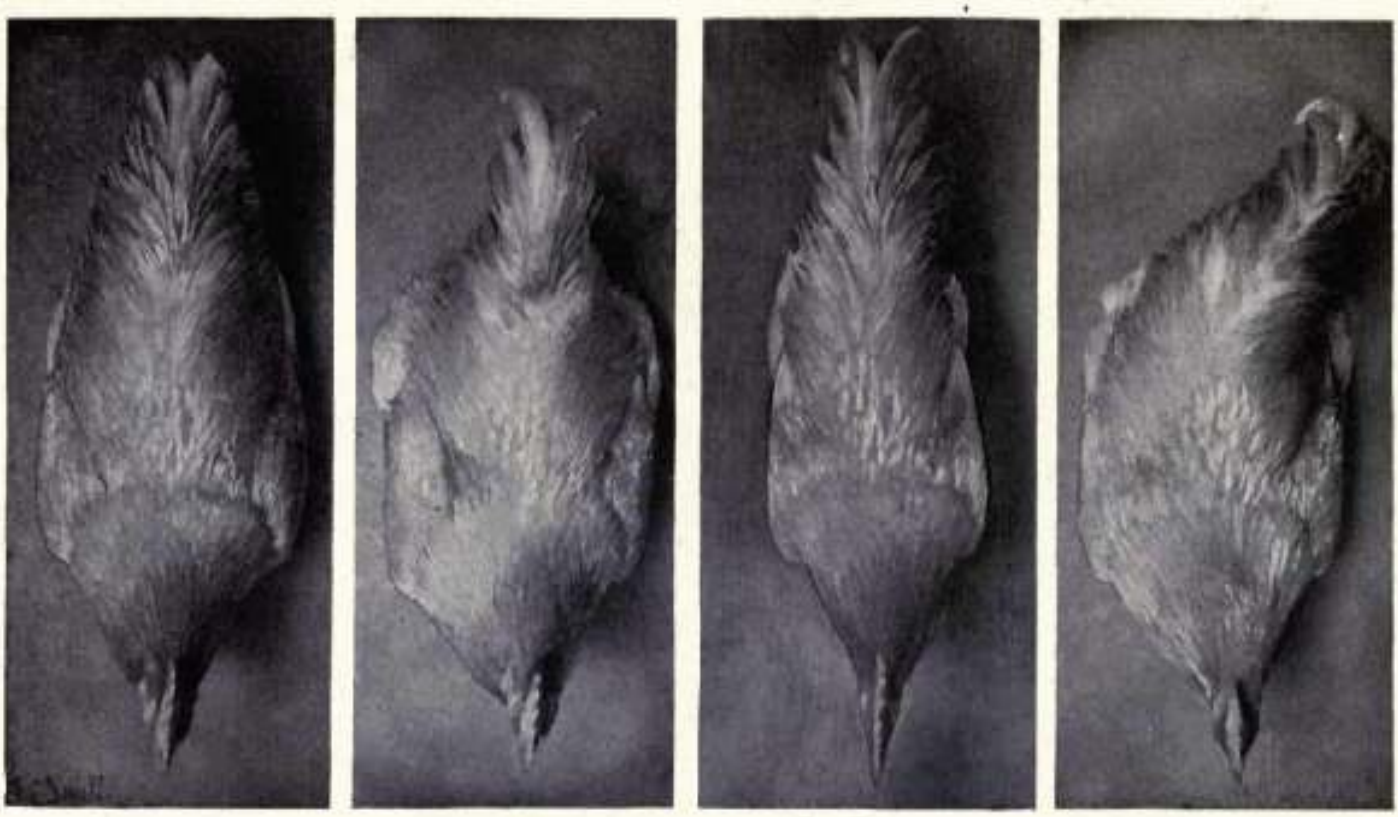
DEFECTIVE CONFORMATION OF BACK, BODY AND TAIL

1. Tail plumage too large in proportion to back and body. Sometimes called "bushy tail."

2. Back and body slope too much toward rear. Tail plumage too much contracted and pointed in general form of tail, termed "Pinched Tail."

3. Body shows too much fluff. Upper portion of tail proper feathers are bent or missing, causing bunched or "Cobby Tail."

4. Back and tail form too nearly a straight back and tail line, or a "flat top line." Tail lacks in side furnishing.



1 2 3 4

IDEAL AND DEFECTIVE SHAPES FROM TOP VIEW

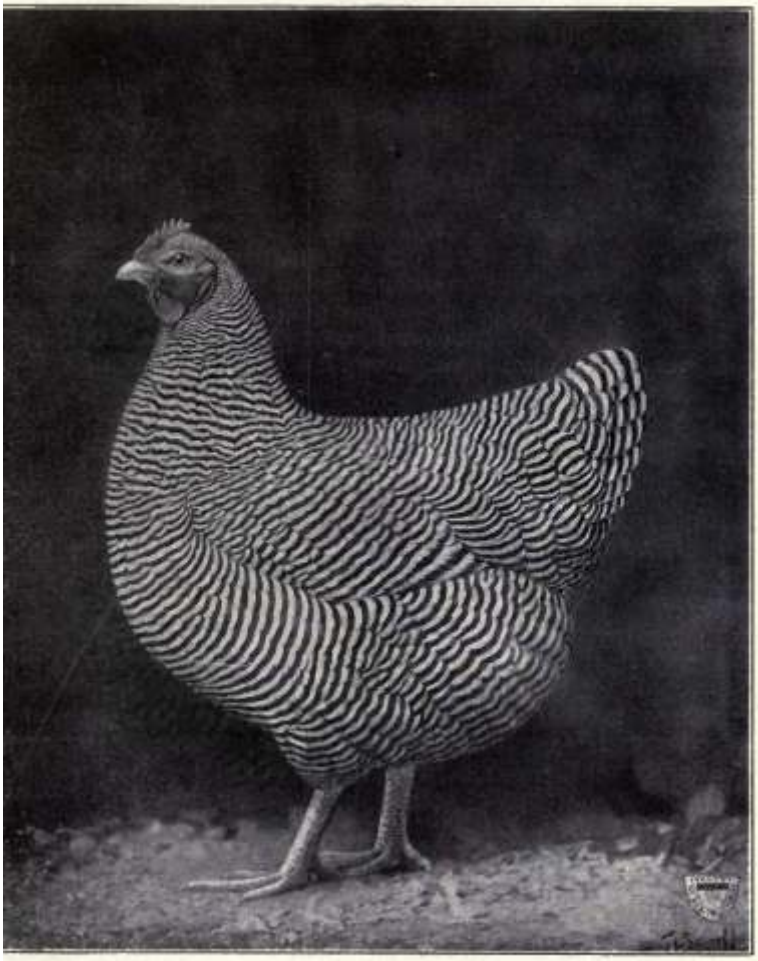
1. View of standard ideal (Buff), male, a first winner at New York show; neck hackle flowing well over shoulders; wings fitting firmly and neatly to body; broad, rather long back and saddle. Saddle covering and merging well over tail coverts. Tail, moderate length, well furnished. Width of body carrying well back to rear. Tail moderately spread. 2. The two sides not equally proportioned. Plumage too loose; body and fluff plumage too excessive. Tail plumage pinched at sides. 3. Head, shoulders, body and tail too narrow all the way through from front to rear. 4. Back crooked with tail bent over to one side.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS

PLATE 3

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

PLATE 4

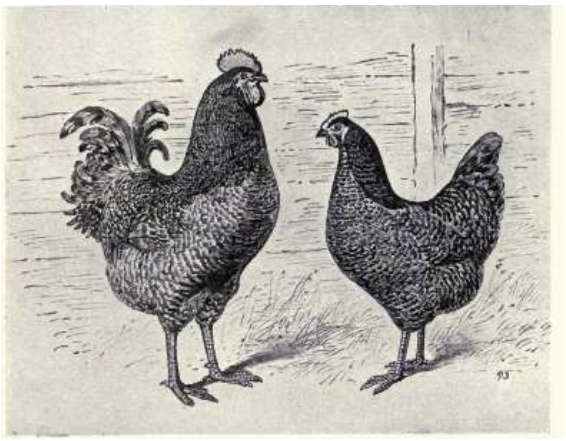


BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALE

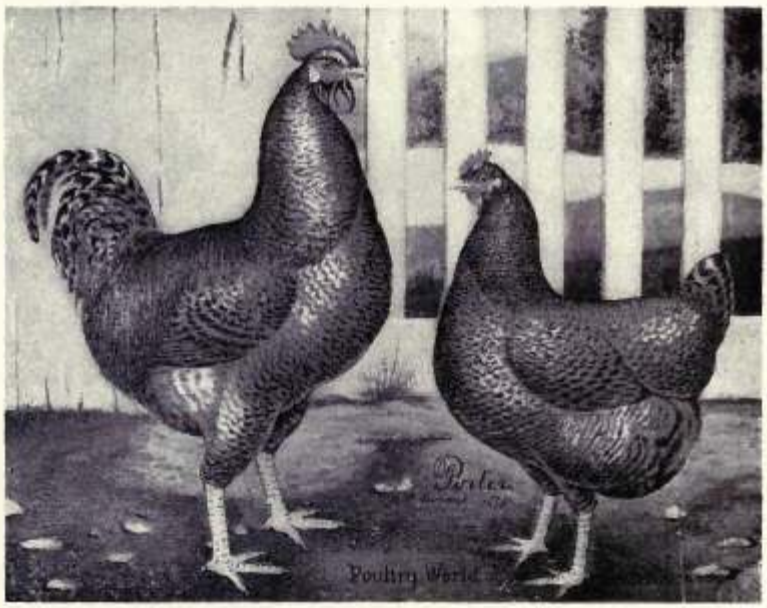
Back.—Rather long, broad its entire length, flat at shoulders, nearly horizontal from neck to saddle, where there is a slight concave sweep to tail; saddle feathers, rather long, abundant, filling well in front of tail.

Tail.—Of medium length, moderately well spread, carried at an angle of forty-five degrees above the horizontal (see illustration, figures 25 and 26), forming no apparent angle with the back; sickles, well curved, covering tops of main tail feathers, conforming to the general shape of the tail; smaller sickles and tail-coverts, of medium length, nicely curved and sufficiently abundant to almost hide the stiff feathers of the tail when viewed from front or side.

Male Back and Tail Standard from Plymouth Rock Breed Book 1915 Standard Revision

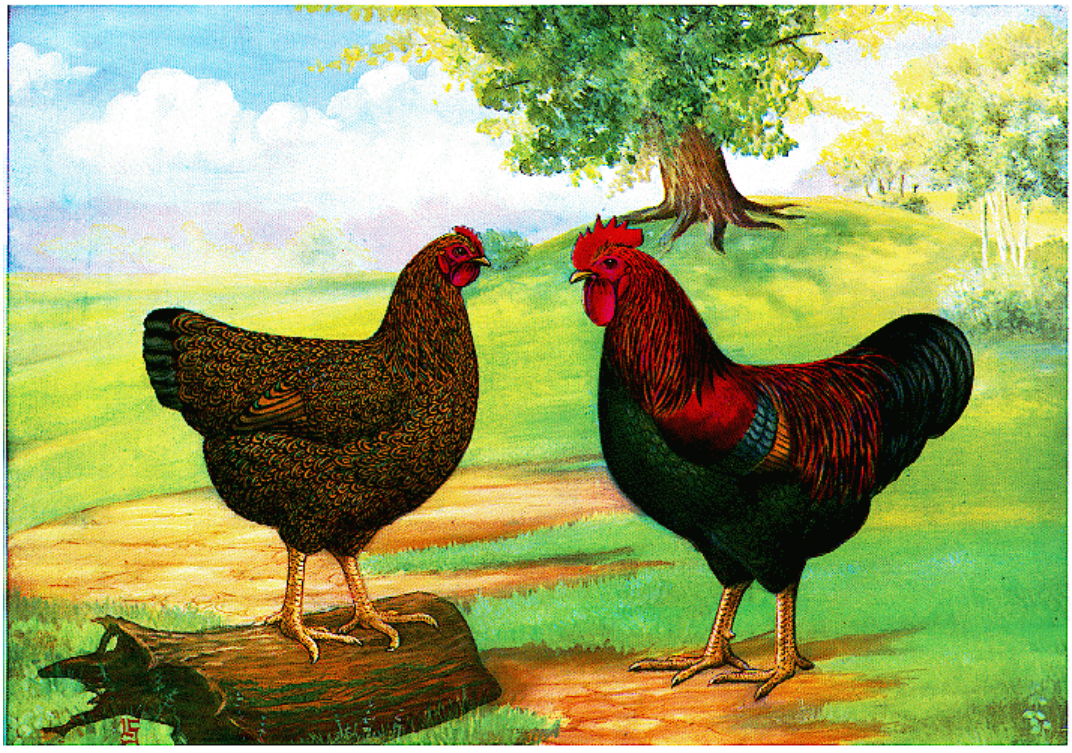


One of the earliest pictures published of the American Plymouth Rock, appearing in Rural New Yorker, 1872, and in Stoddard's Poultry World, 1873. [Observe darker plumage of the neck feathers and coarseness of barring in the larger feathers, combs irregular and serrations very numerous, tail feathers of the male are represented as being blown by the wind.]



Halftone reproduction of a colored lithograph of Plymouth Rocks by Porter in Stoddard's Poultry World, 1879. This shape was popular during the 80's and was copied to represent birds of that period. It shows a substantial and rugged type. This pair represent a larger, heavier type, with color of plumage and shape of combs considerably improved over those of the pair published in Poultry World, 1873.

Pebble Stone Clay Farm



PARTRIDGE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Supplement to Poultry Tribune, Mount Morris, Ill., U. S. A.

Promoting Partridge Plymouth Rock Bantams

Always promoting and supporting the American Bantam Association, American Poultry Association , The Ohio National and the Plymouth Rock Fancier's Club of America

Matt Lhamon

5806 South Phillips Road, Harrod, OH 45850

moderngameman@gmail.com

We have sold our flock s of Columbian, Barred and Partridge Rock Bantams to Brian Lewis, see him for your needs!

Washing White Bantams

By Matt Lhamon

I have used Hartz Mountain White Dog Shampoo or Tide with Bleach Alternative with much success the last few years and thru the bluing away. Tide with Bleach Alternative has a whiting agent which really makes the birds stand out. 1st tub, I put a couple capfuls of Shampoo or Tide in the wash water along with 2 oz of Pyrethrum concentrate per 4 gallons of water to kill any external parasites if needed. If the bird is real dirty I will put Shampoo or Tide right on the bird in the dirty area. Then I use a plastic bristle carpet brush to scrub the bird real good always working with the lay of the feathers. Once the bird has been scrubbed thoroughly, I clean the head and feet areas and rinse completely in clean water in the second tub. The Dog shampoo will turn the bird's feathers real blue so be sure to get it rinsed out well especially in the quill areas. In the third tub I use 1 cup of white vinegar to 4 gallons of water to cut any excess suds. The fourth tub is optional but I use about 6-8oz of Glycerin to 4 gallons of water to restore oil to the feathers. Towel dry and leave the bird dry in the sun or under heat lamp till completely dry. White birds should be washed about 3 days before the show, colored birds about 7 days. I only use a blow dryer on my Cochins and then only to fluff the bird up after it has dried naturally for awhile. Poor washing/drying job will do more harm than good to the bird, take your time and wash well getting all stains and dirt out, rinse well and get all the suds out and let the bird dry naturally so it can get its feathers back in place. Keep your show boxes full of fresh clean shavings as many a good white bird has been ruined in transport to the show. I have a few different methods for washing Reds/OE/Moderns as the hard feathered birds can be easily ruined by improper washing also.

Washing Dark and Hard Feathered Bantams

By Matt Lhamon

When washing a dark colored or dark colored hard feathered breeds of bantams, I do things a little different from washing white birds. I use about half as much shampoo and if you can find it, Hartz Mountain Black Dog shampoo is great; otherwise I use a mild baby shampoo. In the first tub I use about half as much shampoo as I would with a white birds, just enough to lightly suds up the water. If the birds have bugs I also use 2 oz. of Pyrethrum concentrate per 4 gallons of water to kill any external parasites. I do not use a brush but use my hands always working with the lay of the feathers until the bird comes clean. If the bird is real dirty I may soak him in the tub for 5 minutes or so always holding on and keeping his head above the water. Once the feathers are clean, I scrub the head and feet areas if needed. An old toothbrush works great here. In the second tub I have plain water and immerse the bird several times and on the final time I squeegee the water from the feathers with my hands making sure all the suds are gone and the bird is clean. The third tub has 1 cup of white vinegar to 4 gallons of water to cut any excess suds and repeat the process from the second tub again squeegee the water from the feathers with my hands until the bird is not dripping. In the final tub, I use about 6-8oz of Glycerin to 4 gallons of water to restore oil to the feathers and squeegee the water from the feathers with my hands until the bird is not dripping. Towel dry and leave the bird to dry in the sun or under heat lamp till completely dry. Dark colored birds dry fast in the sun or under a heat lamp so make sure they do not get too hot and overheat. I like to do this a week before the show so the bird can get their feathers back in place and never blow-dry a hard feathered bird.

If the bird is not real dirty, I use the same process but use little or no soap in the first tub. A poorly washed hard feathered bird will look like a frizzle so make sure if you use any soap, it is all rinsed out. Again, keep the show boxes dust free and full of fresh shavings so the bird does not get dusty or dirty in route to the show.

Silver Penciled

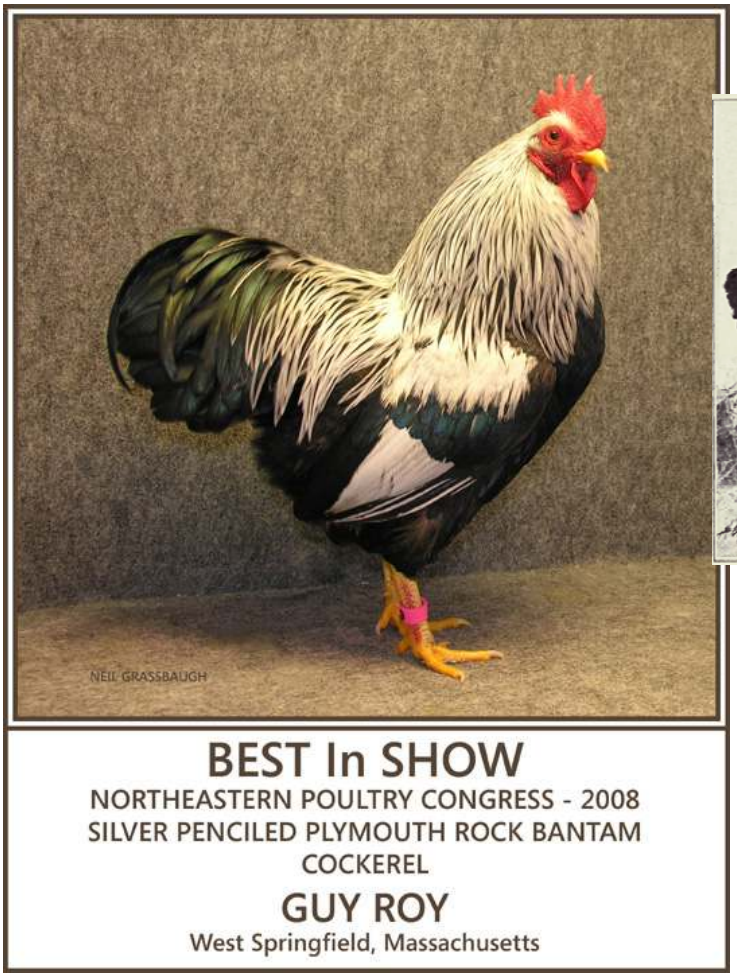
Rock Pullet

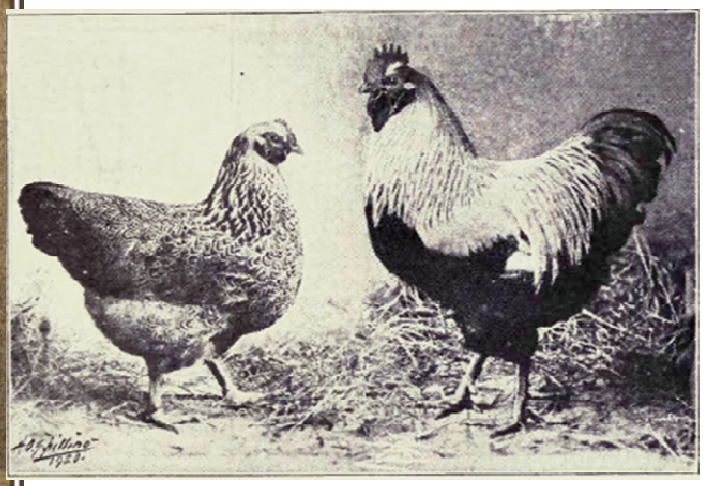
From 1915

Silver Penciled

Rock Cockerel

From 1915





Arthur Schilling's 1923 Silver Penciled Rock Pair

PLYMOUTH ROCK BANTAMS

"A gentle breed for youth and beginners"

Doris Robinson, Director

APA-ABA Youth Program

http://www.apa-abayouthprogamsite.org

Several weeks ago I was lucky enough to have Matt Lhamon send me a copy of the Plymouth Rock newsletter written and edited by Bob Blosl (the new Rock Club secretary) via email. I was so impressed with the publication that I wrote to Matt thanking him and I also posted it on the newsroom of our website. During the course of our conversation it brought to mind what a nice gentle breed these birds are and how great they are for kids.

I'll admit I haven't had a lot of interaction with Rocks except for the few I keep here at home. Although I don't show birds any longer because of other priorities I have raised a few just because I wanted to and they look so pretty running around in the back yard. Their bright white feathers against the green grass looks like flowers blooming in the garden. I guess old habits die hard because I still pick them up almost every day and bath and groom them like they were going to a show. They aren't just an everyday backyard flock at my house, no sir.

I've passed several Rocks along to youngsters that are starting to show poultry because they are so gentle. These children have ranged from ages 4 years old to 10 years old and a few a little older. One of the 4 year old boys is the grandson of my close friend so I get to see the interaction between them. He puts both the pullet and cockerel on his little red wagon (after putting a towel in the bottom so they don't slide around) and takes them for a walk around the yard. This is almost a daily routine and it's hard to believe they stay right on that silly wagon. If one happens to jump out Austin walks over and puts it back after giving it a good scolding, then off they go again.

A few years ago I had the pleasure of meeting Shelby Harrington at the Southern Ohio Poultry Breeders show in Lucasville, Ohio. At the time I was introduced I had no idea Shelby was one of the top breeders of Plymouth Rocks. To carry on a conversation I asked him what he was showing it didn't take long for him to walk me over to his birds when I stated I didn't know a thing about Rocks except they were clean legged and I have always raised feather-legs. He told me not only were they beautiful, and an easy bird to raise and breed, *they were perfect for a beginner*; it didn't matter if it was a youth or an adult. Being that Shelby was always generous to a fault and always working to promote his favorite breed I found myself traveling home with a lovely trio of white Rock bantams that he wanted me to handle, breed and work with. He even loaned me a carry case since I wasn't prepared to travel with extra birds.

I'm telling you this story for a reason. We all have our favorite breed of chicken that we show or just raise for pleasure. Quite often I get a phone call or an email from parents that ask me what breed of chicken would be good for a child that has become interested in chickens and even wants to show them. Plymouth Rock bantams are the first words out of my mouth along with a couple of other gentle breeds. Out of all my choices Rock bantams is one of my favorites.

Now that I think of it, I think I'll get a trio of large fowl. I've always been so impressed with them in the showroom. They stand out amongst their peers and there isn't anything any prettier than a line of massive white Rocks all groomed. I hope they are as gentle as the bantam; I'll let you know how I make out.

If you have a friend that you'd like to share your newsletter with, send them to the APA-ABA Youth Program website and have them check out the newsroom. There are lots of other interesting areas to see while they are there. We are focusing on education for youth so we have a great educational area where they can print off study materials to learn about poultry.

