



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

### ROSECOMB / JAVA BANTAM



**ORIGIN:** Java

**CLASSIFICATION:** True Bantam: Soft feather

**EGG COLOUR:** White (Sitters)

**MASSES:**

Male: 600 to 750g

Female: 450 to 600g

The Rosecomb was probably imported from the port of Bantam in Java, and in Holland still called Java Bantam. The German Standard refers to this breed as Bantam only. The Rosecomb was improved in England and other countries. They are regarded here and in other countries as the ideal exhibition breed. In former days it achieved probably the highest pitch of artificial perfection ever achieved by fanciers.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### THE MALE

**Carriage:** Thickset and cobby, but not dumpy. The back should be one sweeping curve from neck to sickles.

**Back:** Short and broad from shoulders to tail, giving a somewhat concave appearance without any break where back joins tail.

**Breast:** Carried well forward and upward, showing a bold curve from wing bow to wing bow.

**Saddle:** Feathers abundant, long, lower saddle feathers filling space between stern and wing tips.

**Tail:** Main tail: carried well back at an angle of 40 degrees above the horizontal, well expanded but not extending beyond sickles, feathers broad. Sickles: broad, long, very well curved. Lesser sickles: broad abundant, well curved. Coverts: abundant, well curved.

**Wings:** Large, carried well back, points carried low, concealing back half of thighs, but not the hocks. Carriage of wing has much to do with posture of bird, giving it a decidedly alert appearance. Shoulders and fronts: concealed by hackle feathers. Bows: smooth, well rounded. Coverts: feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings. Primaries: medium width, concealed by secondaries. Secondaries: medium length, broad, tapering convexly to stern.

**Comb:** Rose. Square in front, tapering to the setting on the spike, setting firmly and evenly on head, top level, evenly covered with fine points, free from hollows, with a spike. The spike is round from its base to its tip, long, firm at base, tapering to a fine point, perfectly straight and tilted slightly upwards at the same angle as the comb.

**Head:** Medium size, round, carried well back in a proud manner, above a parallel line which when drawn from tip of tail will bisect earlobes.

**Beak:** Short, strong nicely curved.

**Eyes:** Full round and bright.

**Face:** Fine in texture, free from folds and wrinkles.

**Earlobes:** Absolutely round with nicely rounded edges, flat and smooth, of uniform thickness, (not dished or hollow) set firmly on the face, of kid-like texture, proportioned to size of bird, the male's not smaller than 1.75 cm or larger than 2.25 cm. The hen's not larger than 1.75 cm.

**Wattles:** Well rounded, firm, fine in texture free from folds and wrinkles.

**Neck:** Rather short, well arched, covered with wide feathers and having a well-defined curve at the back, the male's hackle falling gracefully and plentifully over his shoulders and wing bows and reaching almost to his tail.

**Legs and toes:** Short, set well apart, stout at the setting on and tapering to the hocks. Shanks: rather short, round and small. Four toes, straight and well spread.

## THE FEMALE

With the exception of the earlobes which should not be larger than approximately 1.75 cm, and the wings, which are not carried so low, but are not tucked up either, the general characteristics of the hen are similar to that of the cock, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Stiltedness, narrow chest or back, hollow fronted comb, coarse bone, tightly carried wings, "narrow-feathered", white in face, blushed lobes, and in Blacks; light legs, purple sheen or barring, brown or grizzled flight.

## COLOUR

### In all colours:

**Comb, face and wattle:**

Brilliant cherry red.

**Earlobes:**

Spotlessly white, especially near the wattle.

## THE BLACK

**Beak:** Black.

**Eyes:** Hazel or brown.

**Legs and feet:** Black, but it could be slate coloured in older birds.

**Nails:** Light or dark horn.

**Plumage:** Black with bright green sheen from the throat to the sickle ends, the wing bar (of broad feathers) of extra bright green, a point of rare quality is for the tail feathers to have a brilliant green sheen.

