

# **A MANUAL ON POULTRY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649318681

A Manual on Poultry by J. T. Henderson

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**J. T. HENDERSON**

**A MANUAL  
ON POULTRY**



*Handwritten notes:*  
March 10 1883  
E. D. H. G. L.

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A MANUAL

ON

▷ P O U L T R Y . ◁

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA.

*Geo*

J. T. HENDERSON, COMMISSIONER.

1883.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA:  
JAS P. HARRISON & Co., PRINTERS.  
1883.

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

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It is with pleasure that acknowledgement is here made to Messrs. J. T. Scott & Bro., Breeders of Fancy Poultry, Italian Bees and Queens, Crawfish Springs, Walker county, Ga., for the following electrotypes illustrating the breeds and varieties of Poultry :

AMERICAN DOMINIQUES,  
BLACK COCHIN,  
BLACK BREASTED RED GAME,  
BROWN LEGHORN,  
BRONZE GOBBLER,  
BUFF COCHIN,  
DARK BRAHMA,  
HOUDANS,  
JAPANESE BANTAMS,  
LA FLECHE,  
LIGHT BRAHMAS,  
PARTRIDGE COCHINS,  
PEKIN DUCKS,  
PLYMOUTH ROCKS,  
RED PILE GAME,  
ROUEN DUCKS,  
SILVER SPANGLED HAMBURGS,  
SILVER PENCILLED HAMBURGS,  
TOULOUSE GEESE,  
WHITE COCHINS,  
WHITE LEGHOENS,  
WHITE CRESTED BLACK POLISH,  
WHITE CRESTED WHITE POLISH,  
WHITE FACED BLACK SPANISH.

## INTRODUCTORY.

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While the Act establishing this Department and defining the duties of the Commissioner does not especially mention Poultry as one of the subjects to which his attention should be directed, its importance as one of the productive industries so closely connected with Agriculture, in the opinion of the Commissioner justifies the attention which he is about to devote to it in this little work. Indeed, so much depends upon the intelligence and care bestowed upon the small industries of the farm that he would feel that he was not fully discharging his duties to the people of the State, did he not supply the information at his command on a subject so closely connected with their health, comfort and profit.

The following pages will be devoted to practical information suited to the use and application of the wives of farmers—such information as it is hoped will aid the housewives of Georgia in not only substituting, to a large extent, eggs and poultry for pork on their tables, but stimulate them to the production of a surplus of these wholesome articles of diet to be sold to the less fortunate dwellers in towns and cities.

The work is not intended for the fancier, nor for those who pursue the business on a large scale, but for the farmer's wife. There will be much in the work which to the fancier will seem crude and unnecessary; but in order to instruct those without experience or knowledge of the business, it is necessary to present the appearance (to the well informed) of presuming very far upon the ignorance of the reader.

One of the secrets of the success of French agriculture is the attention bestowed upon the small industries of the farm, and one of the principal obstacles to successful agriculture in the Southern States is the neglect of these industries. The dairy, garden, poultry yard, apiary, and fish ponds, should not only contribute largely to the food supply of the family, but should, by the sale of surplus products, materially supplement the principal sources of income of the farm.

The hope that the information conveyed in this little work may induce the bestowal of more and better attention upon the important industry of which it treats, and thus increase the health, pleasure, profit and comfort of the families of Georgia, induces its publication.

# MANUAL ON POULTRY.

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According to Darwin, who has given the subject a very thorough and systematic investigation, our domestic gallinaceous fowls have all descended from one common source, viz: the wild *Gallus Bankiva* of south-eastern Asia.

The black breasted red game cock resembles very closely the wild *Gallus Bankiva* cock of India.

Mr. Darwin experimented with various crosses of domestic breeds and observed that there was invariably a tendency to a reversion to the original red color of the wild fowl.

All breeders of improved stock, of whatever kind, are familiar with the fact that a constant tendency to reversion to the original type exists, and must be guarded against by careful, judicious selection, annually repeated.

Peculiarities of form and color have been seized upon as starting points from which to establish new breeds, by in-breeding and subsequent crossing with the original. After a few distinct varieties were established the multiplication of breeds became an easy matter. Breeds of cattle, horses, sheep and swine have been multiplied in the same manner.

Sub-varieties are produced by selection of breeding stock of a particular type or color, and by breeding the offspring back to the sire, until his type is so fixed in the offspring that it becomes capable of uniformly reproducing its kind when bred *inter se*. Breeds have thus been multiplied both by following up accidental peculiarities, and by systematic mating of birds of different established breeds.