The Silver Penciled Rock
"A Wonderfully Beautiful Bird"

by Bob Hawes, Hawes Home Farm, Hampden, Maine

e-mail: haweshome@tds.net

In "*The Plymouth Rocks*," a Reliable Poultry Journal publication of 1911, Thoe. Wittman wrote, "A well colored and marked Silver Penciled Plymouth Rock is a wonderfully beautiful bird, and the time is likely coming when they will take their place as one of the popular and leading varieties." Well, the Silver Penciled Rock was a useful variety but never did become a commercial contender. However, Mr. Wittman was correct in that the SP is a beautiful bird when well-bred. Unfortunately, the writers of the Standard called for a pattern that is somewhat of a challenge. I feel that some folks give up the bird when they see the difficulties in producing both exhibition males and females from the same pen.

In New England we have some superior Silver Penciled bantams coming mainly from Guy Roy and Bob Murphy, plus Bob has loyally kept some very nice SP large fowl for many years. The males, especially the bantam males, are really showstoppers with their silvery white wingbows and clear black breasts. Plus they have Rock type: wide backs that carry well back, good fronts and nice heads. A fault to guard against in the males is brassiness in the top plumage. Nothing detracts more from the overall appearance of a Silver Penciled male from any breed than the dirty white color that we sometimes see in the hackle, wingbows and saddles.

A further problem with this brassiness in males is that it will show up in the females and give them an overall rusty appearance. I owned a pullet that was 1st in a rather large class at the Boston Show a few years back. I hadn't been breeding the SP too long and so I asked the judge why I took 1st against some very good competition. He said, "Look at the rusty shade on all those other females." He was right; mine was the only female that had the silvery white shade that is called for. I confess that it was pure luck!

Of course, after body type, the first order of business in females is penciling. There is a difference between the APA and the ABA in this description. The APA Standard states, "Each feather in the back, breast, body, wing bows, and thighs should have three or more pencilings." The ABA calls for, "three distinct black pencilings on the breast" and for the back, "steel gray, with distinct black pencilings, outlines of which should conform to the outline of the feather," no mention of the numbers of pencilings. The ABA requirements are more realistic if one is using a single mating system. Most breeders are producing a "male line" and males more often catch the judge's eye. Males have sharp demarcations of color and it's easier to defend your decision. But exhibition males do not beget exhibition females. The penciling on the daughters of these males is just not as sharp as the Standard demands.

Watch the overall color on pullets. It should be a bright silvery-gray with sharp contrasting penciling. The APA description says that the penciling "Should not be black because that destroys the even shade of gray that is desired." But the ABA calls for "black penciling," so take your choice. The important thing about the penciling is that it should be distinct and should follow the contour of the feather. It's pretty easy to get good penciling on the breast but it's not so easy to have a well penciled back, and that's what the judge first examines. There are some judges who can appreciate a good female; at the 2007 Boston Show the BV was a pullet.

Other traits to watch for in females are crow heads and poorly serrated combs. Remember that the comb on the female is going to be enlarged about 3x on her sons and what seems like a minor fault in the dam can be a real defect in the male offspring. Watch for leg color; too many SP have very pale, almost white legs. We can accept some paleness in females from egg production but when it causes white legs in the male offspring one has to think it may be genetic. A couple of handfuls of scratch feed in the litter in late afternoon prevents the "white leg syndrome" in my pens. This extra corn does not seem to contribute to brassiness in the males (sunlight may, however).

One other area that I think needs to be watched in SP is the amount of fluff under the tail. In some cases both males and females have a gap between the lower main tail feathers and the start of the fluff. This to me gives the tail a sort of tube-like appearance. The ABA Standard calls for the fluff to be, "rather full and of moderate length." Look at your birds in profile and you'll see what I am describing.

Both the APA and ABA Standards call for the female's head to be a "silvery gray." In some birds the penciling goes up over the head, and gives a "dark gray" appearance. I prefer the contrast of the "silvery" heads as seen in the drawings in the APA Standard and in the older breed books. I think if you are using only one mating pen, that the exhibition male will naturally produce these silvery-headed females. And finally, the Standards call for the fluff to be penciled in the females - lots of luck with that!

In the large fowl, of course, size is always a consideration. For the most part the SP cannot compete with the Barreds and the Whites in terms of body weight. The Dark Brahma was one of the original ancestors of the SP Rock. How about revisiting the old family homestead for a little infusion of new blood?

Without resorting to the rather complicated and space-consuming "double mating" system there is a system for producing both exhibition-type males and females from the same pen and it's called the "two female color system." Head the pen with an exhibition male and use 2-3 well-laced females plus 1-2 of the "mossy-backed" females, those having good heads and combs. These latter females will produce the exhibition males. Keep a couple of the daughters from the mossy-backed females for next year's male breeding. The drawback of using only one pen is that the offspring cannot be identified by dam unless trap nests are used. Having two pens available, one for each type of female, would get around this problem and you are still not actually following a "double mating" system. Read about this system in the *Plymouth Rock Standard and Breed Book,* pub by the APA, 1919. This book can probably be borrowed on inter –library loan thru your local library.

These are a few thoughts from an amateur breeder. My experience has been only with bantams. Try the Silver Penciled, bantam or large. They lay well and they hatch well. Don't worry that each and every bird is not exhibition quality, just enjoy them, and at the same time you will preserve a little Plymouth Rock history.

partridge rocks white faced black spanish

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More on Breeding Columbian Rocks

By

Mike Michael

8 *Bob Blosl's note-I received the following email from Mike Michael on Columbian Rock LF after I had received several inquiries about raising the Colum-bian strain of LF. I thought it was too good not to share with all.-Bob*

Here's my suggestion to who is wanting to start that strain of Columbian Rock Large Fowl. I would contact the two people listed in the Rock New letter, Under exhibitor of the year points listing, and talk to them putting emphasis on Male color and Female type. Now I'm sure you'll find that they need improvement, But you could be surprised as to their quality, especially if these 2 folks listed have been spending a lot of time on their breeding program. What I would do if the breeders were close I would take a look at their birds and I would select the very best colored male and feather quality they were willing to sell. I would then purchase a trio from each breeder with also letting them know you wanted the best typed females they were willing to sell. This will give the beginner 2 of 3 lines I feel they need to work with. I would use both males across the 2 lines I have at this time, Keeping the lines straight by some sort of toe punching or band colors system. I would figure out which male crossed with both of your female lines which is throwing you the best color and feather quality, Keeping 2 or whatever you may need in cockrell of that male line and that would now become your male line. And I would not wavier from it for my future breedings, I would lock in color and feather quality coming from that male side of the selection. Keeping Son after Son for generations. I would then, if you have kept the older females, run the young males back across them. If you have kept young females with type, run also the young cockrells with good color and feather back across them. Now I mentioned you need a 3rd line. Keep your eyes open or ask the other breeders you got your birds from where you may purchase a couple Columbian pullets from always keeping type selection in mind.

Because you have already developed your color in your male line/ you will only need to purchase females for your 3rd line. In my opinion type always comes from the females. Color and feather from the males, That is just my opinion.

Watch possibly in your travels or local auction or sales sometimes people just don't know what they are raising.

If all else fails in finding that 3rd line to your satisfaction, Here's what I would do, NOW LISTEN TO ME CLOSELY I would look for the best White Rock Male in color, feather and type. Now notice I mentioned type this time, reason being if this male has type it came from the female line behind his breeding and remember you are setting in your 3rd line female line, You already have your male line in your barn. Now breed this white male to a couple of your females from each of your 2 lines ONLY ONE TIME then sell the white male, Because we are only breeding for a 3rd line of Columbians. Now why are we using a cock bird and not a hen. You should have your type working very nice for you in your breeding program with your other 2 lines and you don't want to mess this up for yourself. Now you given yourself a different line, but with the help of your breeding program mixed in.

You will have to CULL for color for about 3 generations, But it will happen quicker than you think, because of the offspring from this single cross will by then be being bred to your male line from this point on. Putting both color and feather into this line from your male line that you developed.

Bob, I would only advise them "the beginner" to do this if they can't find another Columbian Large Fowl Breed line that fills their program.

Bob in response to your E-mail I feel this would be a better way to go, then to use a bantam. I have bred my strain to maintain size, rarely do I get a

bird that I feel is to big that would help with developing a strain of large fowl. I didn't mean to write so long a response, but I'm thinking in my head this is the advice I would give a beginner wanting to raise large fowl Columbians.

Breeding Barred Plymouth Rock Bantams

By

Greg Michael

First let me say I don't believe myself to be an expert in breeding Barred Rocks. There's others with many more years experience than me, but I'll share with you my system of breeding and if it helps someone with their birds, then the entire better.

My Dad, Mike Michael, taught this system to me and we have used it successfully in breeding both rabbits and poultry for my years. It is similar to the "Simple Plan" article written by Matt Lhamon, but with a few differences. I find the nicest male I can acquire in type and color. Then instead of using two female lines, I prefer to work with three female lies. One line of females is related to the male I chose to breed to, and then the other two lines are different. I use two females from each line and I band them a different color to keep them separate. I then mate them to the male, being sure to mark eggs and toe punch chicks to the corresponding mating, out of the first cross I keep the two nicest pullets in type and color from each female line and mate back to their Sire, now the cockerels from the first mating I don't keep except maybe for show or as backups in case something happens to the original sire. From the second mating, which is now 75% of the original sire's blood, I again keep the two best pullets from each female line, and I also keep the best cockerel from each female line. Here's where I usually stop breeding the daughters back to the original sire for a third time, and instead I start crossing between the three female lines. As I said before I not only toe punch, but I also use color bands to distinguish my female line. "For Example," I may use a blue, red or green band for the different lines. At this point, I look at which cockerels compliment which pullets as far as strengths versus weaknesses. I may take a Blue banded cockerel and mate him across Red Banded Pullets or a Green Banded cockerel across Blue Banded Pullets, etc. But no matter how I cross I only mark the eggs and keep track of what female line they are coming from since the male side is the same in all three lines. I've done this system for the last eight years with our Barred Rocks and White Cochins. I've culled hard and have seen improvements every year.

Now as far as color and barring goes this is my personal preference in what I like to keep for breeding and what I look for the cull out. On both males and females I want the barring to be, as the standard calls for, nice and even and straight as I can get. I like to check out the wings and look at the primary feathers when I'm looking at the barring on a bird. It's easier to get nice even bars in secondary than primaries, but I've noticed at least with my birds that the straighter the bars on the primary feathers, the better the barring are on the bird as a whole. Another thing I look at when comparing my birds is the shade of color of the whole bird. When I put them in the show coops and take a couple steps back and look at them, I want to see an even shade of what I call a "Bluish Steel Gray," Color. It doesn't really matter to me if the color is lighter or darker than my personal preference but it has to be even from head to tail. I don't like to see two or three different tones on one bird. Keep in mind that the females will most always look darker In color than the males because of them having wide bars than the males. Another thing I look for is any rust or brassiness in the feathers. I cull anything that has that, as well as solid black feathers in the wings or tail. I don't mind a few solid black feathers in the

body of the female as long as it's not extreme and the bird is otherwise nice. I will not keep a male with solid black feathers anywhere as I feel that the male has more to do with color and barring than the females.

Well that's all for now I hope that you've enjoyed reading this, and if anyone has any feedback or just want to talk "ROCKS" feel free to contact me.

How I Breed Barred Rock Large Fowl

By

Jamie Duckworth

This is an article about how I assess and determine which of my Barred Plymouth Rocks keepers are and which are culls. In this article, I am taking for granted that the reader has a firm footing in the basic husbandry skills of poultry. This includes housing, feeding and hatching. If you do not, I encourage you to acquire some of the older books on poultry that were written in the first 30 years of the 1900's. Those books were written at a time when the commercial farms were raising their stock much like we are raising ours today. Also, read some recently published books to stay abreast of health issues and technology breakthroughs that were not relevant then, but are today.

To start your breeding and mating program, you should try very hard to find someone nearby that can mentor you in your journey. Look through the club roster and check the forum and post an "I need help" topic. It is difficult at best to do this alone and don't be afraid to ask. Even if you find someone nearby who doesn't raise the same breeds, selection and culling is the same process regardless of breed. You should also buy the best foundation stock you can. I was once told by a Master Breeder that it costs the same to feed a breeder bird as a table bird. I was very fortunate to have both of these scenarios work for me. I have spoken to many breeders over the phone and on forums that have gave me very valuable information and even some foundation stock.

I started out earnestly breeding Barred Plymouth Rocks in 2007. I finally reached the point where I could raise and breed poultry in a suitable location with ample facilities. I have previously raised poultry in a manner that wasn't conducive to breeding, but satisfactory in supplying table eggs and propagating stock. I learned valuable husbandry and production skills during those years.

I acquired foundation stock from two breeders. I bought 16 chicks from one breeder and was mailed 18 eggs from another. I grew those chicks out to 16 wks, separating the males from females at 8 weeks, and performed my assessment. Keeping the best of those laid the groundwork for my breeding pens the next year. I determined, with help from my mentor, Don Shrider, that the two lines should be crossed to combine qualities found in both. I will call one family G and the other W. I took the best W male and put with the best G females. I called that pen G, following the female as the family name. I then did the same with the others; put the best G male over the best W females. My initial pens for breeding were very small, 1 male and 3 - 4 females. This completed the 2007 year.

January 2008 began my hatching season. I hatched 150 off the W pen and 50 off the G pen. I hatched every 10 days and kept the chicks separated according to age. At 8 wks I separated the males from the females. I moved the males to a pasture based system to grow out for meat and kept the females in the barn to raise out as layers. I then perform the assessment at 16 weeks.

The ideal assessment process includes a digital scale, 5 gallon bucket, 2 catching crates or cages, wing or leg bands, assessment form and a helper. I like to assess pullets first because they are generally smaller than the cockerels and to me; it is easier to handle smaller subjects first. I set my scales up on a sturdy table near the holding pen. I tare the scales with the bucket. I then put the bird in the bucket on the scales and get a weight. My helper then records the weight on my form along with identifying features such as band color and number, sex, family line, toe punch and breed. After removing the bird from the bucket, I then evaluate the head. I notate how many points are on the comb, how wide the skull is and how the eyes appear. I really look hard at the skull. I look from the top down and I like to see a wide flat topped skull that pretty much covers the eyes. If you can see the majority of the eyes, the skull is more rounded and narrower, not a good trait. If the skull is large it leaves room for good brain development and is an indicator of good bone formation of the rest of the body. I usually measure the width of the skull using my pointer finger, middle finger and a portion of my ring finger. I know everyone has different finger widths, so you'll have to set your own benchmark, but a keeper pullet for me is 2 ¼ fingers wide.

The next thing I do is measure heart girth. I do this by holding the bird in my left hand. The heart girth is the body portion of the bird directly behind the wings. Using your thumb and index finger to make an upside down "U", I check how wide that is. I then compare that width to some baseline like a ruler and record that measurement. I just use the lines on my assessment form for a ruler. A good pullet here is > 3½ lines wide. With the "U" shaped still in my hand, I check to see how the width of the back carries past the thighs. I just make a note like narrow, wide, short or long. Keep in mind these are all relative measurements. You can pick up a really good bird and a really bad bird and make comparable measurements for your baseline.

With the bird in hand and the keel resting on my left hand with her head under my left arm, I then check to see if her back is parallel with the keel bone. My helper records that as such. I like looking for pullets with the breast area narrower than the pelvic area. That is a good indicator of egg laying capacity. I then check the flatness of back and see if the back stays flat, rises or falls past the thighs and notate that on my form as well.

I then direct my attention to the pelvic area. I basically do the same check here that is described in the famous book, Call of the Hen by Ben Hogan. I notate the spread between the two bones on either side of the vent and check to see how much fat is on the tips of them. I notate that. A 16 week pullet isn't laying, but if one has > 2 fingers width here, she will generally have good potential. I also check the spacing between those pelvic bones and the end of the keel bone. I also check the keel bone to see if it is short, long or rocker. I notate all this on my form.

One last feature I like to check: the breast and thigh fleshing. If there is no meat there by now, you most likely have a very small bird or a large framed rangy bird that is nothing but bones that will grow out in a few months. I don't keep those birds; I want a good, well-fleshed bird at 16 weeks. By this point you should have a good idea if the bird is a keeper.

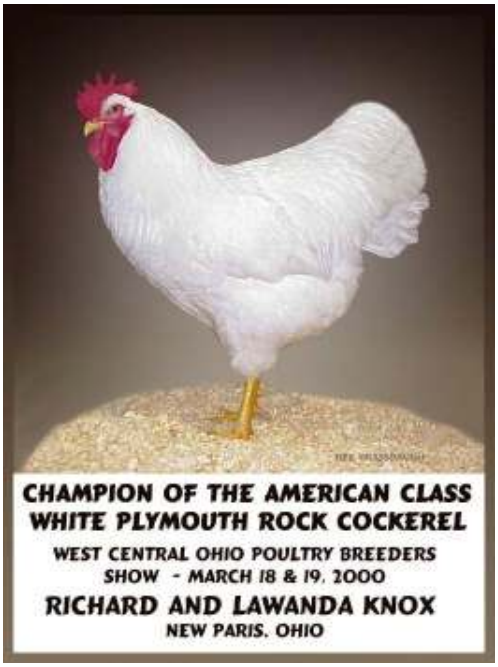
I then look at feather coloring. I don't cull birds at this point in my program solely on coloring just because I am concentrating on shape. If I have a so so bird and its coloring is bad, then that will help in my culling decision. I do evaluate the coloring and barring and if they are good, I notate them in four areas: Primary, Secondary, saddle and hackle areas. I rate them on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being perfect, and 1 being totally smutty. I also have a col-

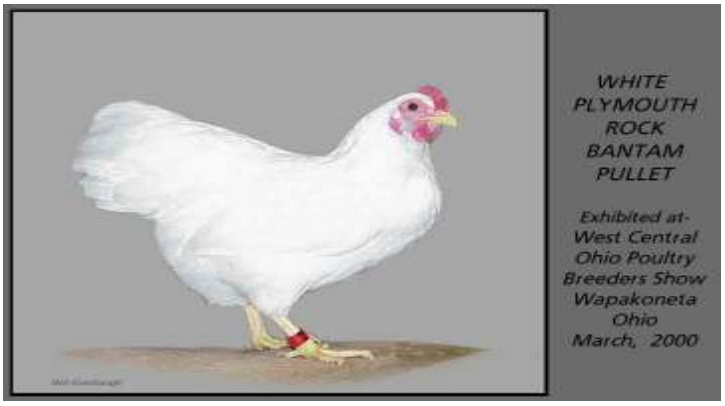
umn where I give an overall coloring assessment and I notate that.

The last columns on my form are a status and notes column. I notate something that gives me a quick reminder of the bird; watch, cull keeper, breeder, sell, etc. You can say what you want, just notate something. At this point I will use a more permanent type of identification band to put on those keepers and place them in the keeper cage. I use a black zip tie for the culls and then put them in the cull cage. My helper usually by this time has another one caught and we do it again. I can do a bird with a helper fairly quick and it gives me good information.

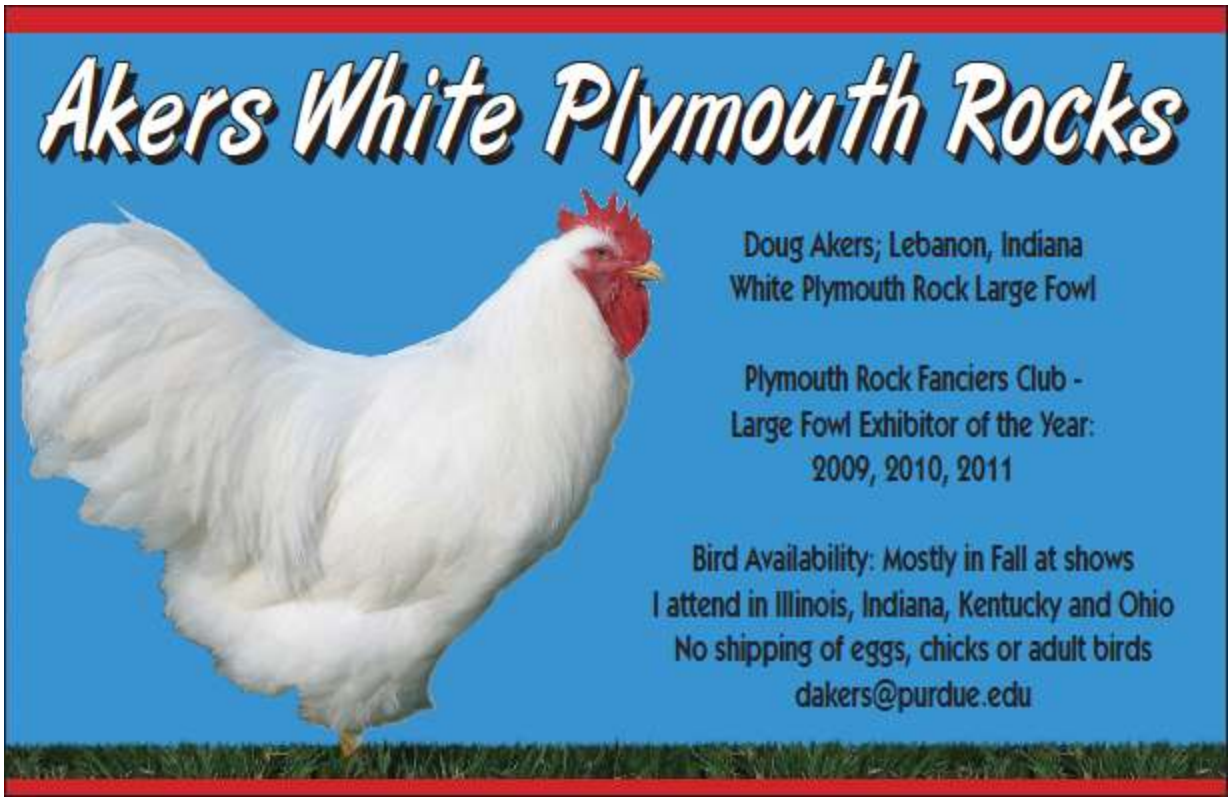
I developed my assessment form from the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy form which they used in their Buckeye grow out program. I just modified it to include a few Plymouth Rock breed specific traits and terms my helpers and I can identify quickly. You can get one also from them here http://www.albc-usa.org/downloads.html . You can modify it to suit your personal preferences. I would like to conclude by thanking Don Shrider for his generous support and never ending encouragement of my breeding program. I would also like to thank the ALBC for their support and resources which help me and others in preserving these heritage breeds. I would be ungrateful if I didn't acknowledge the great advice and friends I have met here in the club and on the forum. I'd be glad to answer any questions by email or on the forum concerning this procedure.

BEST JUNIOR PLYMOUTH ROCK BANTAM - BARRED HEN
2007 ROCK n' RED SHOW By BRITTANY E CASSANDRA DeWEESE






Barred Rock Cockerel by
M&M Exhibition Poultry



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DECREASING HEAT STRESS IN BACKYARD POULTRY
BY NEIL GRASSBAUGH

The commercial poultry industry in the middle and southern tier of the United States deals with the economic losses to the heat of the summer that are greater than losses to the cold of winter. Over the years the industry has come to understand these problems and has developed ways to overcome them.

This writing is an effort to relate to backyard poultry people what the industry has learned. Please remember that the commercial industry is concerned first and foremost with production. Minimizing losses and increasing profits is what the game is all about. Understand that mistreated, stressed or deprived birds are not tolerated by the industry. Profit margins are so thin they simply cannot afford to overlook anything that causes that margin to deteriorate.

The first and most important factor in any bird's ability to withstand the onset of any stress is a condition of good health. Birds that are sick, troubled with parasites or lacking in vigor are affected first. Correcting these and any other health situations are the first issues to be addressed.

The supply of water is, without doubt, a most critical factor in reduction of heat stress. Water should not only be easily available it should be of good quality and preferably cool. Slimy, green, contaminated water is certainly not as beneficial as that which is clean and cool. The chicken industry uses closed water systems (nipple drinkers) almost exclusively where algae growth and outside contamination are almost entirely eliminated. In addition the water is treated with a low level of sanitizers that deal with organic contaminants.

There is good reason for the backyard poultry person to use drinking water sanitizers for the birds. The open, or pool, type waterers used are very subject to contamination. Chorine bleach is effective and readily available, hydrogen peroxide is a good choice but offers some challenges in the smaller operation. Many other reputable water sanitizers are available.