## THE WHITE

**Beak:** White.

**Eyes:** Red.

**Legs and feet:** White.

**Nails:** Light horn.

**Plumage:** Snow-white, free from straw tinge.

## THE BLUE

**Beak:** Black.

**Eyes:** Dark red.

**Legs, feet and nails:** Light or dark horn.

**Plumage:** Medium shade of blue, with or without lacing. The plumage of hackles, back and shoulders in cocks of a darker shade. If laced, every feather must have a defined thin dark lacing.

## THE BUFF

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Eyes:** Orange-red.

**Legs:** White.

**Nails:** Light horn.

**Plumage:** An even clear dull golden yellow (Buff) colour. Under-colour yellow. A bit of black peppering in tail is permitted. Not permitted; a brownish surface colour, white in tail and wings, a bronze colour in tail.

## THE CUCKOO

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Eyes:** Orange-red.

**Legs:** White, sometimes with some dark spots.

**Nails:** Light horn.

**Plumage:** Light grey, each feather crossed by regular, as parallel as possible, well defined black bars. In hens the dark bars are wider than the grey. Not permitted; tail feathers without barring, a brown or yellow tinge in feathers.

## THE MOTTLED

**Beak:** Light to dark horn.

**Eyes:** Orange-red.

**Legs:** White, sometimes with some dark spots.

**Nails:** Light to dark horn.

**Plumage:** Ground colour beetle green-black, rich metallic black, some feathers ending with a clear white tip. In hens the distribution of white spots are more even than in cocks. Solid white feathers in primaries are permitted (2 per wing). Not permitted too much white in wings, although it must be kept in mind that the older the birds get, the more white in wings they will show.

## THE BUFF-COLUMBIAN

<b>Beak:</b>	Light horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Orange-red.
<b>Legs:</b>	White.
<b>Nails:</b>	Light horn.
<b>Plumage:</b>	Buff with black markings in hackle, wing- and tail feathers. For full colour description - see Pekins.

## THE COLUMBIAN

<b>Beak:</b>	Light horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Orange-red.
<b>Legs:</b>	White, sometimes with some dark spots.
<b>Nails:</b>	Light horn.
<b>Plumage:</b>	As above, but the Buff feather-colour is substituted by white. Black markings are the same. Not permitted feathers with a brown or yellow tinge.

## THE BIRCHEN

<b>Beak:</b>	Dark horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Brown-red.
<b>Legs:</b>	Dark slate.
<b>Nails:</b>	Light to dark horn.
<b>Plumage:</b>	Like in Pekins, Japanese, etc: Black with silver white markings.

## THE SILVER DUCKWING

<b>Beak:</b>	Light horn.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Orange-red.
<b>Legs:</b>	White.
<b>Nails:</b>	Light horn.

## MALE

**Plumage:** Head, hackle, back, saddle, shoulder coverts and wing: bows silver-white. Primaries: black, secondaries: pure white on the outer edge and black on the inner with tips of white, the white showing a silver white triangle when the wing is closed. Remainder a lustrous green-black.

## FEMALE

**Plumage:** Head: silver-white, hackle: silver-white finely striped with black. Breast: pale salmon, diminishing to pale ash grey on thighs. Tail: grey. Remainder a light French grey with almost invisible black pencilling.

**Under-colour:** Grey in both sexes. Not permitted brown or yellow tinge in feathers, white breast in cocks, too much rust on wing bows of hens.

## THE GOLDEN DUCKWING

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Eyes:** Orange-red.

**Legs:** White.

**Nails:** Light horn.

**Plumage:** As above, but the silver white is substituted by an intensive golden yellow colour. Black markings are the same. In the hens the breast is a deep salmon colour.