## CLASSIFICATION AND DESCRIPTION OF BREEDS.

## GAMES.



BLACK-BREASTED RED GAME.

This seems to be the typical breed, most closely resembling the wild parent, *Gallus Bankiva*.

The game is notoriously the most hardy breed of chickens in the whole catalogue; and independently of their value as fighters in the cock-pit, with which this work has nothing to do, they are well worthy of cultivation, purely for their economic qualities.

The hens are good layers, superior sitters and unsurpassed mothers. A serious objection, however, to them as mothers is that they are too much disposed to fight the young chicks of other broods. This propensity brings with it, however, a compensating quality, viz: that of defending with great spirit their own brood against all intruders.

The chicks are bright and hardy, but mature slowly. The flesh of the game is considered of superior quality, though less in quantity than in birds of the same age in most other commonly cultivated breeds.

There are many varieties of the game differing but little in essential qualities, the distinctions being based mainly upon the color of the plumage. As plumage is a matter of small importance, so far as the objects of this work are concerned, further than to aid the reader in recognizing pure bred birds, the varieties of the game will not be described, but only a description covering the distinctive characteristics of the game as a breed, since this will enable one to recognize a game wherever seen and of whatever color.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF GAMES.

The head is long, thin and tapering, with beak more curved than that of any other breed. Color varies in the different varieties.

*Comb* thin and straight, single and low in front. A game cock with a full comb is rarely seen. They are usually dubbed in both comb and wattles.

*Ear Lobes* red and smooth.

*Neck* long, well-arched and tapering. Hackles short.

*Body* firm, broad across the shoulders, and tapering towards the tail.

*Tail* full and slightly drooping.

*Legs* stout, rather long, and set well apart.

The principal varieties of the game breed are the Black, Black-breasted Red, Blue, Brown-red, Yellow Duck-wing, Silver Duck-wing, Grey, Ginger-red, White-Pile, Red-Pile, Derby, White, and Spangled.

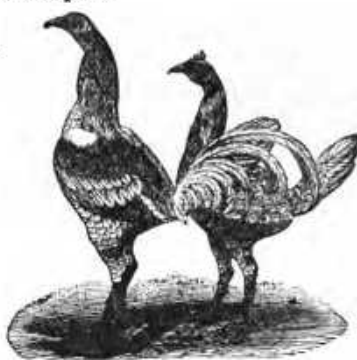
The opinions as to which of this list is the most desirable variety are quite conflicting, though the majority seem to give the preference to the Black-breasted Red and the Derby.

There are other varieties, but the list embraces those principally grown in America.

The *Game Hen* in form resembles the cock, her neck seeming rather out of proportion to her body. The head is neat and thin, with clean face and small, erect comb; ear lobes and wattles small. In color the plumage approximates that of the cock, making due allowance for sex. The feathers should lie close to the body and the tail feathers be held closely together, and not collectively fan-shaped.

The cockerels intended for stock birds may be dubbed when four months old, but must not be turned with each other while the combs are freshly cut. Birds true to the desired type should be selected for stock purposes in order to perpetuate uniformity of form and color.

The chicks are somewhat delicate when first hatched, and hence, unless provision has been made for protecting them for some weeks from cold wind, rains and dew, they should not hatch before spring is well advanced. The hens with broods should not be cooped so near each other that the chicks of one brood will invade the coop



RED PILE GAME.

of the other, lest the hens, which are quite savage towards other than their own chicks, destroy them.

THE ASIATICS—COCHINS AND BRAHMAS.

The following description of the distinctive characteristics of the Cochins will answer for all of the varieties so far as the substantial features of the breed are concerned.

The principal difference between the varieties of the breed is found in the color of the plumage or in non-essential features.



PARTRIDGE COCHINS.

The following extract from Hewitt's description of the Buff Cochin is found in The Poultry Book, by W. B. Tegetmeier :



BUFF COCHINS.

“In size and weight the larger the better, if without coarseness. Sometimes the cocks attain the weight of thirteen and a half pounds; but from eleven to twelve pounds are good average birds. The hens weigh from eight to ten pounds; if they continue healthy and are well fed, they generally increase in weight until their third year.

“The carriage and form of the cock should be fine, noble, and very majestic; the breast very broad, forming a straight line from the crop to the thighs; the back short and wide; the tail only very