Protection from radiant energy is probably the next most important factor to consider. Radiant energy can adversely affect poultry even when the air temperature is not a contributing factor. The radiant energy that we are concerned with here is that which comes form the sun. You can temporarily stop the flow of radiant energy with anything that provides shade. But as soon as that object absorbs enough radiant energy it will in turn start to radiate that energy itself. Some materials radiate heat energy better than others. Dense metals (like iron) are among the best radiators.

Think of an un-insulated metal roof on a structure. The roof certainly provides shade. But just providing shade is not the total answer to our problem. Shade is, in reality, just the result of blocking radiant light energy not radiant heat energy. Think of how hot it can be in an attic with an un-insulated metal roof, it can be very dark there since little if any light gets thru. But it is still hot. The air is hot because of convection and it feels hotter still because of the radiant energy emitted from the hot roof that got the energy from the sun.

So how do we minimize the transfer of heat energy from the sun to the bird's body? Without doubt a dense shade tree is very efficient at blocking radiant energy. The multiple layers of leaves interrupt the transmission of radiant energy so many times that the energy effectively blocked from the ground. We can try to duplicate this situation, in a structure or not, but it is seldom practical or economically feasible.

Since the primary barrier to the sun's radiant energy is a roof we can dilute the heat transfer by making the roof very high and distant from the birds. Not practical however. What is practical is a material that reflects radiant energy. The best commonly available radiant energy barrier is the aluminum foil/plastic bubble cell insulation product available nearly everywhere. Often misunderstood these products do not give much R-value and are not very highly regarded by those who do not understand their best use. The R-value of mass insulation we regard so highly is a measure of a materials resistance to the movement of heat energy by convection. We are dealing with the transfer of heat energy by radiation, not convection. It is the aluminum foil that reflects up to

98% of the radiant energy and in reality the “dead air space” created by the plastic bubble part of the material doesn’t do much good in this situation.

Foil insulation is inexpensive, easy to apply and safe in most regards. Install it as closely as you can to where the sun hits the structure and it will do a great job. This is especially true when the birds are in an area close to the roof.

Another very simple and cheap form of radiant barrier is a good coat of white paint. There is a lot of value in the reflective qualities of a white surface. A dark colored roof (or walls), caused perhaps by rusting of the metal, absorbs more radiant energy and reemits it more easily than a light colored surface.

The next area of concern should be removing the hot air from the bird’s environment. Body functions of the birds create a great amount of heat and the more densely populated and area is the greater the production of heat. Young, growing birds; especially meat producing birds with high rates of metabolism are the greatest heat producers. Far and away the most severely threatened birds in a heat wave are commercial meat chickens and turkeys that are raised close together and eat and grow at a phenomenal rate. How do we deal with this hot air? Very simple really, just cause air movement of sufficient quantity to carry the hot air away. Breeze is nice, but fans are more effective in the long run. Fans are more reliable and usually provide greater air and, therefore, heat movement.

Most consumer type fans (available at department stores) do not provide any data about how much air they can move. But they are inexpensive and readily available so are often used. A 20” box fan can do a lot of good removing warm air or by blowing on birds and dissipating the heat. When the air reaches a certain velocity a bird will experience a “wind chill” effect that humans are more aware of because of perspiration and lack of feather insulation.

Use good judgment about how long to operate a fan at night. Older birds can utilize air movement well into the evening. Actually it is beneficial because with some cool evening air they can return to normal interior body temperature and not start the next morning with latent heat buildup. Generally the gentle movement of air being drawn over birds during the cool evening is more beneficial than the blast of turbulent air shot at them during the day. For those of you in the deep South- do not use a fan to move air around land fowl if the temperature of that air exceeds 105° F. The effect is just like that of convection oven and a bird cannot survive it very long.

Evaporative cooling is another mainstay of the commercial poultry industry. The watchword here is “evaporate”. There are very few situations in the backyard production of poultry that the cooling effect of a liquid turning to a vapor can be utilized. The systems needed to expose the water to the air, the controls to monitor it all and the massive air movement required are usually beyond the poultry hobbyist.

If you do not understand the physics and mechanics of evaporative cooling and the physiology of birds DO NOT attempt to cool them with water! It is absolutely wrong to get a land bird’s feathers wet in an attempt to reduce stress from high ambient temperatures. Spraying them, dunking them, whatever- do not do it.

Frozen bottles of water lying about is now really very useful either. If it makes you feel good go ahead and do it. The birds would be better off if they had the ice in the drinking water.

Another thing that can help during prolonged periods of heat stress is the addition of electrolytes to the drinking water. By all means do it. It is safe, easy and cheap.

Commercial broiler growers will not allow older birds (4½ Weeks plus) to eat from about 10AM to 2PM on days when they are going to be severely stressed by heat. This timing makes it so the birds are not digesting feed and producing body heat during the hottest part of the day, the late afternoon.

Remember to that hot birds drink more water in an effort to cool themselves and this may translate into wet litter conditions. Be prepared top deal with that.

In commercial poultry the indicators of the heat stress threshold having been reached is when more than 5% of the birds in a localized area are panting heavily. Moderate panting by 10% of all the birds is also considered to be an indicator of the onset of heat stress.

Links that have information about radiant insulation:
http://www.astro-foil.net/common.html
http://www.reflectixinc.com/
http://www.afs-foil.com/foil-insulation.html

Links at The University of Georgia site that tells a lot about how the commercial broiler industry deals with heat:
http://www.engr.uga.edu/service/extension/ventilation/

First offered 3 June 2003
Modified slightly 9 June 2006

Showbirdbid's Advice to Newcomers to the Exhibition Poultry Fancy.

1. Have a thick skin and listen to advice whether you agree or not. Ultimately it is you decision on what to do with it. Don't bother arguing with the advice giver, you can ask for clarity but remember you asked their opinion and you have little chance of changing it.

2. You cannot be the savior to every rare breed and variety. The more breeds and varieties you start with the less chance of success you will have. Do not pick a rare breed or variety because there is less completion or because you think they are easier to win with. In the end this will not be true.

3. If you know anything, memorize the written Standard for your chosen breed. If someone asks what the Standard for the head of a Wyandotte is and that's your breed, you should be able to recite it to them. Own the current edition of the APA and ABA Standards and read them often.

4. Evaluate your facilities before you load up on birds. The game is not how many you can hatch, but how many you can raise to maturity so you can select your keepers.

5. Set goals to improve your birds every year even if it is a small thing. Keep records and know what birds produce what.

6. A true breeder only exhibits birds in top condition. Remember a bird you exhibit is a direct reflection on you as a breeder and your skills. If you're going to show birds, study the current winners of your breed. Compare what the best of breed bird looked like to the Standard. If your breed is on champion row study them even closer and compare them to the Standard. In your mind, does the bird on Champion row mirror the Standard? Also look at how they were prepared for the show. I don't think I have seen any dirty birds on champion row at any show I have been to

7. When I go to a show, I expect nothing so I am never disappointed and if I win something I am pleasantly surprised. Don't judge poultry pictures and birds from the aisle. You really never know what a bird is like until you handle it. Most all will tell you why they placed the birds and you can then decide if it is correct to you interpretation of the Standard.

8. If you can, ask judges questions after the judging is over. They can share their ideas about your birds from a judge's perspective. You do not have to agree with if but it is best to hear them out and go on about your business. Most all will tell you why they placed the birds and you can then decide if it is correct to you interpretation of the Standard.

9. Do not ask a judge about breeding qualities of a bird unless he is a breeder of that breed. So often folks will ask me and I tell them I do not breed that breed and can't tell you. As a judge we look at the birds as show birds not breeding birds. One of things most judge's struggle with when they judge their breed is just looking at the show aspects of the birds and leaving out all the breeding aspects.

10. If you want breeding advice, ask a prominent breeder of your breed. Ask intelligent and specific questions and not ones like I often get "Tell me everything you know about breeding Wyandotte bantams?" Some of us are sarcastic, grumpy and jaded but will be glad to help after we get through all that. We have had hundreds of newcomers dazzle us with enthusiasm and only a few have became Exhibition Poultry Fanciers. We need to see your commitment and passion before we invest a lot of time in you. Instead of asking to buy my very best show birds, try asking to buy some birds which I can breed good show birds from.

11. Last, you feed them and care for them every day. Raise what you like and love and have fun and enjoy the hobby. There is no place in the world I would rather be than at a poultry show. Enjoy winning, be gracious when you don't! Help a new fancier get started, remember when you were a beginner and how overwhelmed you were with all of this!

This is list is intended to be a living list and will be added to when we get other great suggestions! Please share your thoughts and ideas!

ENGLISH FAMILY

" Breeding, Exhibiting, and Promoting Plymouth Rocks for 40 years"

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Birds for sale when available at shows and we will ship

Varieties in Bantams - White, Barred, Black, Buff, Silver Penciled, Blue

My start with Blue Rock Large Fowl

Joe Emenheiser

Blue Rock male and female from the APA Standard of Perfection, 2010.

I've always been an animal breeder. As a kid, I built dams in the stream in our front yard for different types of minnows, and, with the help of a trained cat, I caught barn pigeons and paired them according to color. I stumbled into poultry breeding by accident two years ago, with a group of barnyard mongrels I took in partial trade for a sheep shearing job. After I realized that the "gray" ones were actually blue, I read up on the inheritance of blue color. The geneticist in me was intrigued, and I began searching for standard breeds with an admitted blue variety. Childhood nostalgia steered me toward Cornish and Rocks, but I quickly realized that large fowl blues of these breeds were either not accepted or not readily available--and I wasn't interested in bantams. A brief stint with Blue Andalusians reconfirmed my preference for calm dispositions, and I gave up on the blue idea temporarily.

My approach to poultry production and breeding is admittedly shaped by my background with livestock. Despite a successful 4-H and FFA career, I grew tired of showring antics and trend-chasing, and shifted my interest to production animals. After discovering quantitative genetics as an undergraduate student, my graduate studies have focused on improving carcass and performance traits for the commercial sheep and cattle industries. Between degrees, I spent several years relying directly on animal performance for a living, as a farm manager and a butcher. From these experiences, I developed the belief that responsible breeding of domestic animals places practical utility before any other pursuit. A master breeder blends science with art, making it a personal journey to strive for an ideal type that relates form to function.

Wow, was this naïve livestock guy in for a gut check when I began considering how to be a "responsible breeder" of standard poultry in the 21st century. One less-than-subtle quote from Neil Grassbaugh stuck in my mind, "If you want meat, buy commercial broilers, and if you want eggs, buy commercial layers". The more I studied, the more it became obvious just how remarkably proficient the modern poultry industry is at feeding our growing population. Attempting to rival this progress with any exhibition poultry strain was laughingly futile. My production livestock philosophy simply did not translate directly to poultry without ranking me among the disillusioned heritage breeders nostalgic for a bygone era.

Cobb 500 broiler breeder

However, the animal breeder in me just couldn't find enough pride in keeping a monoculture of white commercial chickens or nondescript hatchery birds, utilitarian as they may be. In compromise, I decided that I would work with large fowl heritage breeds, never losing sight of the utility that defined that heritage. I would seek to improve production and profitability, but under realistic premises. Breeding for color and standard type would provide additional challenges to keep the project stimulating and satisfy the artist in me. I started down this track with the best Dark Cornish and Barred Rocks I could find.

A few months later, I read about a couple of Ohio breeders who had pulled strings and acquired eggs from the Cobb 500 Broiler male breeder line in an effort to improve the frame, body, and vigor of the exhibition strains of Rocks and Cornish. When Kraig Shafer posted pictures of a blue barred pullet that resulted from crossing his best exhibition barred male over a Cobb female, it occurred to me that Blue Rocks just may be achievable.

Blue barred pullet bred by Kraig Shafer, exhibition barred male over Cobb female

Finding the blue gene in the Cobb birds was a big breakthough. I had finally found a poultry breeding project that could address all of the things that were important to me given my background. It helped that the Blue Rock had already been admitted to the standard (in 1920), but had since virtually disappeared. I had discovered my niche, and was ready to "put the pieces together" to create the Blue Rock once again--and as never seen before! Perhaps only a crazy animal breeder can understand,

but there is beautiful irony in using modern commercial genes to improve the heritage breeds that were used to create the commercial strains originally.

Matt Lhamon and Kraig Shafer welcomed my enthusiasm, and I greatly appreciate their willingness to share the Cobb genetics and offer their guidance to my project. We looked all over the country to find additional Blue Rocks with acceptable type, and just as we were about to give up and switch our focus to crossing in a blue variety of another breed, I connected with David Swaim in Iowa. I had seen a few pictures of David's birds, which had respectable size, type and leg color as compared to the "Blue Rock" Orpington crosses that plagued BYC. I had written David to inquire about males, but he was reduced to one black male and just a few blue and black females, and, to my surprise, offered to sell the whole group. I drove to Iowa over Christmas of 2011 to pick them up.

Blue Rock female purchased from David Swaim

Thus began the long process of putting the pieces together. The Cobb crosses are simply huge, and have the potential to greatly improve Rock front ends and bone substance. However, they have a Cornish rear half, along with dominant white and sex-linked barring. The Shafer barreds help tremendously with type, shape, and feather width and quality, but obviously will not help remove barring. The Swaim birds have decent size and type, but their greatest asset for me is their solid color. Unfortunately, for breeding the barring out of the other strains, I would rather have had 6 solid males and 1 female than the other way around. When I began crossing lines, I exposed all sorts of issues, including dun genes and brassy blue color, white versus yellow legs, light eye color, extra comb points, and poor feather quality. The blue color coming from the Cobb birds is also generally light, and nowhere within any of these gene pools is the pattern gene that is responsible for true Andalusian lacing. While I'm sure some Andalusian blood is part of the finished product, just as it was the first time a century ago, bringing Andulasian into my mix too early could introduce a whole new set of monkey wrenches, particularly since I don't yet have a true-breeding, established line I can backcross into. To wait too long to introduce Andalusian could result in a major setback in type.

Plymouth Rock Type

By Charles J. Wabek (Reprinted from the 1978 PRFCA Yearbook)

There is nothing more graceful and stylish than proper type in the Plymouth Rock. Note breeder and judge, Mr. Ralph Sturgeon stresses that the most important feature of the Plymouth Rock is it's "gravy bowl" or "derby hat" type. The bird must also be well balanced meaning as much front as back when viewed from the side.

HEAD AND COMB. The head and comb is distinctive for the Plymouth Rock with the head size corresponding to the size of the body and blending in with the neck. It should not be overly refined nor large. The most notable feature is the comb. More emphasis should be placed on its shape rather than whether it has more than the five points called for. It should be firmly set on the head with a straight base, heavy enough to support the points without drooping or have thumb marks and wrinkles. The width and depth of the blade should be about the same as the length of the longest points and nearly horizontal at the back of the head. Eyes, wattles and ear lobes unless deformed will not detract significantly from the head. The wattles and lobes should be well rounded and smooth. A rich bay eye is important even though eye color is of minor importance in the scale of points.

NECK. Shape and length of neck are the most important factors. The Standard of Perfection calls for an arch of the neck. If the beak is in line with the front of the breast, proper arch has been achieved. Hackle feathers should be abundant on a long neck. Without a full neck the graceful character of the bird will be lost in a junction showing at the neck and shoulders instead of a flowing appearance.

WINGS. Wings should be of moderate length, fairly large and well tucked up under the saddle or back feathers depending upon sex of the bird. There should be no gap between the primaries and secondaries and the wings should feel tight when opened. Otherwise there will be decided drooping or a possible disqualification for split wings.

BACK AND BREAST. The back and breast constitute one quarter of the value of the bird. Backs on a good Plymouth Rock should be long and blend in with the tail and neck angle to provide a graceful line. There should be no definite juncture with the neck or tail. If the back is too long, there will be a loss of the graceful appearance with no rounding at the sides and a off-balance with the tail. Short backs give a cobby appearance to the bird, indicating a lack of weight and "Wyandotte" type. A good back should be wide and carry through to the end of the tail without pinching. Two common faults now being found in Rocks are short backs and cushions which detract from the graceful curves. Breasts should be wide in front and above the front end of the keel bone. It should be wide and deep so that there is a broad curve from top to bottom giving the gravy bowl appearance formed by the line on the bottom of the keel bone. This broadness should be as apparent at the end of the keel as it is at the front. Shallowness at the rear of the keel is another common fault. There should be no visible curves or junctures where it merges into the body. Depth, width and length of back and breast are therefore what makes the Plymouth Rock.

TAIL. It is hard to separate the tail and back when talking about type in a Plymouth Rock. A well spread tail at the proper angle is one of the most striking features. The feathers of the tail must be wide and fully in. Balance and beauty is destroyed by a tail that is too long, pinched, or is carried too high so that a juncture with the back is formed. The appearance of the bird is likewise destroyed by a tail with no angle. The width should carry through from the back and balance with the head and neck portion.

BODY AND FLUFF. The body refers to the lower body carried from the front of the breast bone back. It must be wide, smooth without junctures and angles and provide balance to the bird. There should be as much body in front of the legs as in back, when the bird is viewed from the side. There is nothing that throws balance off as the shallow breast which gives way to the "V" shaped body. The line from the rear of the thighs to the rear of the breast bone should be smooth without the excess fluffiness found in Orpingtons or Wyandottes. This detracts from the over-all appearance rather than giving an indication of depth.

SHANKS AND TOES. When viewed from the front or rear the shanks should be well set apart and straight. The bone structure should be large enough to support the deep body of the Plymouth Rock. A good breeder will allow a slight amount of legginess in cockerels and pullets in order to assure proper shank length in adult birds. Otherwise the adult stock will have a short shank appearance in the show pen.

Proper style or type is therefore a blending of all parts of the bird to form the Plymouth Rock which has features unlike any other breed. Attention to these points will result in a bird that is balanced and has a graceful carriage.

Breeding Partridge Plymouth Rocks

By Roy Whitener (reprinted from the 1980 PRFCA Yearbook)

In preparing this brief manual, I wish to assure the readers that I have never been a sensational breeder of poultry. I have bred partridge color for over 45 years, seven of which were devoted to Partridge Wyandottes. And practically all the faults common to poultry show up, now and then, in my fowls. I have watched my Partridge Rocks improve slowly over the past 28 years, and have enjoyed every minute of the time I have devoted to them.

Any person who plans to specialize in any variety of poultry should study the latest edition of the Standard of Perfection and familiarize himself with the variety he chooses. Then he should secure the best fowls obtainable, and consult expert breeders frequently to determine the best method of breeding and raising them.

Several breeds of poultry were used to originate Partridge Rocks before they became a standard variety in 1909. Partridge Cochins, Dark Cornish, Golden Wyandottes, and Brown Leghorns were the principle used in the ancestry of the Partridge Rocks. Because of this, breeders today must watch constantly to keep their Partridge Rocks from developing the cushion of the Cochin or the slanting backs and closely folded tails of the Cornish.

The Ideal Type

Plymouth Rockshave longer bodies than Australorps and Wyandottes do, but they are not quite as long as Jersey Giants. Their saddles rise with a slight concave sweep to the tail, and do not slant downward as Minorcas do. Neither do they curve upward as sharply as Langshans do. They are not as horizontal in the back as Rhode Island Reds. The tails of the Plymouth Rock rise thirty degrees on the males and twenty degrees on the female. Five point combs, slightly arched necks, and full-rounded breasts should grace the fronts of all varieties of Plymouth Rocks. Bodies should be good width and depth all the way. Tails of medium length should be spread nicely from side to side, and from top to bottom. Legs should be set well apart, and in the center of the fowl's body, when viewed from the side. There should be no break in feathers, exposing the undercolor at the base of the tail. Cocks should weight nine and ½ pounds and hens seven and ½ pounds.

Partridge Color

The feathers in the breast, lower body, and tail of the Partridge Rock male are black. Lower body feathers may be slightly tinged in red. Shanks are yellow. The feathers of the hackle, back and saddle should be a medium shade of rich, brilliant red, striped with greenish black. Undercolor in all sections is slate.

The female carries deep reddish-bay ground color with triple pencillings of black thoughout her body. The pencillings should be as near triple as possible in all sections, with the reddish ground color between them a little wider than the black penciling. Shanks should be yellow or dusky yellow.

Corrective Breeding

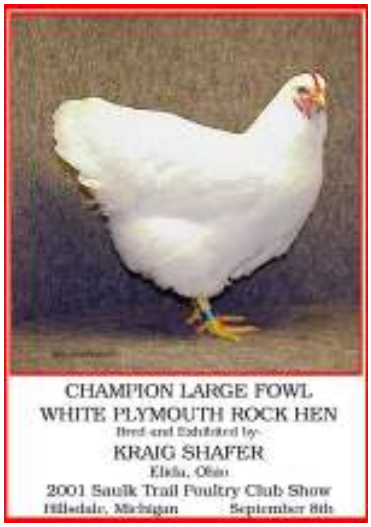
There is no perfect fowl, so every mating has to be corrective in nature to eliminate some kind of fault. At this point, I'd like to recommend the Plymouth Rock Standard and Breed Book published in 1915 and 1919 by the American Poultry Association. It devotes one chapter which is the best I have ever read onn the subject.

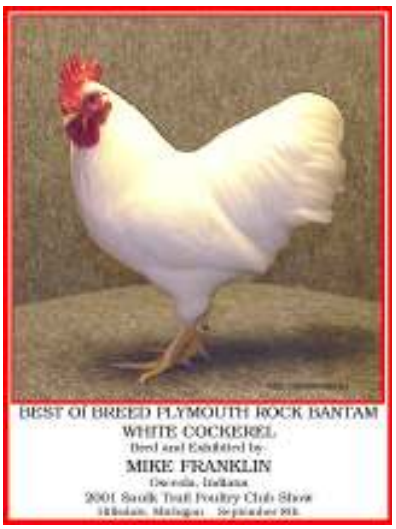
For ordinary practical purposes, I classify the different shades of partridge color as bright, medium, deep and dark. If it is possible, I avoid matings of an extremely bright male to an extra dark female. This type of mating produces too many females with dark bodies and strawberry hackles. To deepen or lighten shades, I mate the extreme shades to medium or deep colored males. If you have a dark chocolate female, mate her to a male of medium shade. I agree with the pioneer breeders that "a happy blending of shades" on the same fowl is just as beautiful as eveness of shade, but I cannot get this "happy blending" regularly by mating extreme shades. A female with eveness of shade is not likely to be too light or dark. But khaki-color females with straw necks and deep chocolate females with coarse pencilling and extreme dark legs should not be used as breeders. I am happy that the Standard allows for dusky yellow in the shanks of Partridge females. I doubt that I could breed goo females otherwise.

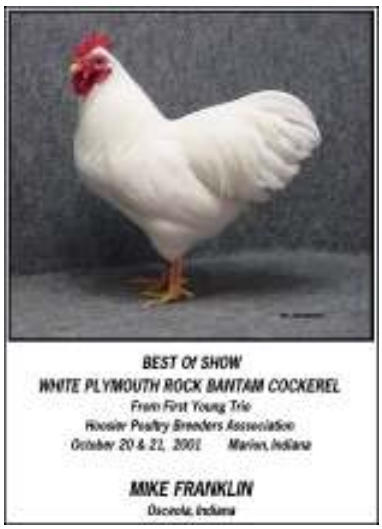
I practice single mating only. My champions are often brothers and sisters. I know that one pen may produce better cockerels than

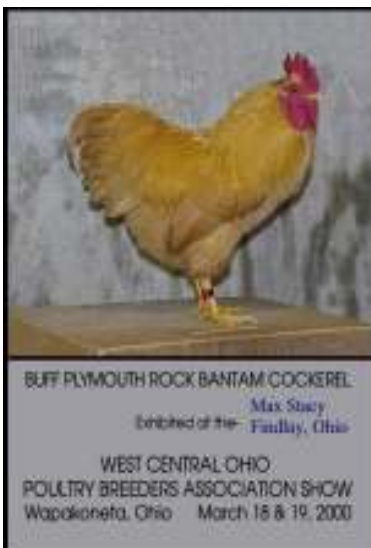
pullets. Another pen may do the opposite. And these two offspring may produce good fowls of both sexes. We must stager the faults of the male and female in the breeding pens; otherwise we will have a landslide of faults. A male with a slightly flat breast should be mated to a female with a full breast. A female with a pointed tail should be mated to a male with a wide flowing tail. A fowl with a slanting back calls for a mate with a rising back. However, fowls with a disqualification and poor health should never be used as breeders.