## THE BRASSY BACK

**Beak:** Light to dark horn.

**Eyes:** Brown-red.

**Legs:** Dark slate.

**Nails:** Light horn.

## MALE

**Plumage:** Head: brassy with black stripe lengthwise through centre of each feather. Neck: front black; remainder black with brass edging. Breast: black with lustrous green sheen. Saddle: brassy with black stripe through centre of each feather. Body, stern and lower thighs: black. Wings: shoulders and fronts black; bows brassy with some lustre; coverts black with green sheen, forming a distinct bar across the wings; primaries and secondaries black with lower web edged with brass to form a brassy wing bar. Tail: black with green sheen, shafts black; sickles, lesser sickles and coverts black with lustrous green sheen.

## FEMALE

**Plumage:** Head: black, tinged with light brass over skull. Neck: hackle lustrous black, feathers edged with brass; front of neck brassy. Breast: light brassy salmon. Back: black chocolate with bright brassy shafting and as black feathers approach the tail, they should also show brassy edging becoming more pronounced towards the tail. Body and lower thighs: chocolate buff; stern: brassy. Wings: black chocolate with bright brassy shafting; primaries black; secondaries black with lower web edged with brass. Tail: black.

**Under-colour:** Light slate in both sexes.

## THE BRASSY BACK BLUE

### MALE

**Plumage:** Exactly the same as the Brassy Back male with the exception that all black parts are replaced with a blue colour, with or without lacing. Neck hackle: black, each feather edged with brass.

### FEMALE

**Plumage:** Exactly the same as the Brassy Back female with the exception that all black parts are replaced with a blue colour, with or without peppering. Neck hackle: black, each feather edged with brass.

## THE GOLDEN PARTRIDGE

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Eyes:** Orange-red.

**Legs:** White to dark slate.

**Nails:** Light horn.

### MALE

**Plumage:** Head: orange red. Neck hackle a gradual transition from orange to light orange-yellow, each feather having a black with green sheen middle stripe. Back: deep reddish brown; side hangers: corresponding with the neck hackle, a little darker colour permitted, Breast: black with green sheen, free from markings or spots. Wing bow: black, shoulders: deep reddish brown, wing bar: iridescent greenish black; inner web: black; outer web: chestnut brown; internal web: and tip black, tip being brown when the wing is closed (wing bay). Flanks and thighs: deep black with green sheen, free of markings and spots. Under part and rear: black. Tail: main feathers, sickles and tail coverts black with iridescent green sheen; the tail coverts nearest the side hangers with a brownish edge underneath at the tip. Under-colour: greyish.

## FEMALE

**Plumage:** Head: gold brown. Throat: greyish white. Neck hackle: gradually changes from golden-brown at the top to golden-yellow at the bottom. Each feather has a shiny black middle stripe. Wings, back, saddle and tail coverts: greyish brown with fine black pencilling, as even as possible, free of rust or red. Tail: main feathers blackish, the top feather on each side with brown pencilling. Breast feathers as well as their shafts are a warm salmon, red-brown colour, which is a shade darker on the throat. Thighs, flanks and down: ash grey.

**Faults:** Any mismarked feathers. Any splashing or coloured feathers in the black parts of the male. Rusty colour in the wings of the female.

## THE BLUE PARTRIDGE

### MALE

**Plumage:** Exactly the same as the golden partridge male with the exception that all black parts are replaced with a blue colour, with or without lacing. Hackle: orange to light orange-yellow, each feather having a black middle stripe.

### FEMALE

**Plumage:** Exactly the same as the golden partridge coloured female with the exception that all black is replaced with a blue colour with or without peppering. Hackle: orange to light orange, each feather having a black middle stripe.

## OTHER COLOURS

Rosecombs are now also found in the following colours as described in the American and German Standards: Black Breasted Red, Black Tailed Red, Blue Red, Brown Red, Crele, Ginger, Lemon Blue, Lavender, Millefleur, Porcelain, Red, Wheaten, Pile and Splashed (a fine lavender-like blue-grey colour with a few dark spots).

SCALE OF POINTS	
Head (comb 20, earlobes 15)	35
Type	15
Tail	15
Condition	10
Colour	15
Legs	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>