From my experience, I prefer males of even medium reddish shade should be mated to females of medium shade. Of course a medium shade on both sides is ideal; but we may not have such birds every season. Sharp striping on the male and good penciling on the female are necessary if we expect improvement. Beware of the female who has heavy stippling or mealiness between the penciling on her body feathers. Females with this defect produce too many fowls with mossy feathers. Deep red mahogany females mated to medium rich bay males produce the best colored offspring in both sexes of any matings I have ever used.









Constructing a Chicken Tractor

By Chris Choate

I was looking to get my LF rocks into a full time indoor / outdoor portable pen and decided to make this my winter project. This whole structure was built in my wood shop over the winter and when complete I dismantled it and rebuilt it on my back lawn. Obviously I constructed two of them. A few basic ideas of what I wanted:

-Something that resembled a barn

-Easy to clean

-Semi private nest boxes

-Chickens needed to have access to inside and outside, their choice 24/7

-Portability

What I didn't want:

-Having to drag food and water to it everyday

-Extension cords and hoses lying all over my back yard

Starting

The lower frame measures 3 foot by 8 foot and was constructed with 2x4 pressure treated lumber. The nest boxes add another 16 inches of width. The feed and water station is also located on the lower half. The wood around the bottom is 5 ¼" deck board and serves two purposes: it will slide easier when moving and also makes it more difficult for a predator to dig under. I've used black poly coated hex wire for my aviaries and in ten years never had a breech so that's what I used for the bottom. The floor of the upstairs in ½" plywood supported with 2x3's every twelve inches.

Framing the upper half

I wanted the house to look like a barn which gives more headroom to the chickens while roosting. It can be divided into two sides or opened to make the whole house one. I keep it divided when breeding with two trios. I ripped 2x6's in half for the frame as a full 2x4 seemed a bit much. The roosts are made with 2x4's so the chickens can cover their tows in very cold weather to prevent frostbite. No nails were used, everything is fastened together with drywall screws because I built and painted it in my shop, then took it apart and re-assembled it outside.

Siding and roof

I used 5/8” T1-11 for the exterior siding. It’s more expensive than the “smart siding” being sold for the same purpose but T1-11 is far superior and will last much longer. For plenty of natural light there are a total of twelve windows. Rather than plexiglass I used lexan which is much stronger and screened it with 1” x ½” welded wire on the outside. The lexan panels can be removed in warm weather for ventilation while the welded wire keeps predators out. Each of the side windows measure 12” x 14” and the barn door windows are 6” x 7”. I didn’t want to keep painting every few years so I used the best exterior grade paint Home Depot offers – Behr Ultra.

I use steel roofing on everything I build for many reasons but the number one reason is its longevity. In my experience asphalt shingles just don’t hold up to their life expectancy, steel exceeds it. Steel is also much lighter and cost less per square foot than shingles. Living in the northeast a roof must withstand heavy snow loads for extended periods of times. In my opinion steel is the best option.

Feed / Water and Nest Boxes

The nest boxes are 16” wide and each one has a door for collecting eggs. My hens took right to them in the spring as they have dividers and curtains to keep them semi-private.

The feed and water are in the closed in area below the nest boxes. The birds have access to the station at any time. The five gallon waterer is shared by both sides and sits on a heater pan during winter months. Both sides have their own feeders which hold around five days of feed for a trio.

Finishing touches / Portability

I wanted some kind of artificial lighting on a timer but didn’t want extension cords running all over my yard. I did lots of research but in the end came up with my own solution: solar rope lights and a converted solar powered water timer. The rope lights consist of a sixteen foot long string of white LED’s powered by batteries re-charged with a small solar panel. Sixteen foot was perfect as there could be two rows of lights inside the pen. The lights are designed to come on at dusk and shut off at dawn (or whenever the batteries would die). I wanted to control the lights with a timer but couldn’t find a viable option out there. I started looking at garden hose timers and came across a solar powered digital timer that was the perfect solution. I attached a micro switch to the mechanical water valve inside so when the timer is programed to turn the water on or off the valve turns the switch which controls the lights. The solar rope lights gave off plenty of light to wake the chickens, the roosters start crowing a few minutes after the lights come on.

One of my main reasons for building a chicken tractor was so I could have a coop that could be moved easily around the yard. As it took shape I realized moving wasn't going to be simply picking one end up like a wheel barrow and pushing to a different spot. When construction was complete I started thinking of how to move it using my Kubota tractor. By installing extremely heavy duty eye bolts on each end I pull it with a chain. It slides nicely along the grass but the only problem with this arrangement is I don't move it as often as originally planned.

Other considerations such as cleaning and egg collecting are a breeze. The chickens seem very comfortable so for now the coops are working out fine. The cost of constructing one coop was just over eight hundred dollars and six weeks of time. I plan on building some smaller coops for my bantam rocks in the near future.

Feed and water station under nest boxes

Inside view with nest boxes on the right behind curtains

Dragging the chicken tractor with my tractor

Solar panel faces south

solar water timer converted to switch lights

PLYMOUTH ROCK FANCIER'S CLUB

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dedicated to the Promotion of All Varieties of Plymouth Rocks. Large Fowl and Bantams

Because you have shown an interest in Plymouth Rocks, this would be the perfect opportunity for you to be able to contact people with similar interests. The Plymouth Rock Fanciers Club is a group of dedicated poultry fanciers throughout the USA and beyond. Membership in the PRFC will link you to people with years of experience in many varieties of Rocks. You will receive newsletters during the year with articles about the breed and contact information on the members.
If you are interested, please fill out the application below and mail to the address listed.
Due are $20.00 for Individual; $5.00 for Juniors.

· Please send all memberships to our Secretary/Treasurer:

Richard Hickman, 2724 Cedarville Road, Millville, NJ 08332 hickiesrocks@aol.com

Make checks payable to: Plymouth Rock Fancier's Club of America

Date of Application_____

Name_____

Address_____

City_____

State_____

Zip Code_____Phone_____

Email Address:_____

Please list the varieties of Plymouth Rocks that you raise:

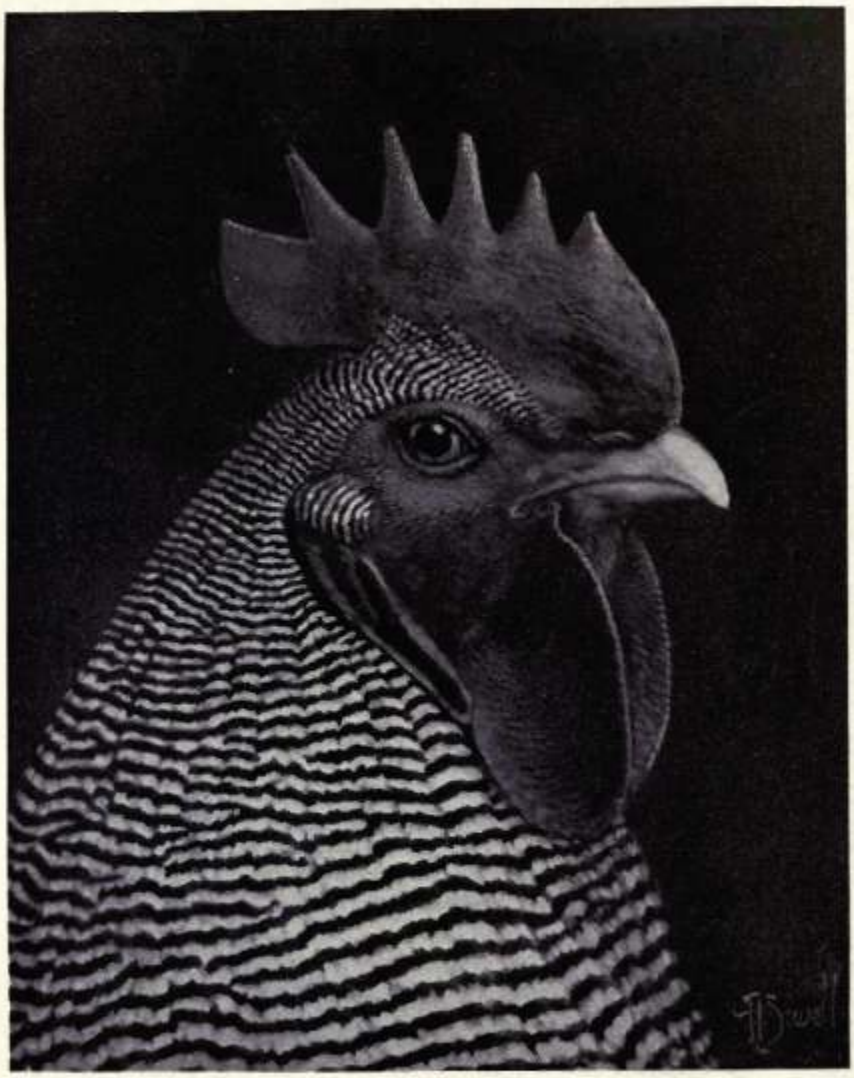
_____

_____

Please indicate proper category-LF or Bantams
Referred by: Plymouth Rock Fancier's Club of America Yearbook

The following plates have been added from the APA Plymouth Rock Breed Book for your breeding reference!

PLATE 5



IDEAL HEAD OF STANDARD BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

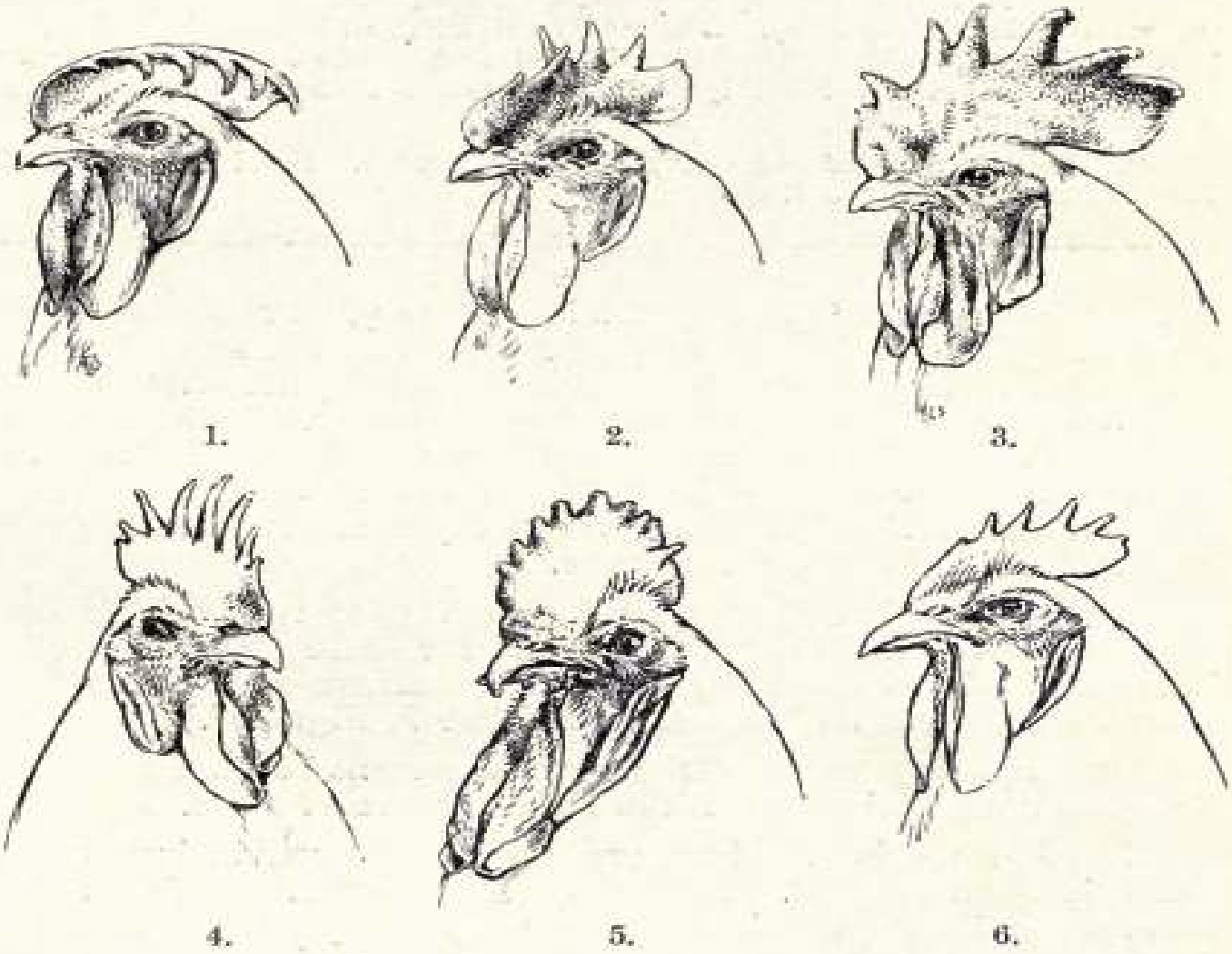
Ideal in Conformation for All Varieties of Plymouth Rocks

PLATE 6

IDEAL HEAD OF STANDARD BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALE

Ideal in Conformation for All Varieties of Plymouth Rocks

PLATE 7



1. 2. 3.

4. 5. 6.

ILLUSTRATING DEFECTIVE MALE HEADS, COMBS, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES

1. Lopped comb, usually overgrown, lacks stiffness or firmness of tissue. To disqualify (see "General Disqualifications") a single comb, some portion must fall below the horizontal plane where comb begins its lop.

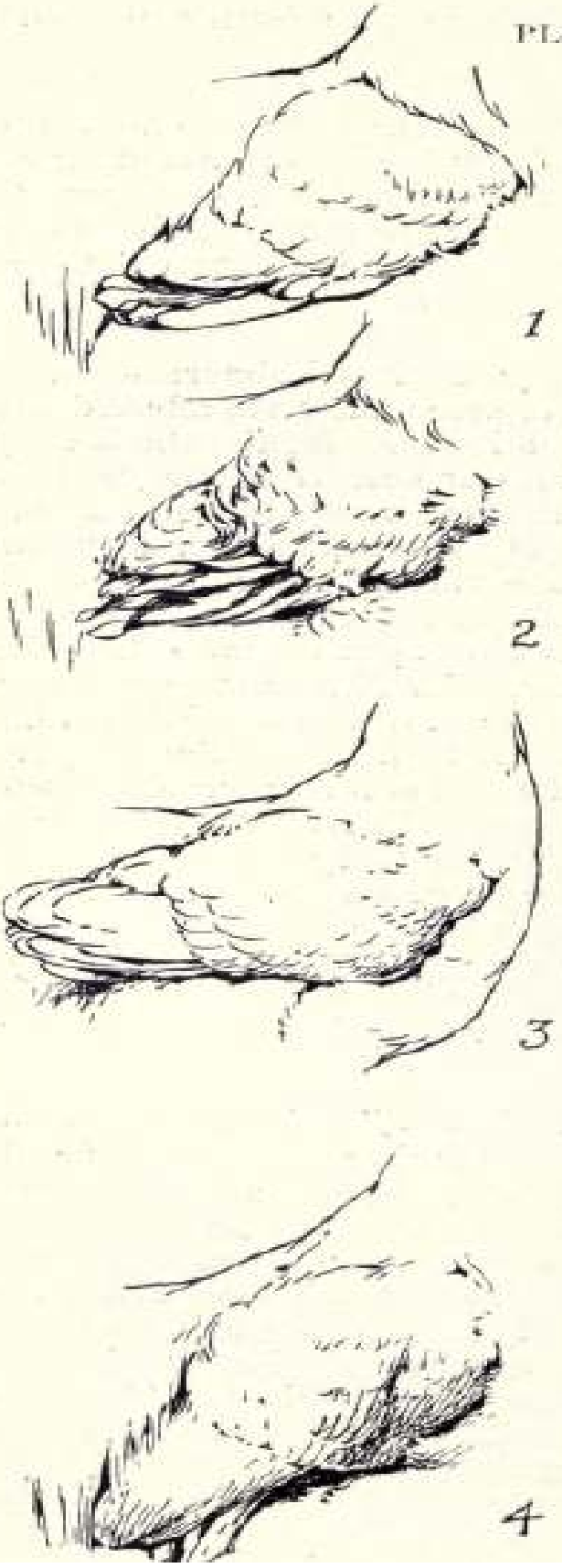
2. Twisted comb, an irregular shaped comb, falling or curving from side to side, being distorted from the normal perpendicular position.

3. Comb, very coarse in texture, with thumb-marks in front over nostrils. Third and fourth points grown into a double serration, rear serrations partially lopped. Wattles and ear-lobes, coarse, pendulous and wrinkled. Face, also wrinkled, causes bad expression.

Lower Row—

4. Head, narrow. Comb, serrations too sharp and too much elongated; blade, too shallow; points inclined to lop. Wattles do not match in length (one is shrunken). Ear-lobes too heavy to match comb and wattles.

PLATE 8



DEFECTS OF WINGS

1. Slipped Primaries. Primaries habitually slipped outward from under the secondaries.

2. Twisted Primaries. Primaries twisted in spiral formation.

3. Mussed Wing. Persistently failing to hold the wing feathers well folded at the sides when they are of formation that could be neatly carried.

4. Down-Turned Primaries. Primaries bent downward so that they are not folded beneath the secondaries.

PLATE 9

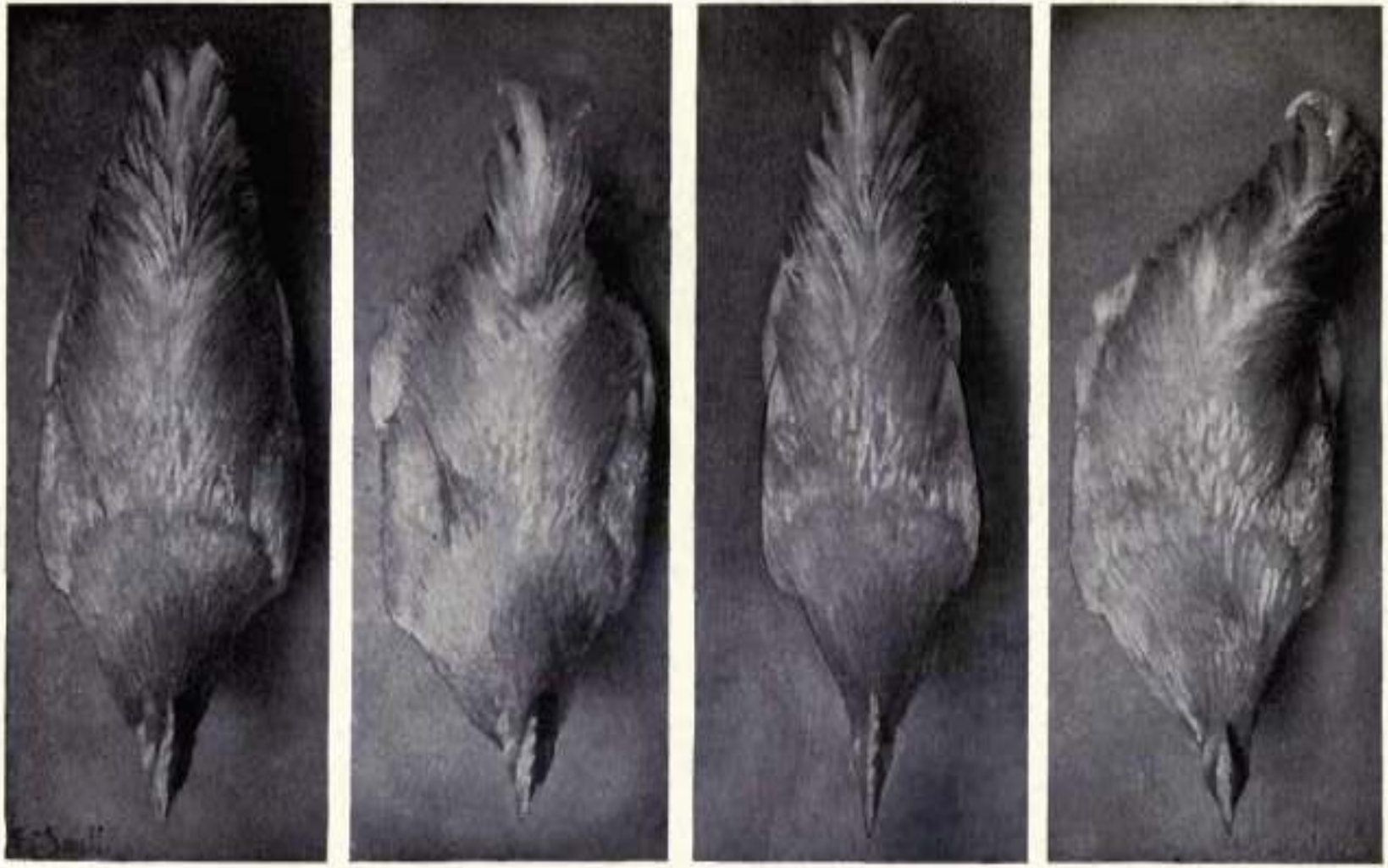
DEFECTS OF WINGS

5. Split Wing. Wing so irregularly formed as to appear split through between the secondaries and the primaries.

6. Short Wing with Upturned Primaries. Primaries bent upward so that they will not fold neatly underneath the secondaries.

7. Drooping Shoulders. Shoulders and wing fronts drooping too low.

8. Drooping Points. Points of wings carried too low.



1 2 3 4

IDEAL AND DEFECTIVE SHAPES FROM TOP VIEW

1. View of standard ideal (Buff), male, a first winner at New York show; neck hackle flowing well over shoulders; wings fitting firmly and neatly to body; broad, rather long back and saddle. Saddle covering and merging well over tail coverts. Tail, moderate length, well furnished. Width of body carrying well back to rear. Tail moderately spread. 2. The two sides not equally proportioned. Plumage too loose; body and fluff plumage too excessive. Tail plumage pinched at sides. 3. Head, shoulders, body and tail too narrow all the way through from front to rear. 4. Back crooked with tail bent over to one side.

PLATE 11

DEFECTIVE CONFORMATION OF BACK, BODY AND TAIL

1. Tail plumage too large in proportion to back and body. Sometimes called "bushy tail."

2. Back and body slope too much toward rear. Tail plumage too much contracted and pointed in general form of tail, termed "Pinched Tail."

3. Body shows too much fluff. Upper portion of tail proper feathers are bent or missing, causing bunched or "Cobby Tail."

4. Back and tail form too nearly a straight back and tail line, or a "flat top line." Tail lacks in side furnishing.

PLATE 12

DEFECTIVE CONFORMATION OF BACK, BODY AND TAIL

5. Back and tail line too concave. Tail plumage too long and "fan shaped."

6. Body thin in front, underneath. Back at shoulders slopes too much to rear. Cushion and tail extend too much to a point or "Pinched Tail."

7. Type is bunchy; cushion, too pronounced on top, not extended well to tail. Tail too low, partly due to overfat condition.

8. Excessive fat in body draws rear end down too low, exhibiting clumsy, unsymmetrical appearance.

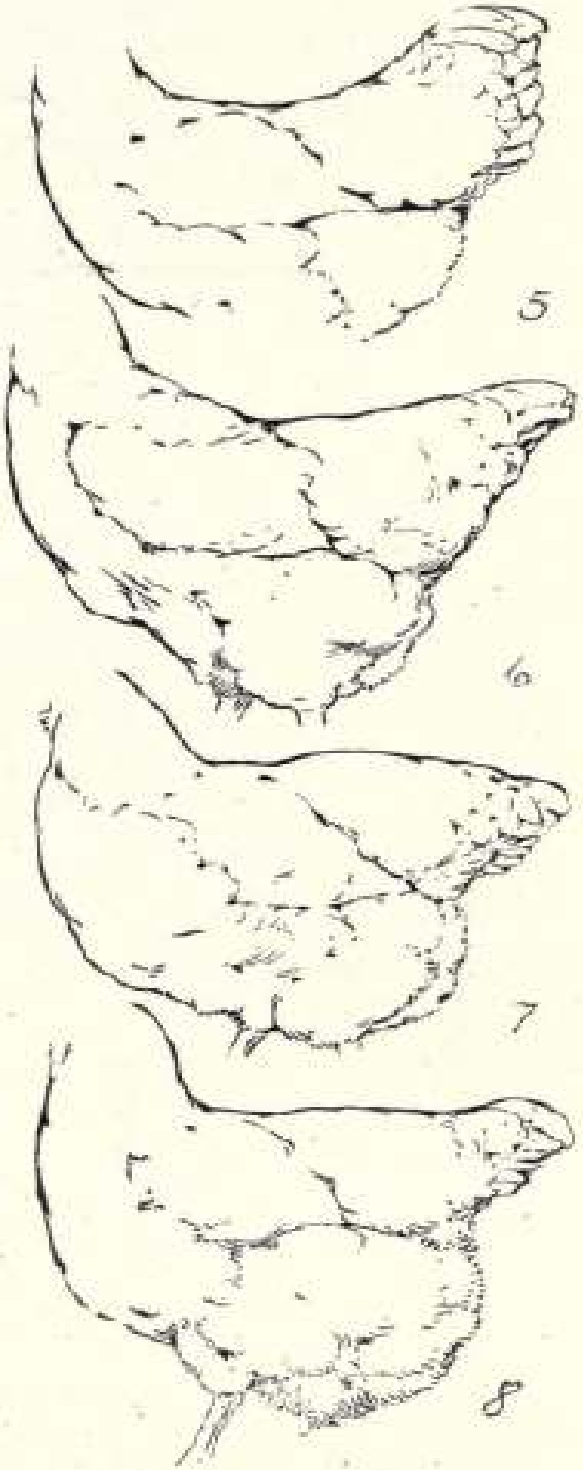
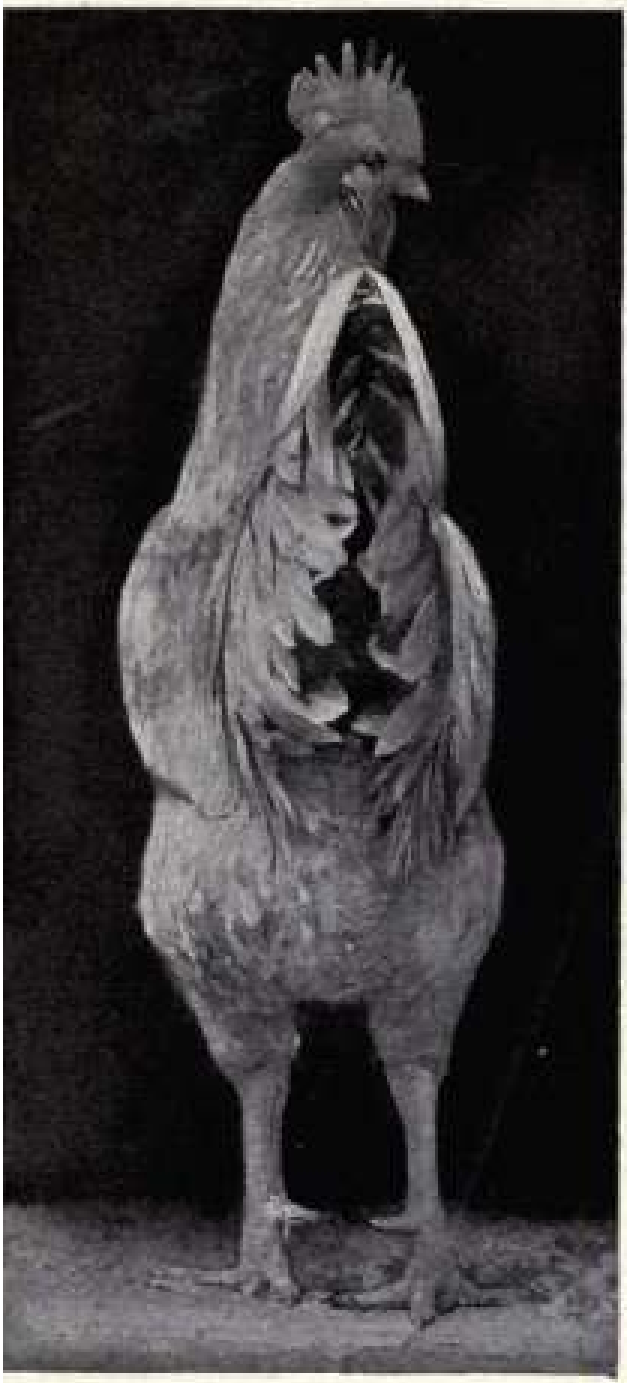


PLATE 13



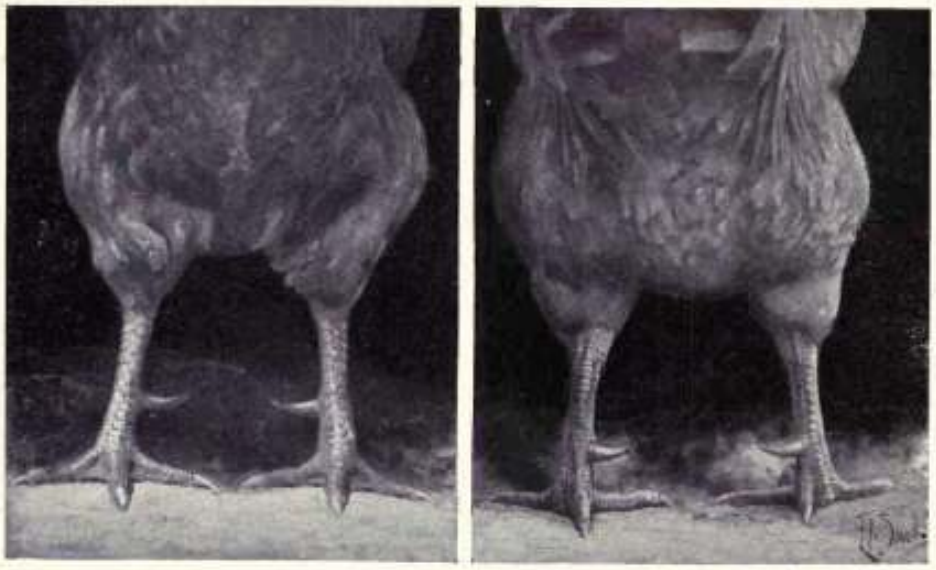
POORLY BUILT MALE

Narrow bodied. Legs too close together, indications of a weak constitution.

WELL BUILT MALE

Good development. Wide body and legs set well apart, indications of a strong constitution.

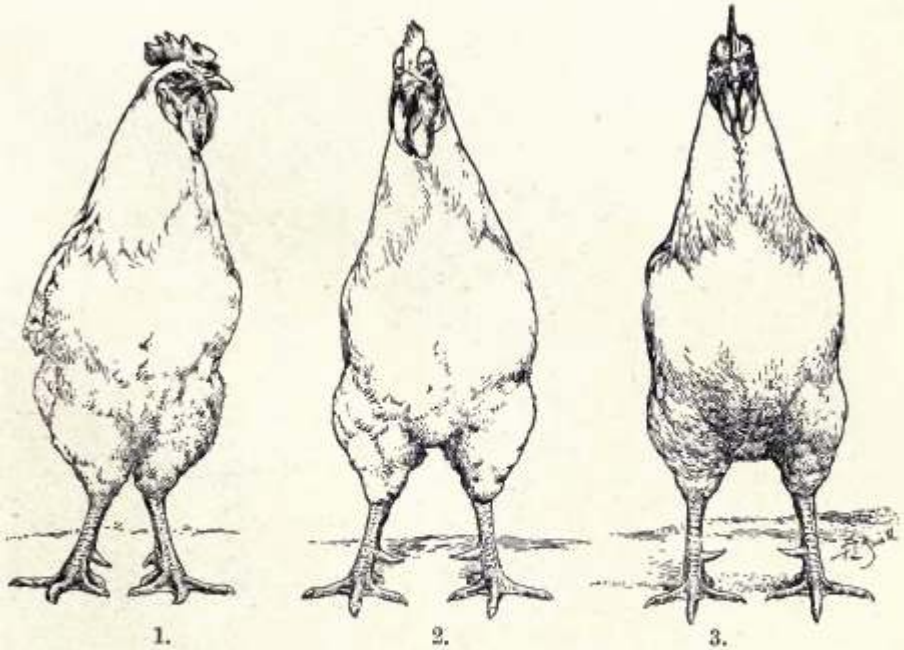
PLATE 14



1. 2.

Correctly formed legs, spurs and toes, front (1) and rear view (2). From photograph of buff cock, a first winner at Madison Square Garden, New York.

PLATE 15



1. 2. 3.

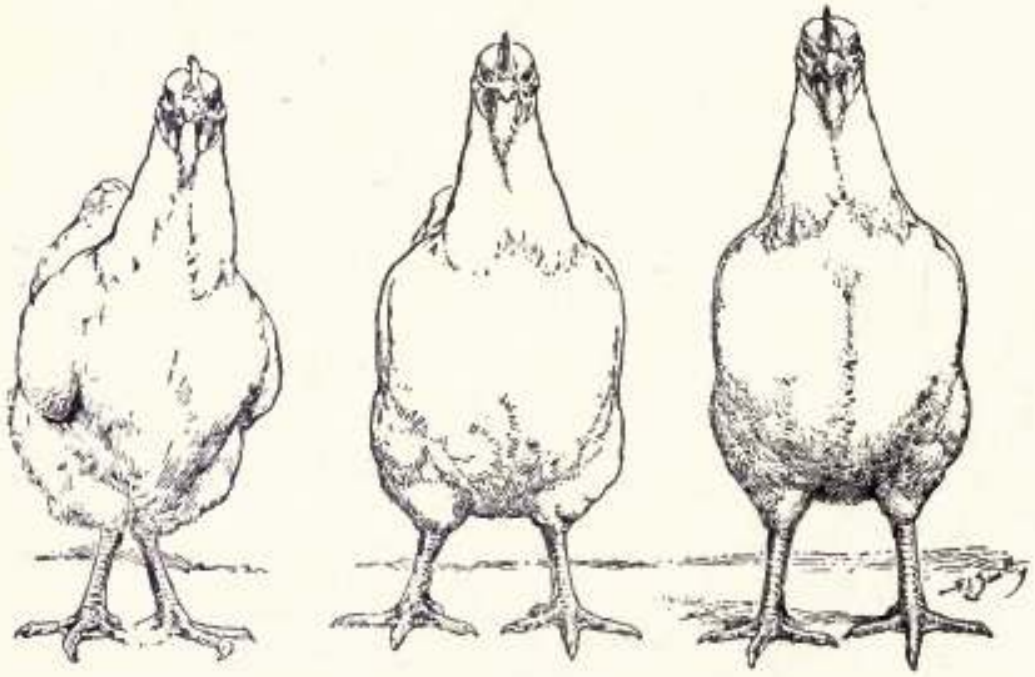
DEFECTIVE, WELL FORMED AND IDEAL FRONT VIEW

1. Comb crooked in front, serrations only four, thick, irregular; shoulders not equal height; wing, twisted flight; narrow body; legs turned upward at "hock joints"; spurs turn downward; toes crooked.

2. Well shaped head points; straight comb; body, legs and toes well formed.

3. Same figure as No. 2 posed as square and firm on legs as possible and idealized.

PLATE 16



1. 2. 3.

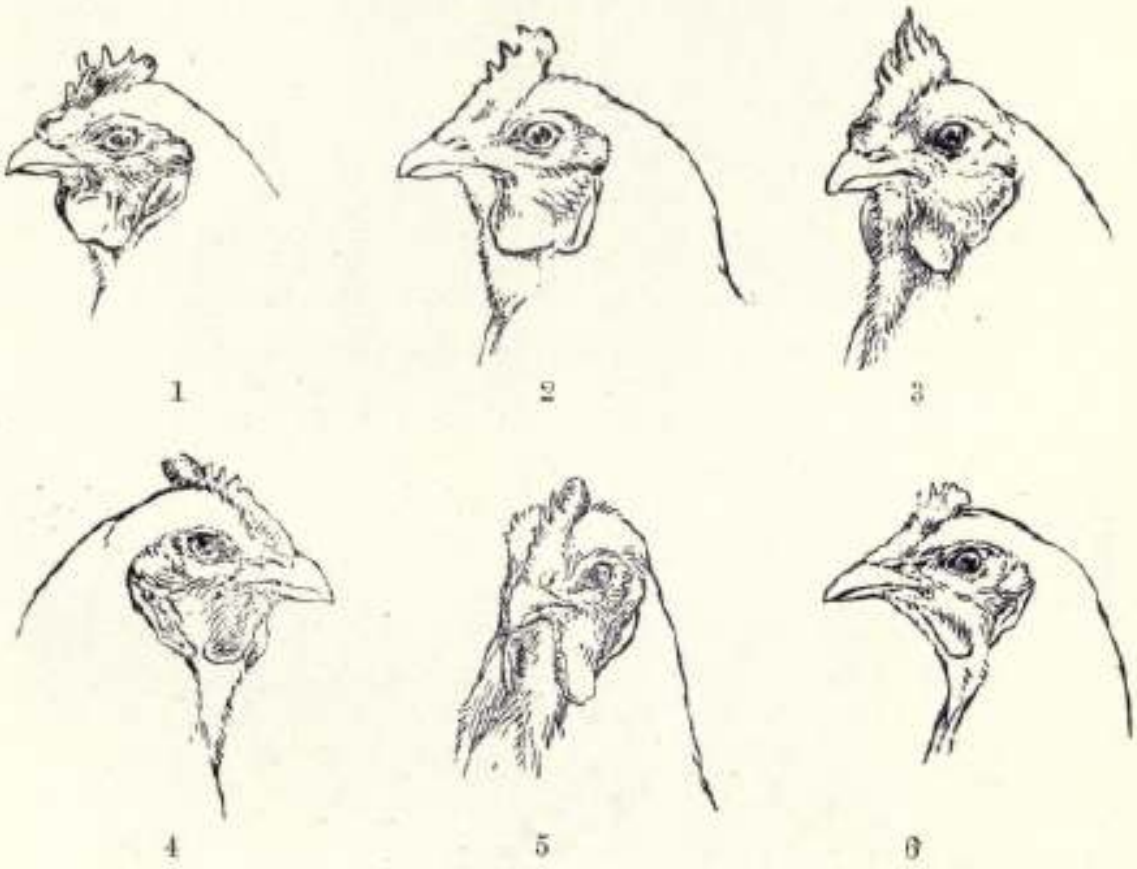
DEFECTIVE, WELL FORMED AND IDEAL FRONT VIEW

1. Comb, loose, falling to one side; neck, not nicely tapered to head; wings drooped; breast and body narrow and pinched underneath; knee joints turned inward; crooked toes.

2. Strong, substantial shoulders, breast and body, with well poised neck tapering neatly to excellent head with neat, straight comb. Strong, well formed legs and feet well apart.

3. Same figure as No. 2 idealized.

PLATE 17



ILLUSTRATING DEFECTIVE FEMALE HEAD, COMB, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES.

Upper Row—

1. Head rather short and round; comb twisted, an equally serious defect in female as well as male; side sprig at rear, small in female, but nevertheless a disqualification. Wattles wrinkled and shrunken at bottom below wrinkle, so curved outline of wattle is spoiled. Lobe heavy, not fitting nicely to face.

2. Comb very much too high at rear and too straight along the top; serrations not nicely formed, only four in number. Wattles and ear lobes angular, not nicely rounded, somewhat shrunken. Throat too coarse, not neatly formed.

3. Comb crooked in front, serrations too long, overgrown. Wattles too small. Face wrinkled, with too much plumage covering face and throat.

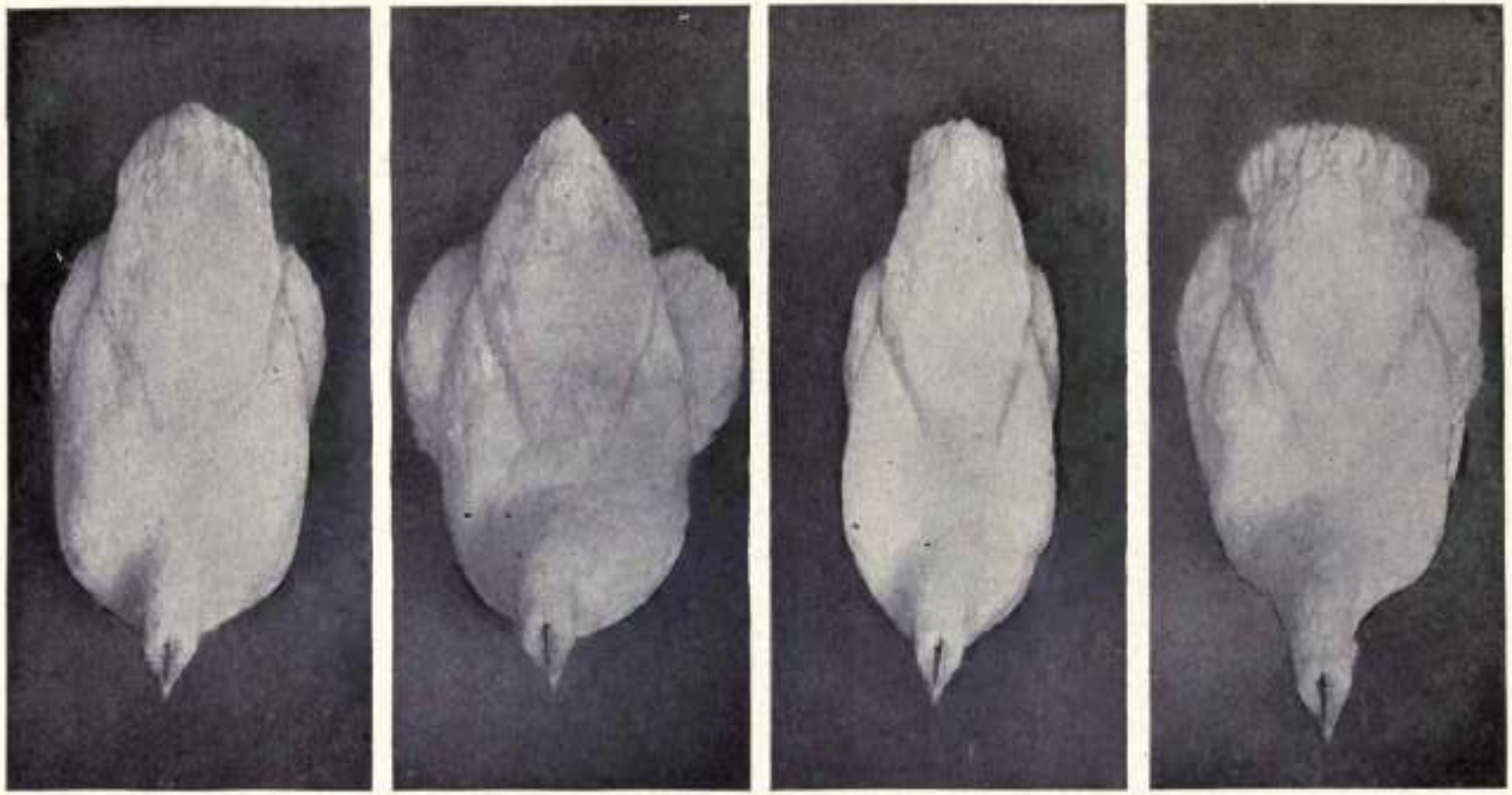
Lower Row—

4. Comb much too thick at rear for a single comb. [See front view on following head (5).] Wattles too small to be typical.

5. Front view of comb (4), showing rear too thick.

6. Head of a thin, unhealthy female.

PLATE 18

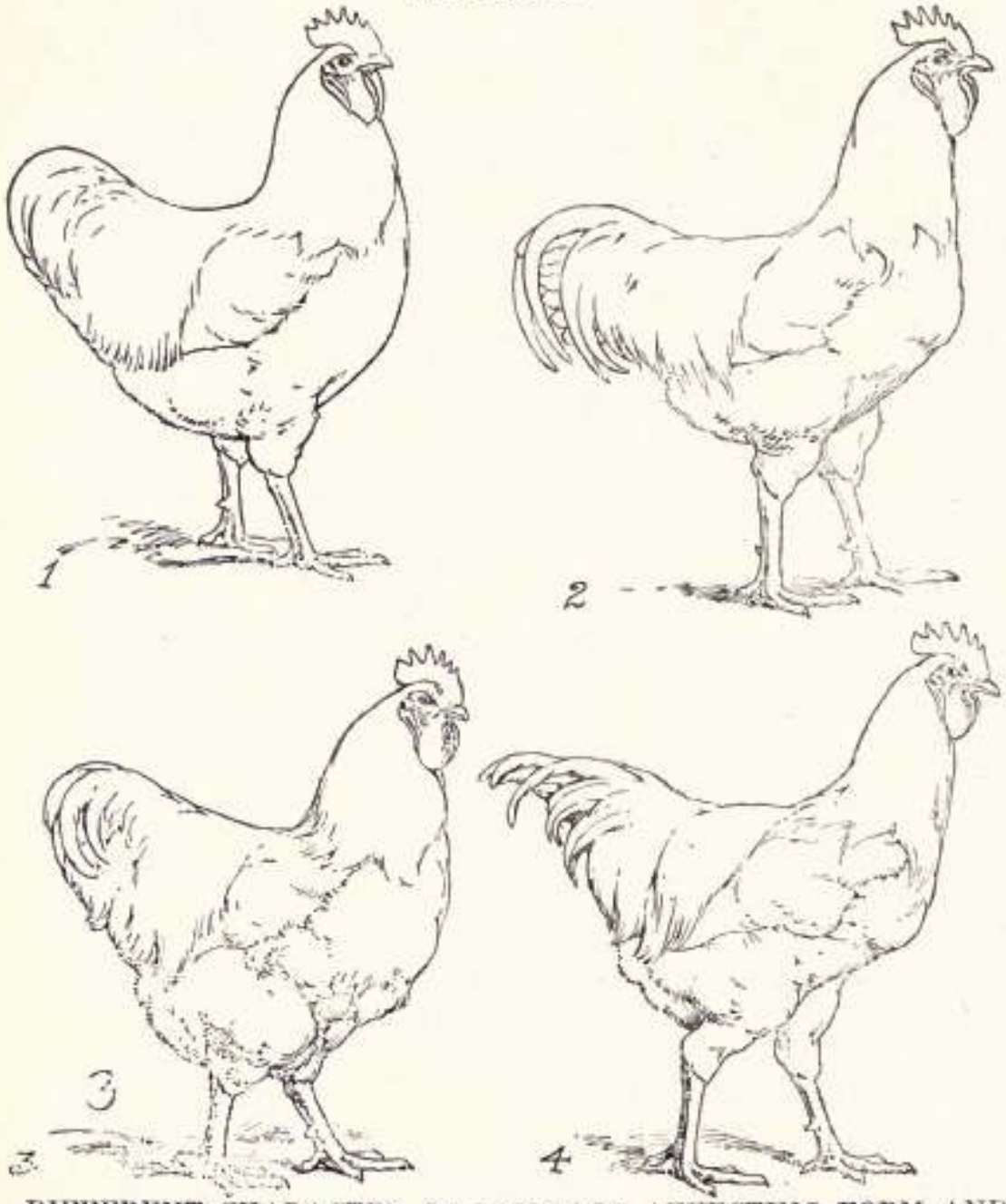


1 2 3 4

IDEAL AND DEFECTIVE SHAPE, TOP VIEW

1. Standard, ideal shape; correct proportion shown in breadth of head, breast, shoulders, back, wings, body and tail. Body, rather long and broad its entire length. Tail of medium length and fairly well spread. 2. Body, cushion and tail not carrying breadth well back to rear, although body plumage is too abundant and fluffy. Tail is too pointed. 3. Too narrow all the way through from front to rear. 4. Body too clumsy for Plymouth Rock type. Proportionately too heavy in rear. Excessively fluffy in plumage.

PLATE 19



DIFFERENT CHARACTER OF PLUMAGE AFFECTING FORM AND OUTLINE

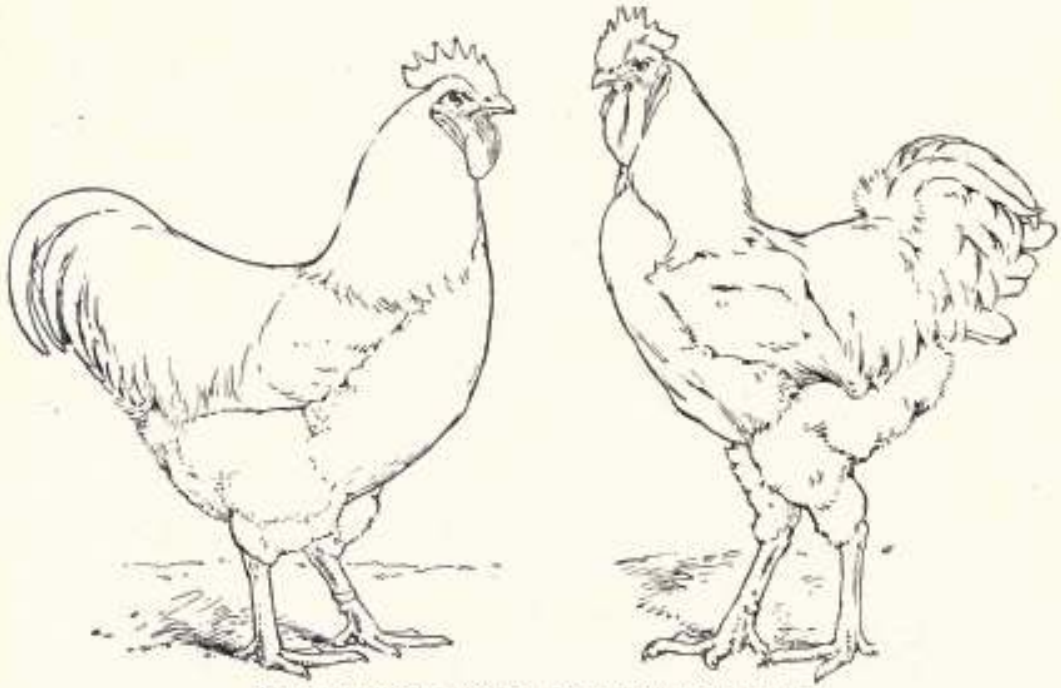
1. Medium width and length of plumage, compact form, smooth surface, as called for in the Standard ideal type.

2. Extremely narrow plumage, with little underfluff. Extremely long plumage flows over form of body but does not add so much to roundness and plumpness of appearance.

3. Broad, fluffy plumage, causing the outlines of the fowl to bulge and appear lumpy.

4. Narrow plumage, with medium amount of fluff, presenting somewhat angular outlines of body.

PLATE 20

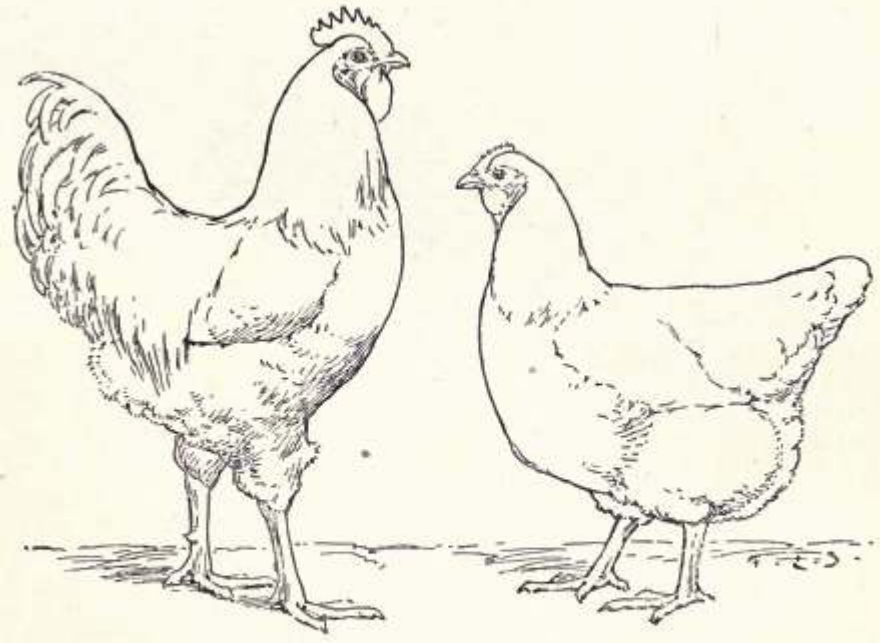


SYMMETRY AND AWKWARDNESS

1. Symmetrical, with all sections properly proportioned in relation to each other. Outlines of graceful sweeps and curves.

2. Unsymmetrical—sections forming angular junctions with each other, causing awkward, ungraceful outlines.—F. L. Sewell.

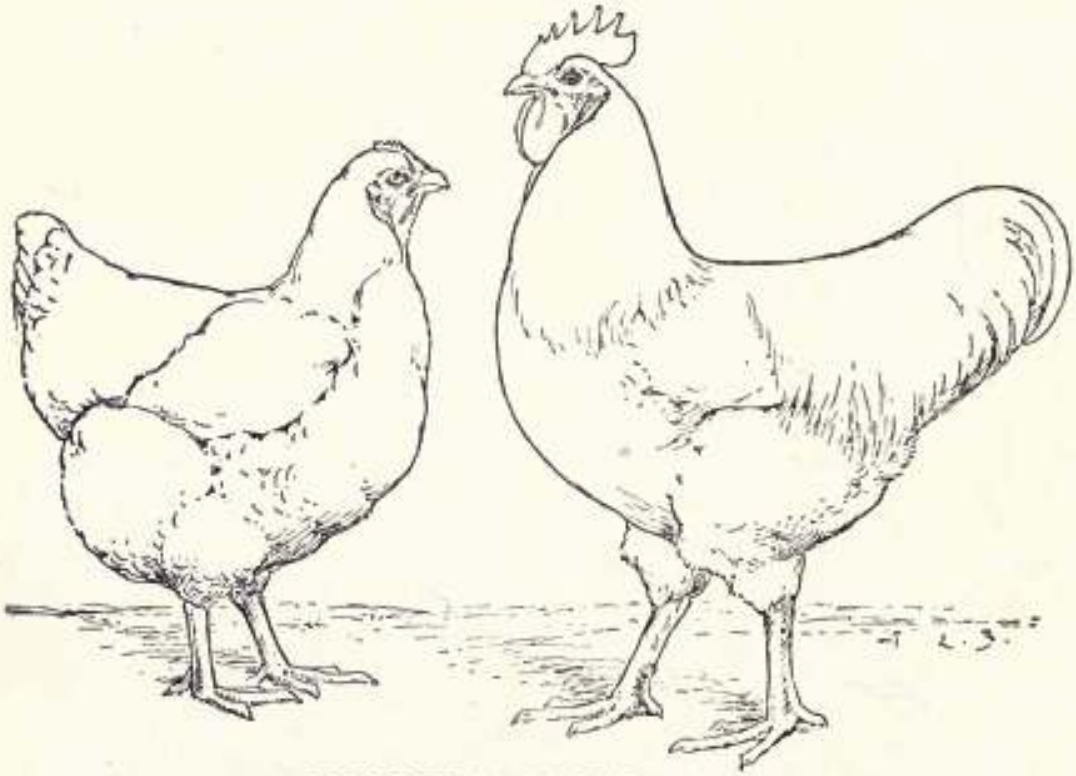
PLATE 21



CORRECTIVE BREEDING—I

With male too short and too concave in back with tail carried too high, should be mated female with back, saddle and tail showing form inclined to look more flat over the top line. While always seeking to avoid mating types that possess extreme differences, it will be needful to avoid mating together individuals that show similar extremes.—F. L. Sewell.

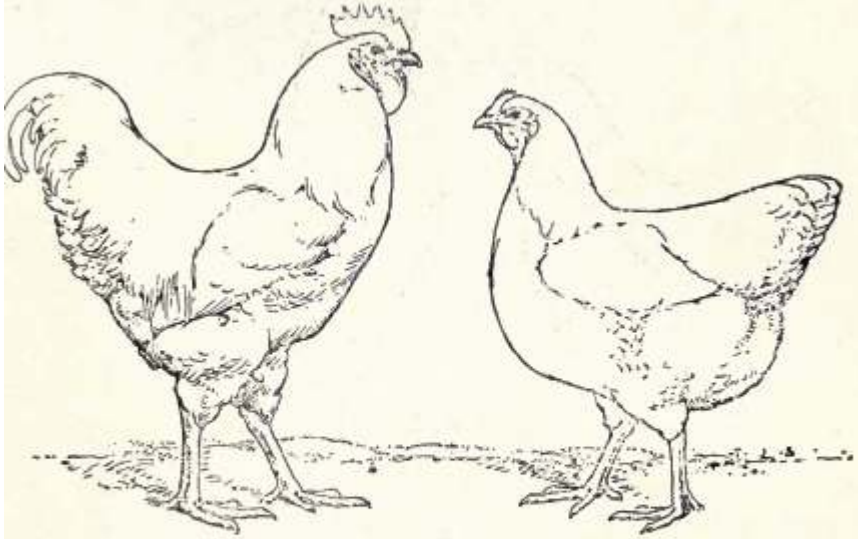
PLATE 22



CORRECTIVE BREEDING—II

A female that is decidedly coarse, showing too strongly the Cochin ancestry as being in evidence by loose plumage, short wings, pronounced fluff and side cushion, as well as too deep body and rather short legs.—F. L. Sewell.

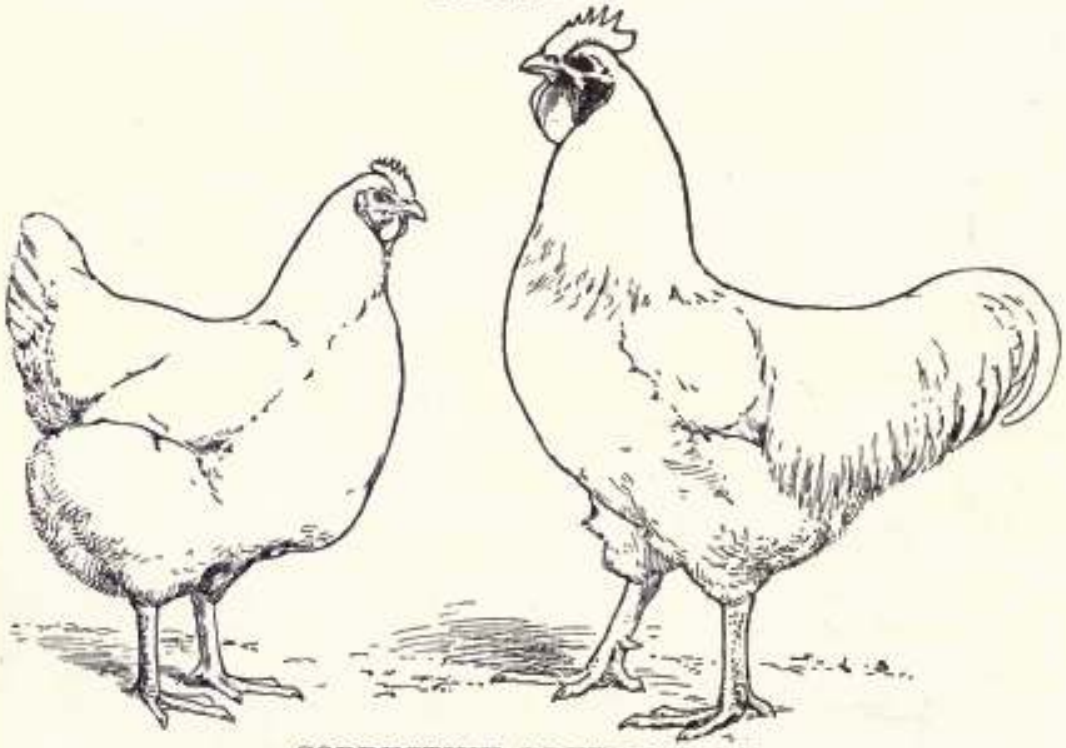
PLATE 23



CORRECTIVE BREEDING—III

Because of excellencies of color or markings, possibly for both reasons, it is desirable to use males that are too fine in bone and too light bodied. Such males must be mated to rather large, fully developed and splendidly formed females.

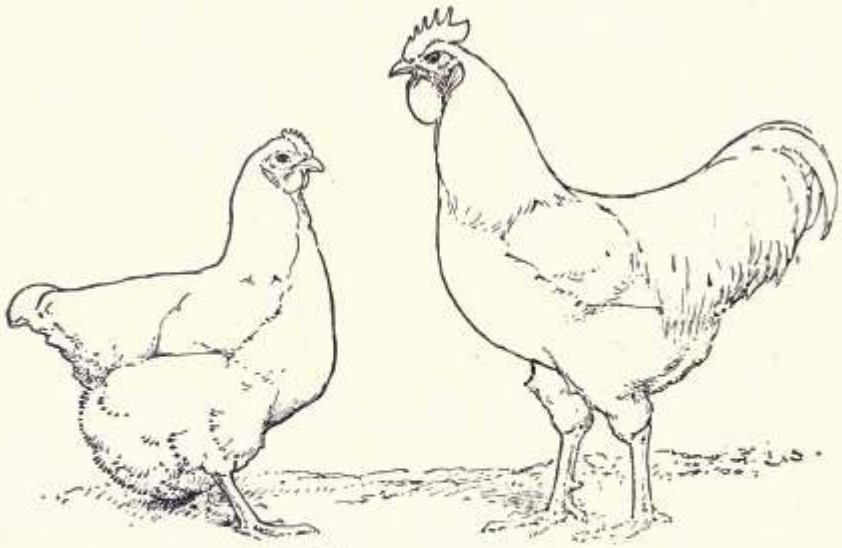
PLATE 24



CORRECTIVE BREEDING—IV

Very often it happens that females which are large, vigorous birds and are very attractive because of excellence in color and markings are not well balanced, being too long in front and too short behind the hocks. This sketch represents such a female and portrays the correct conformation of a suitable mate.—F. L. Sewell.

PLATE 25



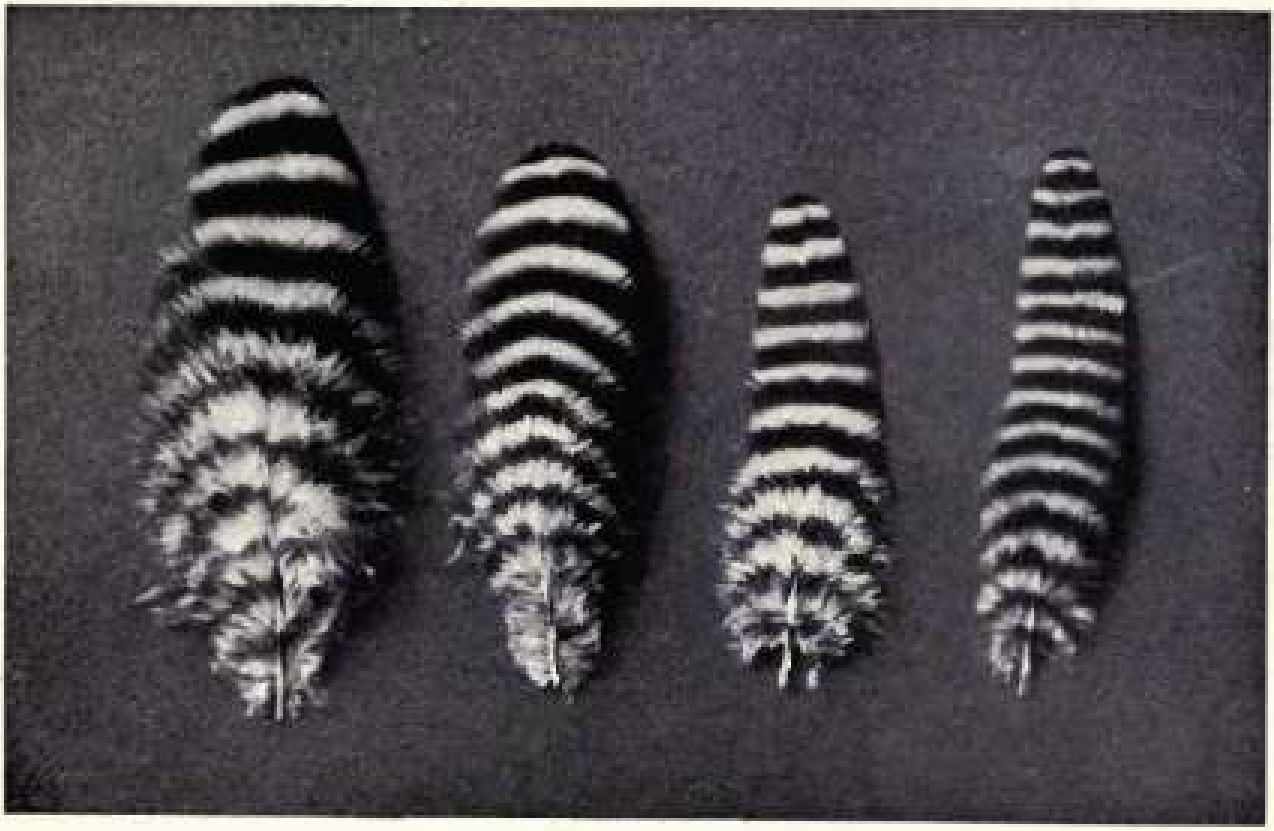
CORRECTIVE BREEDING—V

With female predisposed to accumulate abdominal fat too easily, it is well to use a male of the opposite temperament—one that is active and sprightly.

With female possessing too much fluff on the plumage, a male with plumage inclined to firmness and fineness and narrower in feather should help to correct and produce plumage in the offspring nearer to Standard.

Legs too short in the female should be mated to males with legs slightly above the average in length.—F. L. Sewell.

PLATE 26



1 2 3 4

BARRING IN BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK PLUMAGE

Relative width of bars: 1. Broad. 2. Medium. 3. Narrow. 4. Extremely narrow.

Note—This group of feathers may lead to the conclusion that broad feathers have broad bars and that narrow plumage has narrow bars, which does not always prove to be the case.

PLATE 27

1 2 3 4 5 6

SOME OF THE DIFFERENT CHARACTERISTICS OF BARRING FOUND IN BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK PLUMAGE

1. Feather from wing-bar of a very dark colored male. Dark color very predominant; bars very coarse; dark bars not sharply defined, inclined to blend into light bars; dark bar at tip is very much narrower than other bars of this feather.

2. Feather from breast of a very light male. Light ashy-gray bars very coarse, only two showing plainly across the web or surface; tip wide and nearly all of light color but very faintly darkened at tip; fluff or undercolor nearly white.

3. Feather from wing-bar of rather dark female. Bars few, very coarse and broad; unusually broad, dark marking at tip; only two dark bars and two light bars across web proper; one strong bar across where web and fluff join; one faintly colored, gray bar across fluff.

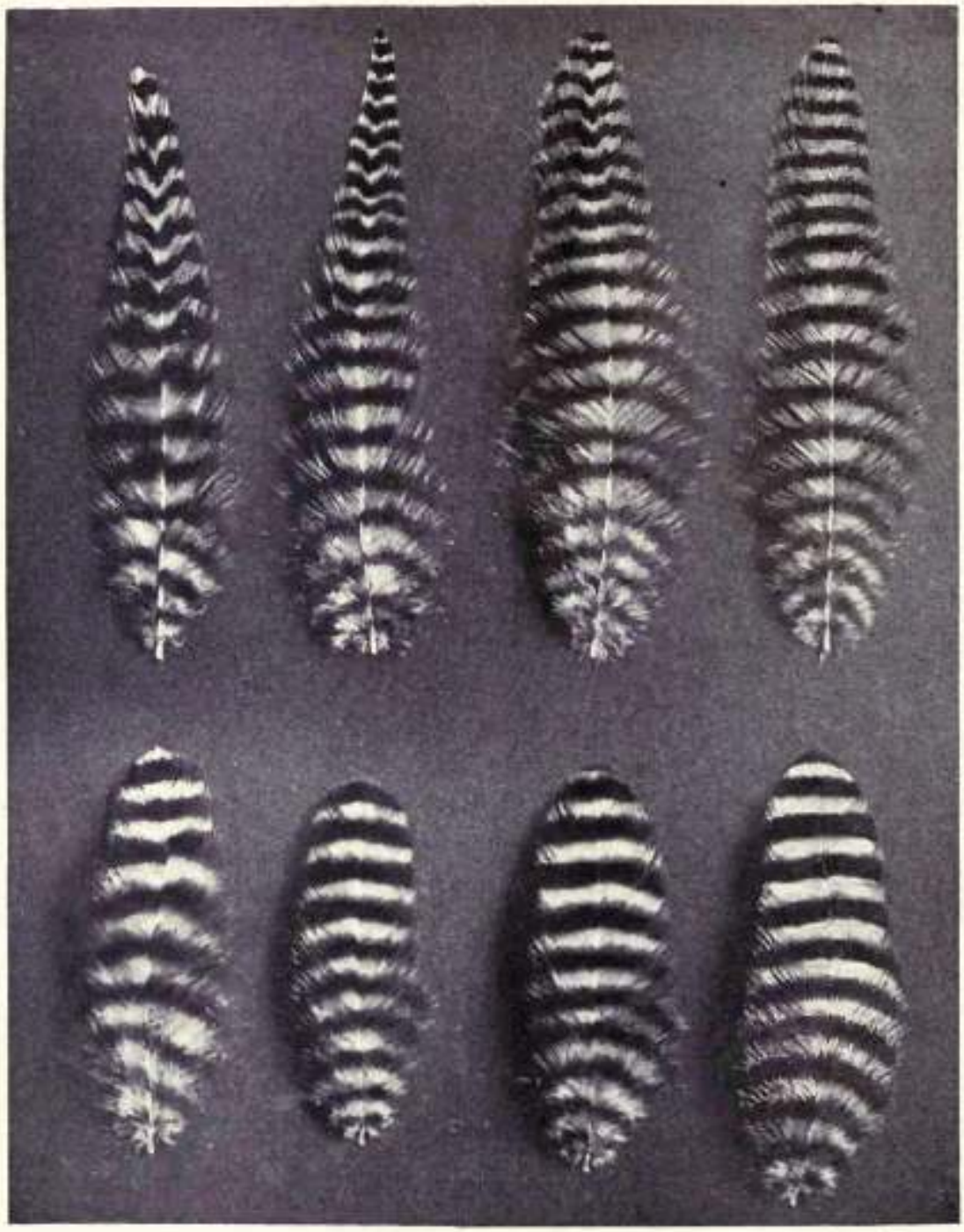
4. Feather from wing-bar of medium colored female. Bright contrast between dark and light bars, dark bars running somewhat into light bars; dark bar only a spot at tip instead of a well-defined bar across the end; light bars too broad toward tip.

5. Feather from cushion of female, darker than medium. Dark bars slightly inclined to be crescentic in web and even more crescentic in fluff; barring quite regular from tip to base; bar at tip shows slight grayish edging (or frosting).

6. Feather from neck of medium colored, high quality female. Dark and light barring very regular in web, crossing nearly at right angle; bar very straight at this point; dark and light bars in web of nearly same width; bar at tip quite correct; barring in fluff not quite as regular as in preceding feather.

FOUR DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON NECK OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS
PLATE 28

1 2 3 4



5 6 7 8

Upper Row: Male, 1—Ordinary, 2—Good, 3—Very Good, 4—Idealized.
Lower Row: Female, 1—Ordinary, 2—Good, 3—Very Good, 4—Idealized.

PLUMAGE SHOWING THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WING PRIMARIES. BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

PLATE 29

1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Fair. 3—Idealized.

PLUMAGE SHOWING THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WING PRIMARIES, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALES

PLATE 30

1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized.

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WING SECONDARIES, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

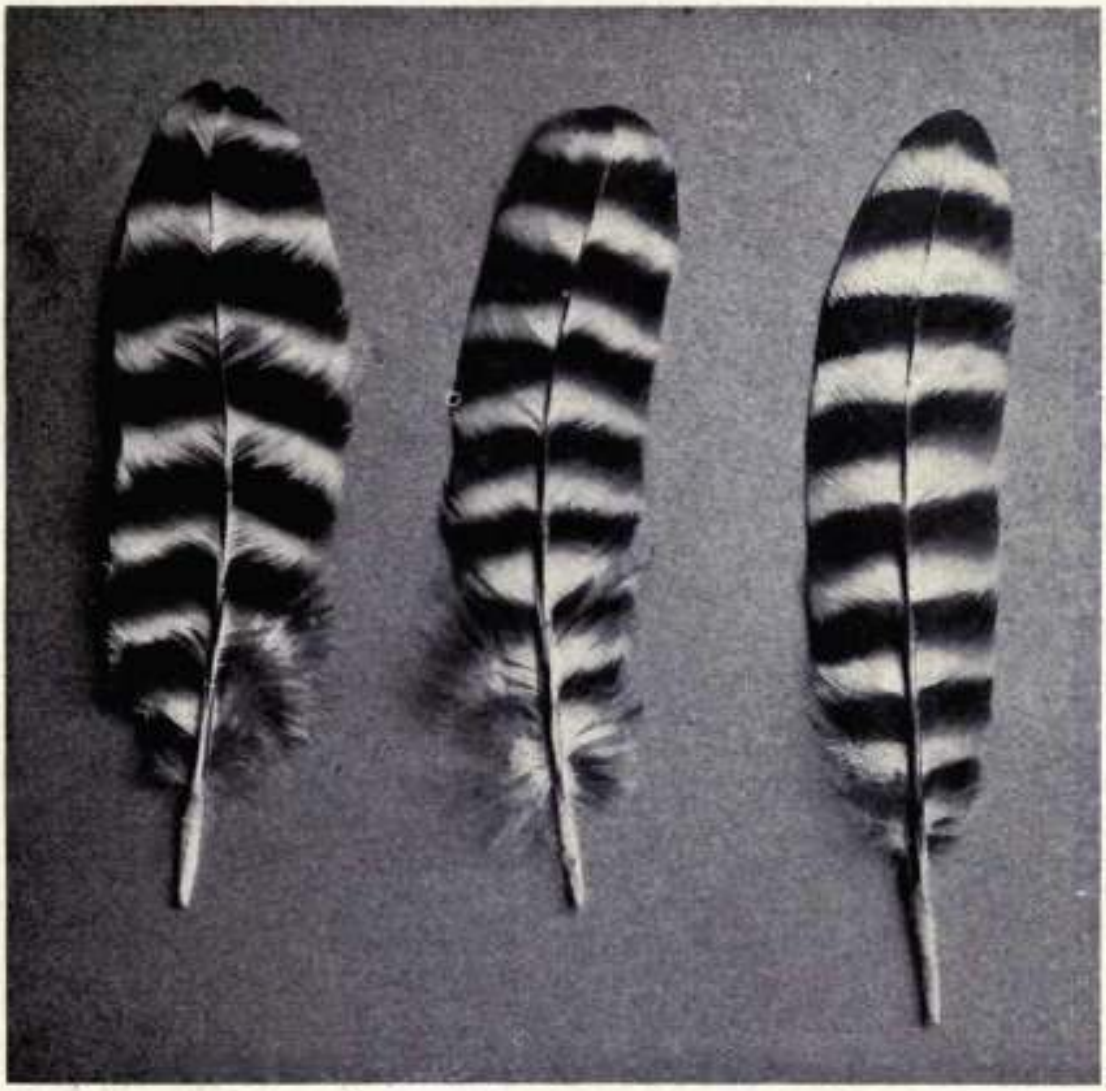
PLATE 31

1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized.

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WING SECONDARIES, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALE

PLATE 32



1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON TAIL PROPER, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

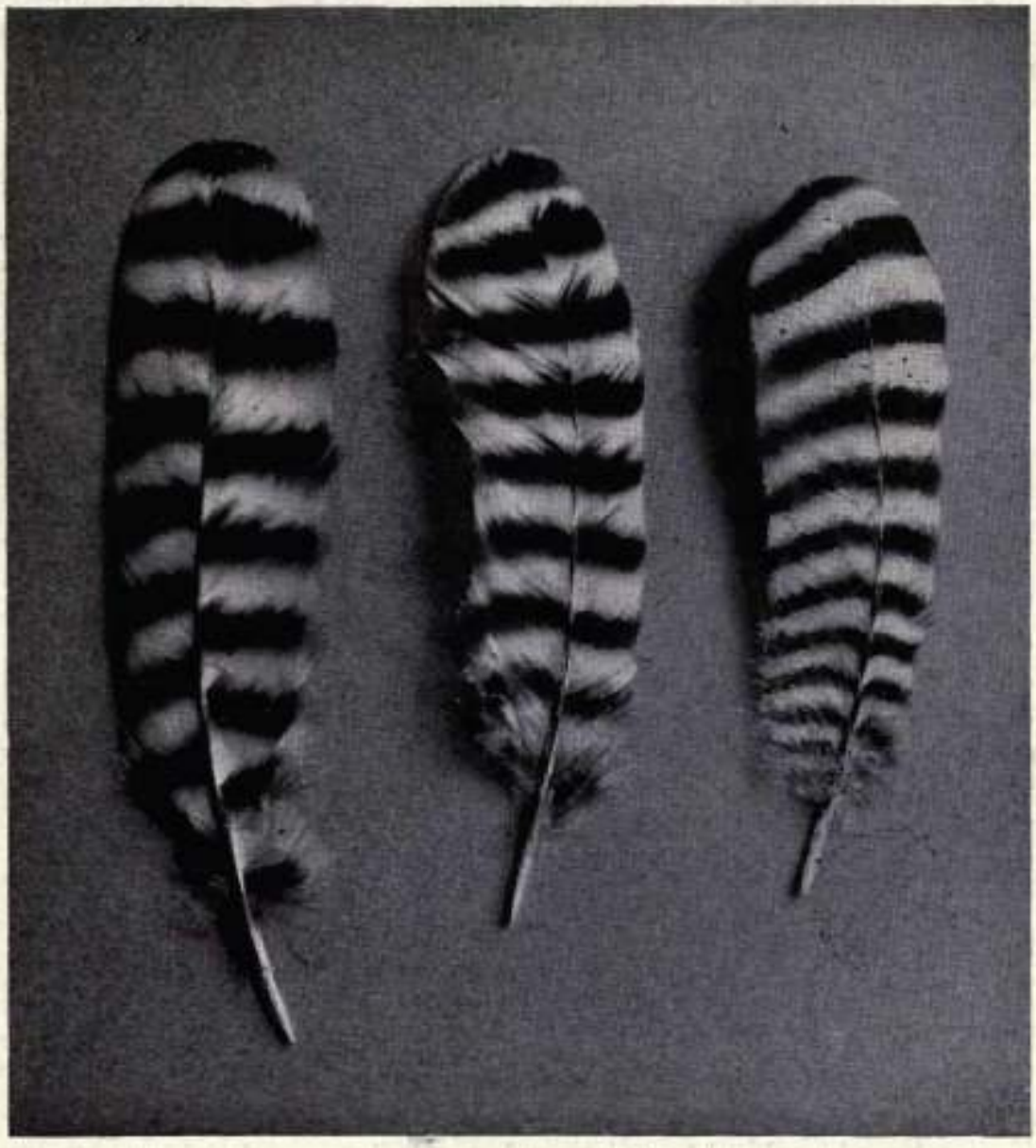
PLATE 33

1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized.

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON TAIL PROPER, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALE

PLATE 34



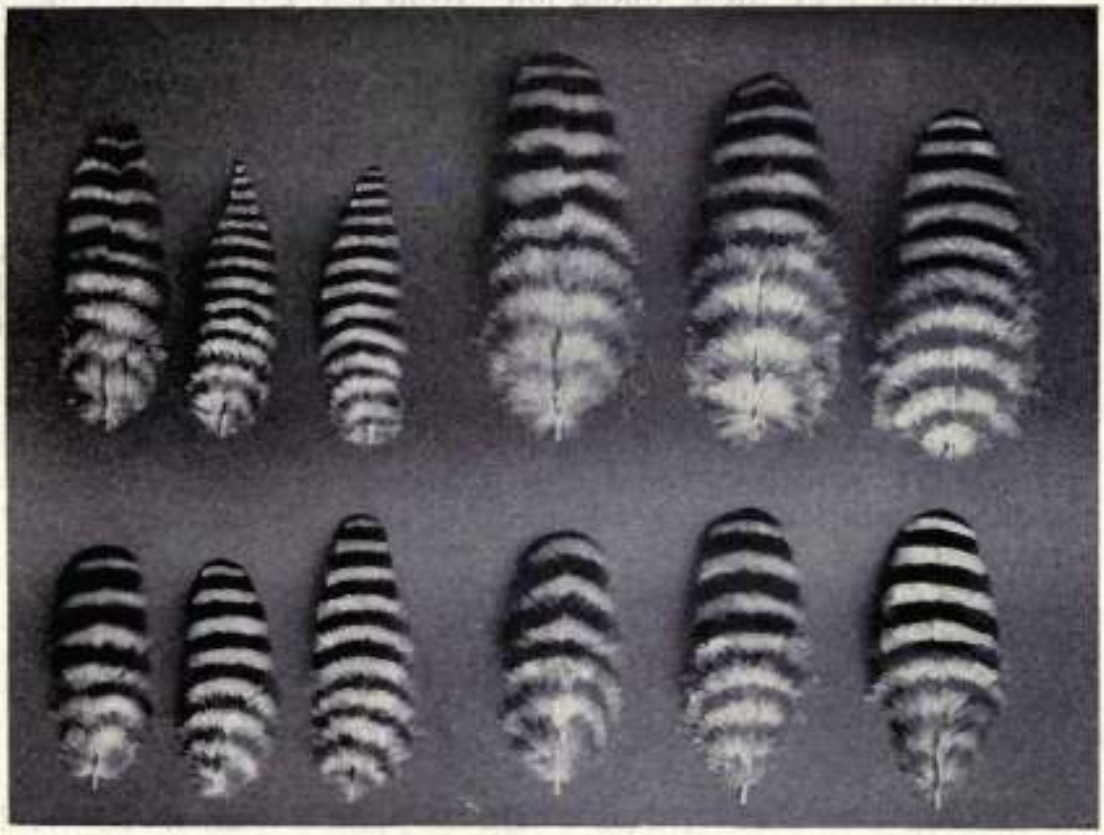
1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized.

PLUMAGE SHOWING THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY, COLOR AND BARRING ON WING-BOW AND WING-BAR OR COVERTS OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK

PLATE 35

1 2 3 4 5 6



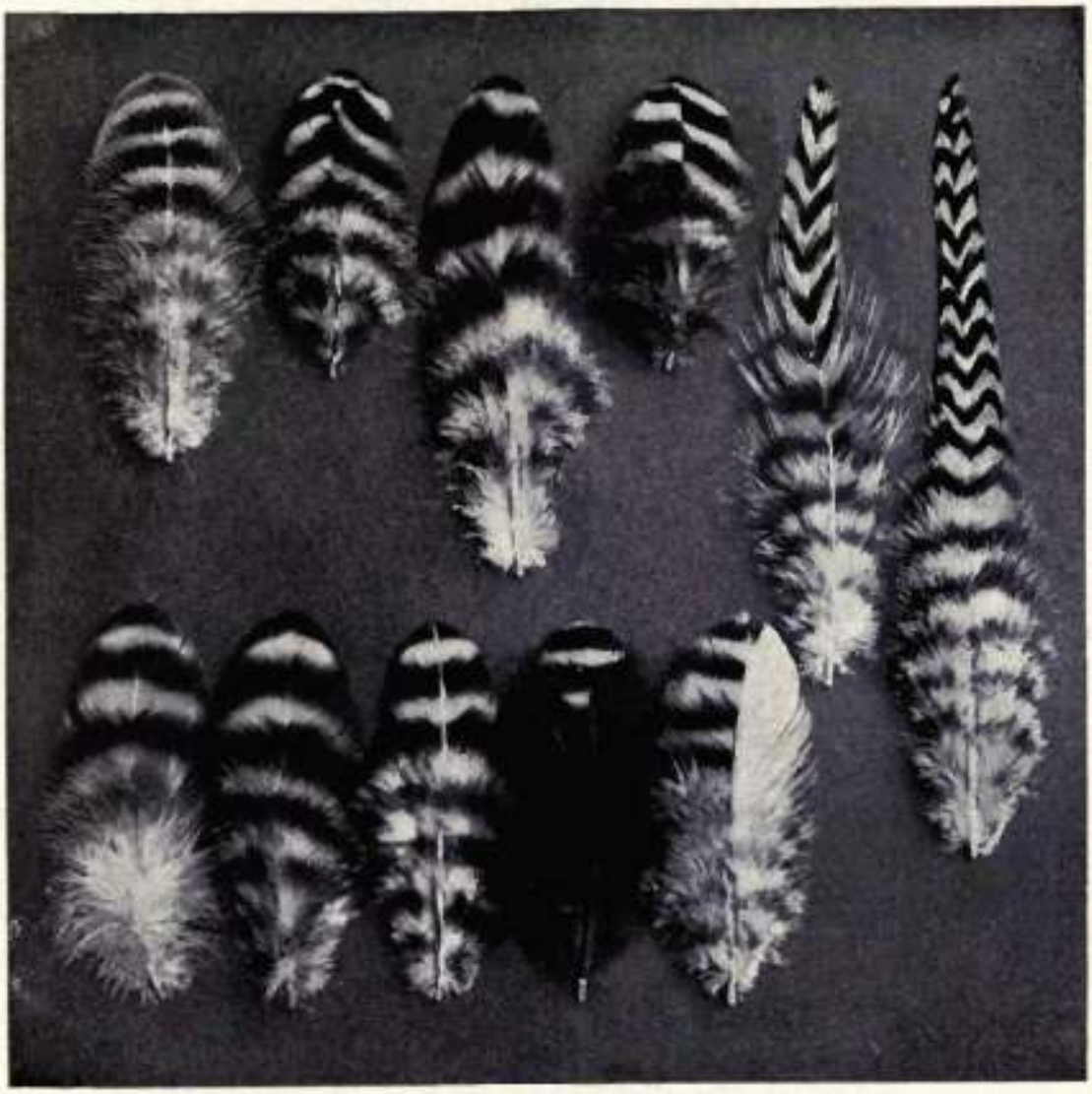
7 8 9 10 11 12

Upper Row: Male—Wing-Bow, 1—Ordinary, 2—Very Good, 3—Idealized; Wing-Bar or Wing-Coverts, 4—Ordinary, 5—Very Good, 6—Idealized.

Lower Row: Female Wing-Bow, 7—Ordinary, 8—Very Good, 9—Idealized; Wing-Bar or Wing-Coverts, 10—Ordinary, 11—Very Good, 12—Idealized.

DEFECTS IN BARRING OF PLUMAGE
PLATE 36

1 2 3 4 5 6



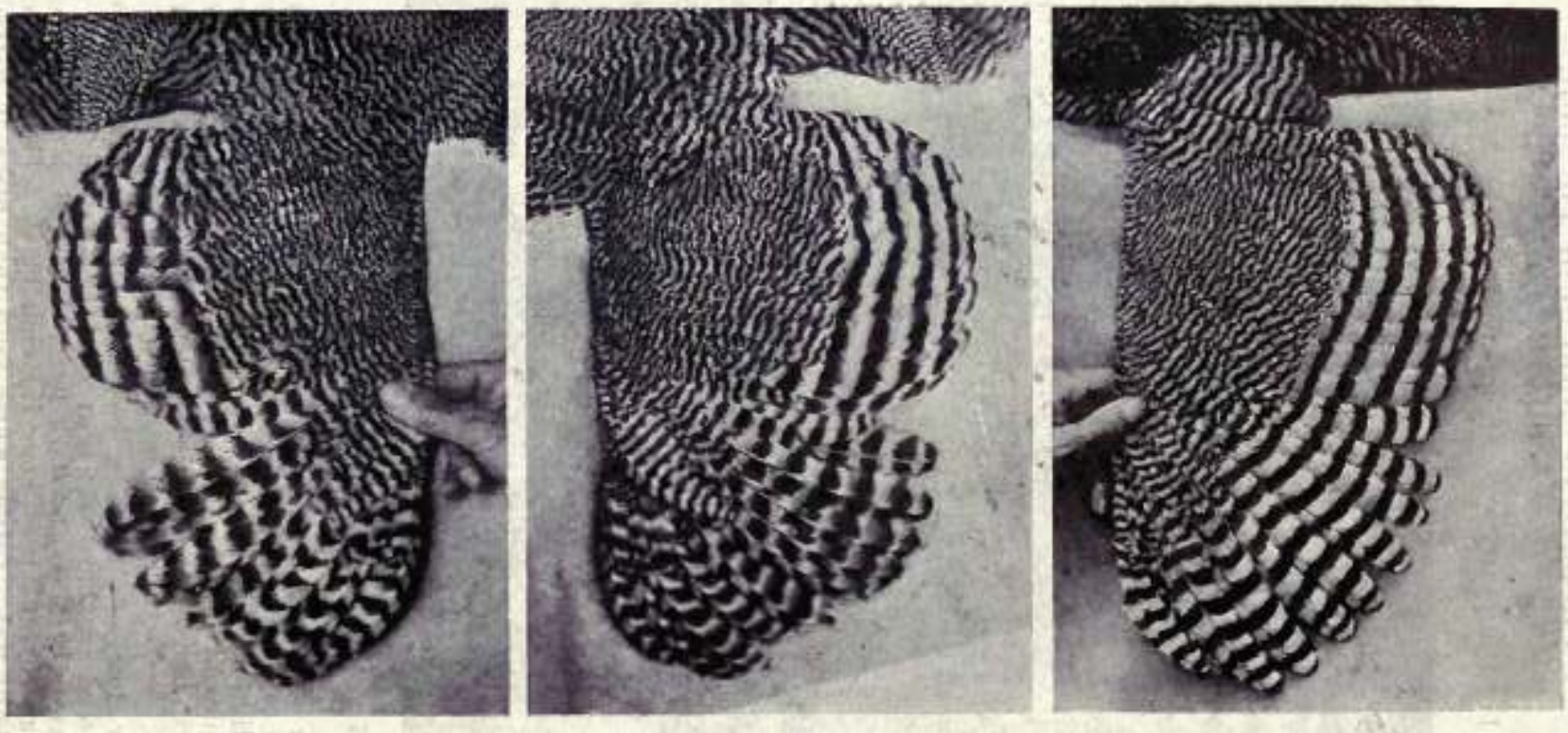
7 8 9 10 11

Upper Row: 1—Bars: Weak at tip and sides; ereseent shaped; light quill. 2—Very irregular; bars join at quill; bars turn backward at sides like inverted V (∧). 3—Barring coarse, smirched badly. 4—Two sides of web dissimilar, barring irregular in extreme; light bar joints dark bar at quill, mis-matched barring. 5—Barring extremely V shaped. 6—Barring M shaped toward sides.

Lower Row: 7—Barring too coarse; bars too few; undercolor lacks barring. 8—Dark bars wider at sides and joined at edges of feather. 9—Quill white through the dark bars; light and dark bars run together. 10—All but part of bars near tip end, black. 11—White on most all of one side of web. (Much worse fault than black in barred plumage.)

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WINGS OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALES

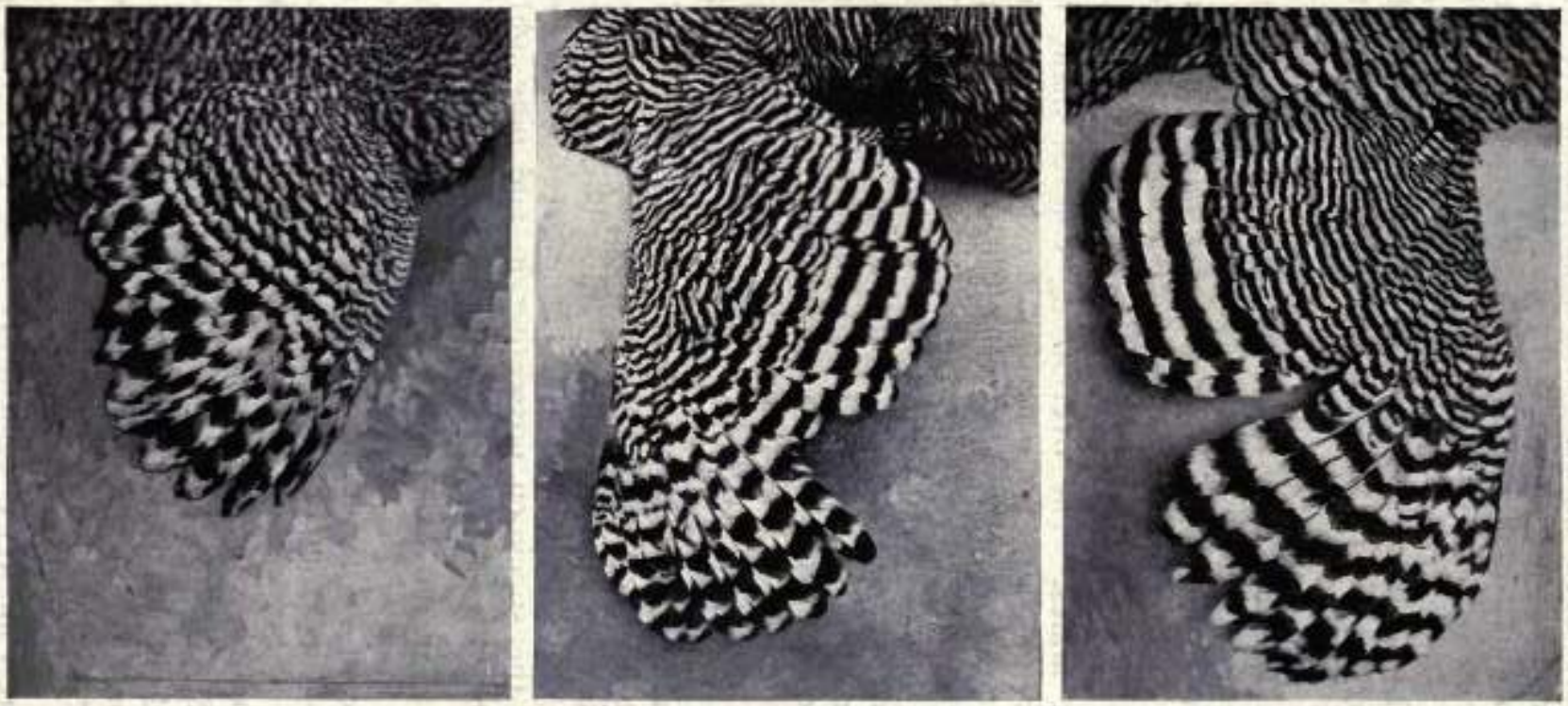
PLATE 37



1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized

THREE DEGREES OF QUALITY IN COLOR AND BARRING ON WINGS OF BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK FEMALES
PLATE 38



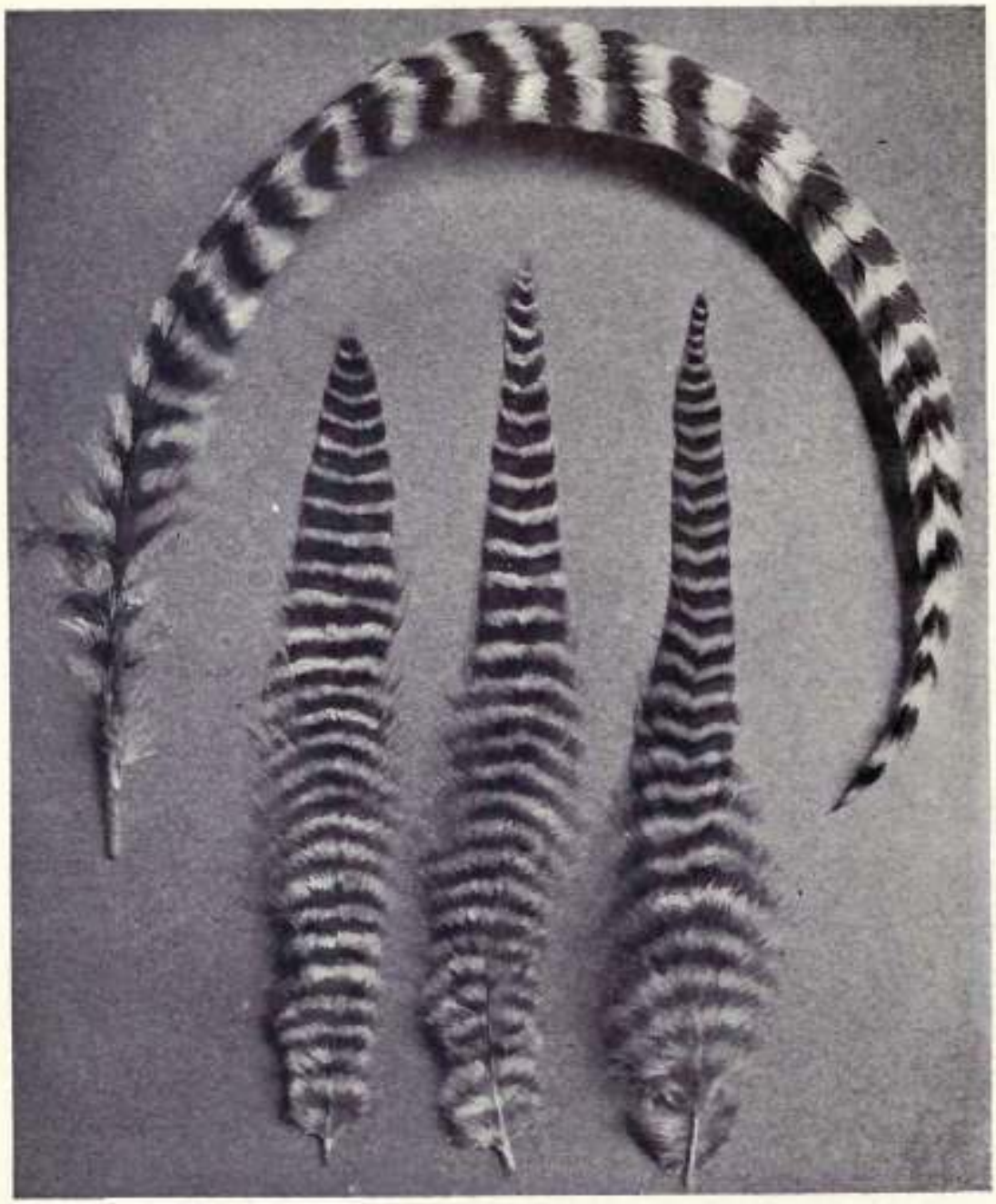
1 2 3

1—Ordinary. 2—Very Good. 3—Idealized

Note—Besides the point brought out by the above and nine preceding illustration plates, the reader may observe the close uniformity in markings between male and female barred plumage; further, that as perfection in the plumage of each sex is approached the greater the resemblance in the plumage of the sexes.

SICKLE AND LARGER TAIL COVERTS, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

PLATE 39

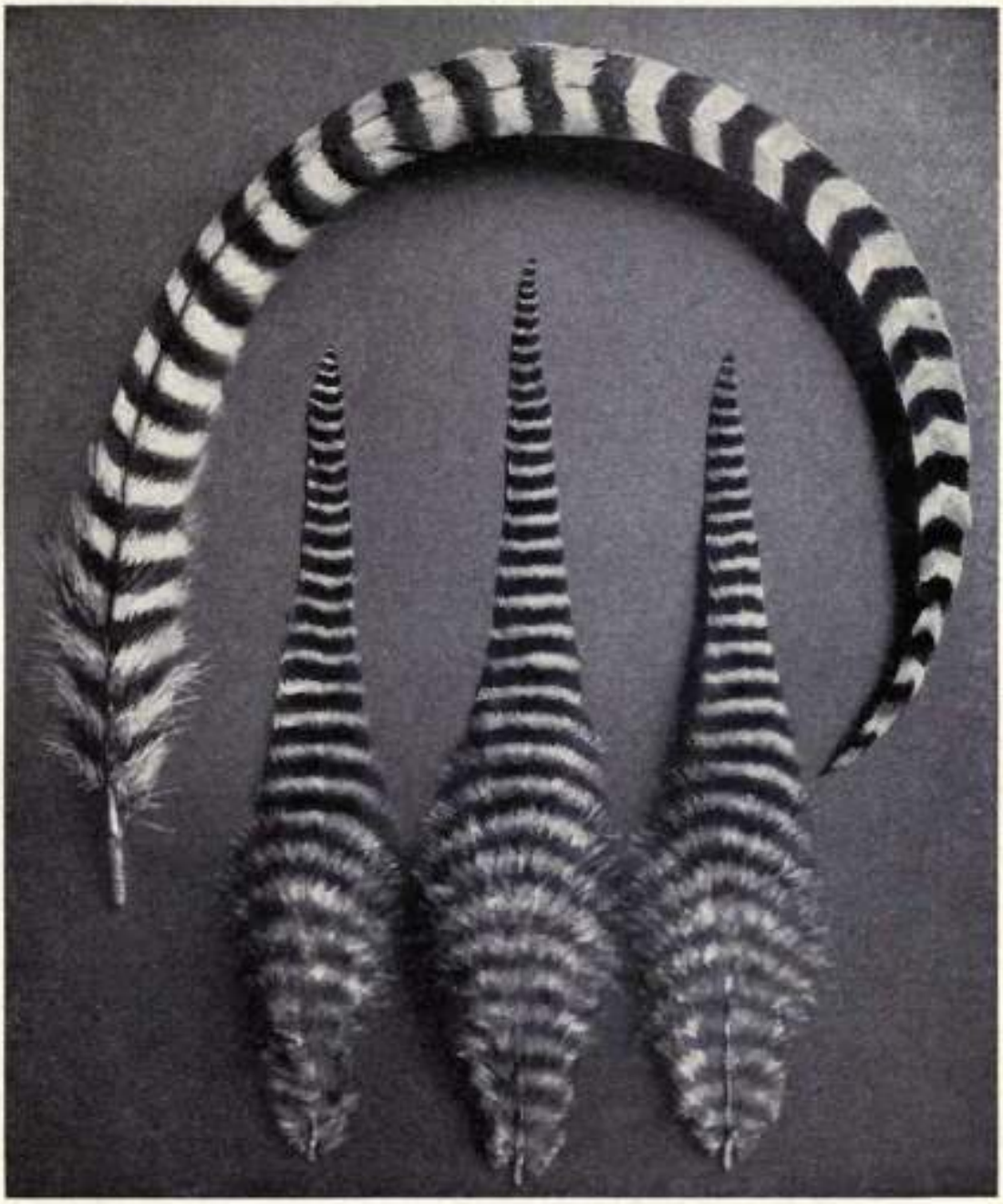


Sickle—Very Good

Three Larger Tail Coverts—Very Good

SICKLE AND LARGER TAIL COVERTS, BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK MALE

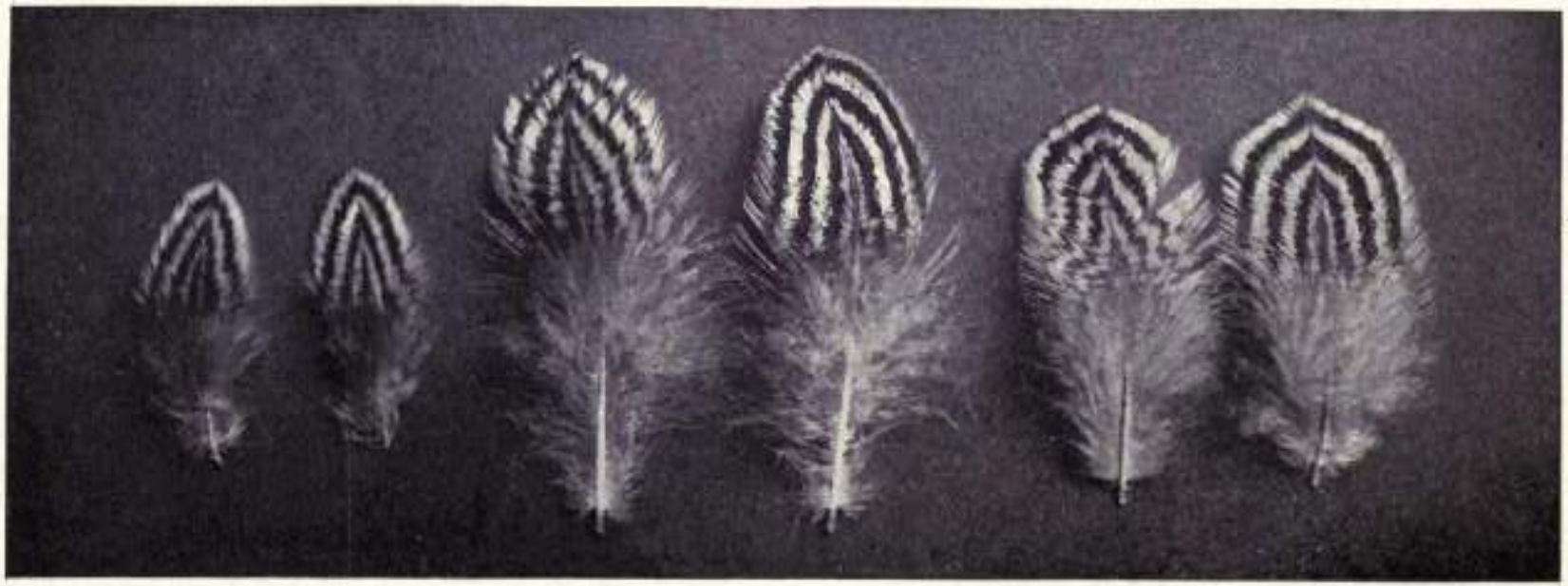
PLATE 40



Sickle—Idealized

Three Larger Tail Coverts—Ideal (natural)

PLATE 76



1 2 3 4 5 6

SILVER-PENCILED PLYMOUTH ROCKS, FEMALE

1, 2. Wing Front. 2, 4. Back. 5, 6. Upper Breast.

1. Ordinary. 2. Idealized. 3. Ordinary. 4. Idealized. 5. Ordinary. 6. Idealized.

PLATE 81

SILVER-PENCILED PLYMOUTH ROCK

Illustrating defects in color of male as follows:
Hackle—Weak in striping.
Shoulders—Irregularly splashed with black.
Wing-Bows—Splashed with black markings.
Wing-Bars—Splashed with white.
Wing-Primaries—White at root, also white at tips.
Primary Coverts—White tips.
Wing-Secondaries—White edging in upper secondaries, very irregular.
Saddle Feathers—Weak, indefinite striping.
Tail-Coverts—Stripe too weak, laced edging irregular.
Tail, Sickles and Smaller Sickles—White at root.

PLATE 82

SILVER-PENCILED PLYMOUTH ROCK

Markings on a high-class Standard-bred male:

Head, Back and Wing-Bows—Clear, silvery white.

Hackle—Each feather showing clear black striping and silvery white edging.

Wings—Fronts black; wing-bars, glossy, greenish black.

Primaries and Primary Coverts—Black, edged on lower side with silvery white.

Secondaries—Regularly bordered to form white surface, when folded, except upper wing-coverts, where black predominates.

Saddle—Each feather clearly striped with black, edged with silvery white.

Tail-Coverts—Black, edged with silvery white.

Tail and All Sickles—Glossy, greenish black.

Breast—Glossy, greenish black.

Body—Black.

PLATE 83

SILVER-PENCILED PLYMOUTH ROCK

Illustrating defective female color, as follows:

Neck feathers weak in striping.

Back, wing-bows and fluff irregularly and coarsely penciled.

Shafting showing on the wing-bows; many feathers in back and fluff not penciled; penciling lacking in secondaries.

Primaries do not show the correct gray edging; splashes of white and gray at ends of primaries.

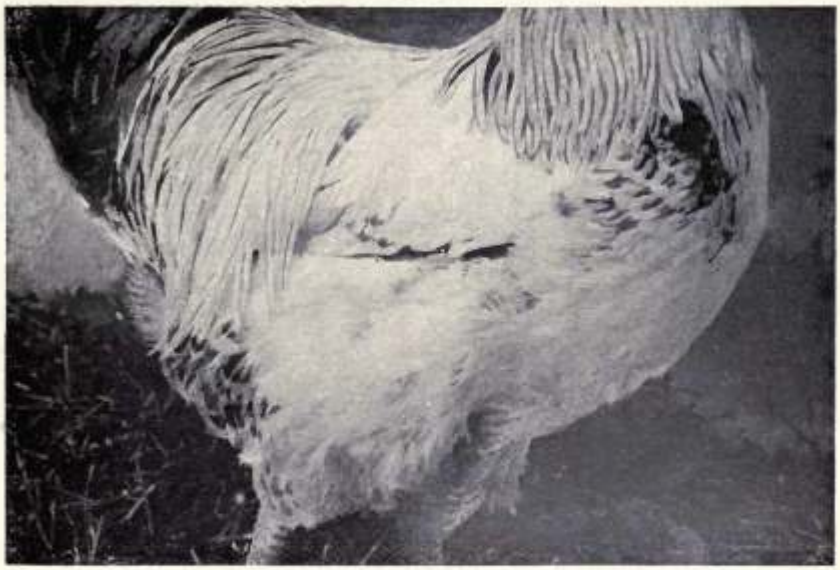
PLATE 84

SILVER-PENCILED PLYMOUTH ROCK

Markings on a high-class, Standard-bred female.
Head—Silvery gray.
Neck—Silvery white, black stripe penciled with gray.
Wing Primaries—Black, lower edge penciled with gray.
Tail Proper—Black, penciled with gray.

All remaining plumage silver-gray, with distinct dark pencilings, outlines of which conform very closely to shape of feathers. The light and dark pencilings as nearly as possible equal in width, giving a steely gray effect, free from buff or brownish color in any part.

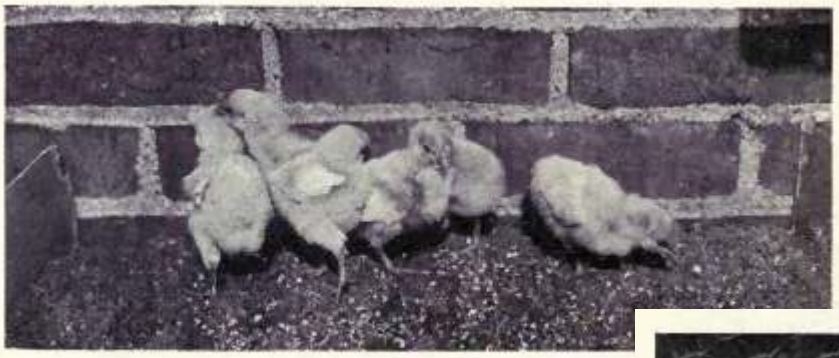
PLATE 115



COLUMBIAN PLYMOUTH ROCK, MALE, DEFECTS IN SURFACE COLOR

Neck too dark. Hackle feathers black on edge of borders. Breast, next to wing-fronts and wing, near front, with too much black. Black tips on wing-bar. Irregular gray striping in side of saddle. Black showing on fluff and hocks.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCK BABY CHICKS
(Courtesy Minnesota Agricultural College)



WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCK CHICKS
(Courtesy Minnesota Agricultural Colleg

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCK CHICKS

My Journey with Columbian Rocks in Large Fowl

Scott Brazinski

I guess my story starts a few years ago in the fall of 2007 or 2008 (I think). My oldest son was working part-time at a poultry and livestock auction and he asked "would it be ok if we got some chickens?" Well, having plenty of acreage I agreed. We built our first coop and run and began with a group of buff orpingtons. 4 additional coops soon followed along with a complete hodgepodge of chickens. We had Silkies, Rocks (barred, partridge and BBS), Sussex, Polish, Houdans, BBS orps, Delawares, and on and on.

I really began to enjoy the birds and became more interested in the specifics of each breed. I purchased a Standard of Perfection and began to "read up". The Plymouth Rocks (all large fowl) we had were a great group….friendly, inquisitive, good layers and came in a variety of colors/patterns. I was immediately drawn to learn more and more about them. Then, somewhere, I saw a picture of a Columbian Rock and knew THAT WAS WHAT I WANTED. Something about the color and pattern just had a regal look to it and I knew I had found what I wanted to raise. I joined the PRFC in 2010, where I met Bob Blosl (via emails). Bob pretty well took me under his wing and began coaching me with the MANY questions I had. At the time I had some hatchery barred rocks and was raising BBS rocks that originated from a lady in Florida. I began to sell off every chicken I had, having chosen to focus on Rocks (barred and columbian only) that were bred to achieve the SOP. Little did I know that obtaining Columbian Rocks was going to be such a challenge, there seemed to be NONE to be found in the US!! In the spring of 2010, with the help of a friend, I was able to obtain 16 Columbian Rock large fowl chicks from a breeder in Ohio. I kept Bob abreast of the birds with pictures as they grew and he helped me along with what I had been able to obtain. I was pleased to have them, but most were a bit small, several had pinched tails and the type was going to require a LOT of work. Keep in mind, I'm a novice and don't show birds, so I was up for the challenge.

Then, in October of 2010, I hit the "poultry lottery"!! Bob sent me an email asking if I would be interested in a trio of Columbian Rocks coming in from Canada to be shown at the Ohio Nationals!! Due to regulations they could not go back into Canada and had to be sold here. They were from Dick Nieuwland's flock and would be coming in with Frank Goodfellow. What luck….!! A friend of mine was going to the Nationals and happily agreed to pick them up for me. On a COLD, WET nasty day in November, I met her in North Carolina to pick up the trio. WOW….was I amazed. The birds were about 9 months old and already dwarfed the ones I had. I was like a child on Christmas morning.

The group settled in to the Georgia climate with no trouble at all. I put lights on them in mid- December and began getting eggs within a week. Worried about making sure I got chicks on the ground "just in case something happened" burned in the back of my mind and I began incubating January 1, 2011.

Through the first of June, I was able to put about 75 chicks on the ground . I did lose a small group to a bout with cocci before I could get them treated and learned another bit of poultry husbandry that I had not been aware of . Most of the chicks were from the Canadian sire over the 2 Canadian dames. However, I did have 6 that are from a cross of the Canadian male over the best pullet I had from the Ohio line hoping to add a bit of diversity to work with. Finally, I crossed the Canadian male to a NICE barred female that I hatched from Tom Wheelers birds that year. From this mating, I kept 2 nicely typed "black" females and got rid of the split barred males.

Going into my second breeding season, Fall 2011, I had culled down to:

the original 3 hens (2 Nieuwland and 1 Powell bird)
6 pullets (4 pure Nieuwland mated and 2 Nieuwland crossed to Powell)
1 cockerel from a Nieuwland cross Powell mating (great overall color, including wings, but a tad bit small, excellent white)
3 cockerels that are from pure Nieuwland matings
as a side note, I had about 20 chicks already on the ground from a mating of the BEST pure Nieuwland cockerel I had. Unfortunately, he met his demise one day protecting the hens/pullets from a hawk attack.

Overall I was happy with what I had grown to adulthood in 2011 and kept as breeders. I had 2 really nice looking pullets out of the group (nice tails, decent type, improved feather quality from their mothers). As far as size goes on the pullets, they did appear a bit smaller in comparison to their mothers although I was hopeful that they were not yet finished growing. With the help of my mentors (thanks guys, without you I certainly wouldn't be this far along!!) I set up 3 breeding pens and put lights on them.

Pen #1 was the best pure Nieuwland cockerel and the original Powell hen and her 2 pullet daughters.

Pen #2 was the Nieuwland x Powell cockerel with the 4 pure Nieuwland pullets.

Pen #3 was the second best pure Nieuwland cockerel over the original 2 Nieuwland hens (one of which is his mother).

My goal was to hatch approximately 25 chicks from each of these matings, and I successfully hatched a total of 120-130 chicks. My primary objective in my year 2 hatchings was to continue to focus on type! Females seemed to be coming along ok if I could get a little size on them which I thought was attainable. My real challenge this year was getting that round, gravy boat looking chest onto the males.

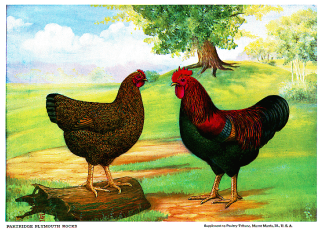
As of the writing of this (Sept 2012) I am down to my best 20 pullets from my 2012 hatch and 7 cockerels. My plan is to cull down to 8 pullets; 4 with clean backs and 4 with "dirty" backs. And to keep my best 3 cockerels; one with exceptional color, one with the best front end and one extra "just in case". 2013 hatching season is just around the corner and with the advise of some of the Light Brahma breeders, I am planning to develop a female line and a male line in 2013. I will be breeding the "dirty backed" females to develop a good male line and will breed the "clean backed" females to develop a good female line, all from a perspective on color. Female type is coming along well and focus in 2013 will be to put some pressure on cultivating a really good male, one with a deep, well rounded chest…..that seems to currently elude me. I will also be breeding the 2 "black" hens (from the mating of a Columbian male to a Wheeler barred female) to my best typed Columbian male. The goal here is two-fold. First, is to get a little diversity in the Columbian family line and hope to carry

the great front end of these hens into my male Columbians. Secondly, this mating should throw some solid black males and females. From these, I will begin maintaining a small flock of true Black Rocks in LF.

I got into this variety simply because I love the Columbian feather pattern. I know it's not a pattern recommended for "beginners" like myself, but getting into this I had no intentions of showing birds. I simply wanted an adult science experiment and a challenge to raise something that could be improved over time. For you guys that are always there to help me; Matt Lhamon, Kraig Shafer, Bob Blosl, Danny Feathers…..I thank you so much! Without your continued guidance I wouldn't have gotten this far. And, Dick Nieuwland, Bob Blosl, Frank Goodfellow….thank you guys for giving me this opportunity. Without your help I would still be looking.

If I can help anyone get started with this variety, please feel free to contact me at scottbrazinski@msn.com or on my cell at 678-315-7072





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Proud to be a long time supporting member of the PRFCA!

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-Exhibiting and winning from coast to coast, including multiple Rock National Wins and induction in to the PRFC Hall of Fame.

-ABA Master Breeder of White Rock Bantams-1988 and on the verge of achieving 200 starred wins with this variety alone.

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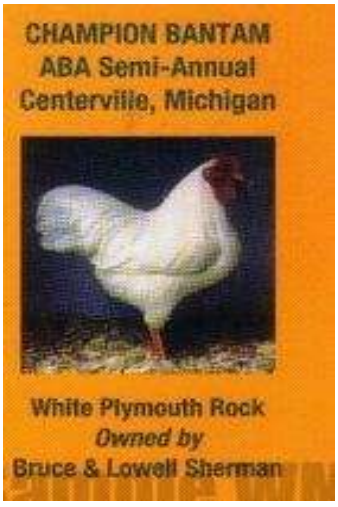
PRFCA Hall of Fame member/inductee

APA Hall of Fame and Master

ABA Master Breeder and Exhibitor

Continuing the tradition and partnership enjoyed with my Father Lowell in the late 1970's….



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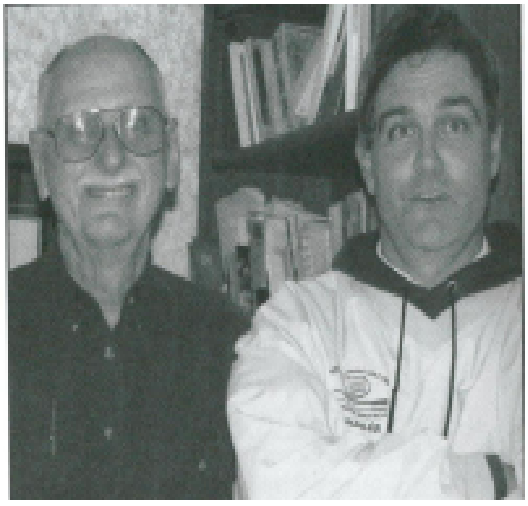

Thankful to all members of the PRFC for the dedication of this yearbook to both my Father-Lowell who was my partner in breeding and showing as well as friend-Shelby Harrington.

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