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# CARLISLE GAME

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**ORIGIN:** Great Britain  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Light Breed: Hard feather  
**EGG COLOUR:** Tinted

**MASSES:**  
**LARGE FOWL**

Male: 2.1 kg - 2.6 kg (It is not desirable to breed males over 2.7 kg)  
Female: 1.8 kg - 2.3 kg

**BANTAMS**

Male: 850g max  
Female: 740g max

When the Romans invaded Britain, Julius Caesar wrote in his commentaries that the Britons kept fowls for pleasure and diversion but not for table purposes. Many well-known authorities have considered that cock fighting was the diversion. In 1849 an Act of Parliament was passed, making cock fighting illegal in Britain. Poultry exhibitions were then starting to take root, giving many breeders the option to exhibit their Game fowl.

The Old English Game Club split in about 1930 as there was already a divergence of birds being shown with larger breasted horizontally backed, exhibition type birds tending to win. Breeders of these exhibition birds then formed the Carlisle Club, developing only some of the original colours. Breeders of the original type, wherein the back is at 45° to the ground maintaining the well-balanced, close heeled, athletic fighting fowl, formed the Oxford OEG Club, retaining over thirty colours. It is usually agreed that a good game fowl cannot be a bad colour.

Carlisle Game should not be referred to as an "Old English Game". It would be more correct to refer to it as Carlisle Show Game as for Modern Game and Indian Game.

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**

### **THE MALE**

- Carriage:** Bold, sprightly, the movement quick and graceful, as if ready for any emergency. The back is carried more or less horizontally to the ground; not at 45 degrees as in Oxford OEG.
- Body:** Back short and flat, broad at the shoulders, and tapering to the tail. Breast broad, full, and prominent with large pectoral muscles, and breastbone not deep or pointed. Wings large, long and powerful with large strong quills, amply protecting the thighs. Belly small and tight. Tail large, carried upwards and spread, main feathers and quills large and strong.
- Head:** Small and tapering. Beak big, boxing (i.e. the upper mandible shutting tightly and closely over the lower one), crooked or hawk-like, pointed, strong at the base. Eyes large, bold and full of expression. Comb single, small, thin, upright and of fine texture. Face and throat skin flexible and loose. Ear-lobes and wattles fine, small and thin.
- Note:** It was customary to dub Carlisle Game Cocks. In hens dubbing was not allowed.
- Neck:** Large boned, round, of fair length and very strong at the junction with the body, furnished with long and wiry feathers covering the shoulders.
- Legs and feet:** Legs strong. Thighs short, round and muscular, following the line of the body, or slightly curved. Shanks strong, clean boned, sinewy, close scaled (not flat and 'gummy'). Legs not stiffly upright and with a good bend or angle at the hock, fitted with hard and fine spurs set low. Matching the greater breadth of the Carlisle, the legs are generally set wider apart than in Oxford OEG. Toes, four, thin, straight and tapering, terminating in long, strong, curved nails, the fourth (or hind) toe strong, straight out and flat on the ground.
- Plumage:** Hard and glossy, without much fluff, generally shorter and tighter than in Oxford OEG.
- Handling:** Well balanced, hard yet light fleshed, 'corky', with plenty of muscle, and strong contraction of the wings.

### **THE FEMALE**

With the exception of the tail, which is inclined to fan-shape and carried well up, the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

## **COLOUR**

### **THE BLACK-RED (Partridge bred)**

#### **THE MALE**

Neck hackle and saddle dark rich red shading to deep orange. Breast and thighs black. Back and shoulders deep crimson. Wings, wing bow deep red with a rich dark blue bar across; secondaries bay colour on outer web; primaries black. Tail sound black and lustrous green gloss.

#### **THE FEMALE (Partridge)**

Neck golden-red and streaked with black. Breast and thighs shaded salmon; back and wings partridge colour to be as free from rust and shaftiness as possible. Tail black with partridge coverts.

**In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White, yellow and willow.  
**Face:** Bright red  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike

**THE BLACK-RED (Wheaten bred)**

**THE MALE**

Neck, hackle bright orange, shading off to bright lemon. Back and saddle bright crimson. Breast and thighs black. Wings, wing bow bright red, in other respects, including tail, similar to (partridge) black-red.

**THE FEMALE (Wheaten)**

Neck, hackle clear red. Delicate, creamy self colour on remainder except tail, which is nearly black. Clay hens similar to wheaten only darker or harder in colour.

**In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White, occasionally yellow.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike

**THE BROWN-RED**

**THE MALE**

Neck and saddle: lemon or orange, streaked with black. Breast: black laced with brown to top of thighs. Back: lemon or orange. Wings, shoulder and wing bow: lemon orange, rest of wing black. Tail black.

**THE FEMALE**

Neck, hackle: lemon or orange, striped with black. Breast and thighs: black laced with brown. Body black, tail black.

**In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Dark.  
**Face:** Gypsy or red.  
**Eyes:** Dark, both alike

**THE SPANGLE**

**THE MALE**

Neck, hackle and saddle dark red, finely tipped with white. Breast and thighs black finely and evenly tipped with white. Back and shoulders dark red, finely tipped with white. Wings: wingbow dark red, finely tipped with white with a rich dark blue bar across, finely tipped with white; secondaries: deep bay intermixed with white, bay predominating; primaries black intermixed with white. Tail, sickles and side hangers black, tipped with white, straight feathers black intermixed with white.

### **THE FEMALE**

Neck, hackle golden-red, streaked with black, finely tipped with white. Breast and thighs dark salmon, finely and evenly tipped with white. Back and shoulders partridge coloured feathers, finely and evenly tipped with white. Wings: secondaries partridge intermixed with white, partridge predominating; primaries dark, intermixed with white. All other feathers partridge colour finely and evenly tipped with white. Tail black with partridge coverts, finely and evenly tipped with white.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White (occasionally yellow).  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red both alike.

### **THE BIRCHEN OR GREY**

#### **THE MALE**

Neck, saddle grey or silver, streaked with black. Breast black laced with grey to top of thighs. Back grey or silver. Wings: shoulders and wing bow grey or silver, rest of wing black. Tail black.

#### **THE FEMALE**

Neck, hackle grey or silver, striped with black. Breast black laced with grey or silver to top of thigh. Body black, tail black.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Dark.  
**Face:** Gypsy or red.  
**Eyes:** Dark, both alike.

### **THE GOLDEN DUCKWING**

#### **THE MALE**

Hackle yellow, saddle straw. Breast and thighs black. Back and shoulders orange or rich yellow (golden). Wings: wing bow orange or rich yellow, wing bars steel-blue; secondaries white when closed, primaries black. Tail black.

#### **THE FEMALE**

Hackle silver white, finely striped with black. Breast pale salmon, diminishing to ash grey on thighs. Tail black, except top feathers which should match the body colour. Remainder French or steel grey, very lightly pencilled with black and even throughout.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Beak:** Dark horn.  
**Eyes:** Ruby red.  
**Comb, face, wattles and earlobes:** Red.  
**Legs and feet:** Willow.

## THE SILVER DUCKWING

### THE MALE

Neck and saddle white, free from dark streaks. Breast and thighs black. Back and shoulders silver-white. Wings: wing bow silver-white, wing bar steel-blue; secondaries white when closed; primaries black. Tail black.

### THE FEMALE

As for female golden duckwing.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Any self colour.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red or pearl, both alike.

## THE BLUE-RED

### THE MALE

Neck, hackle and saddle orange or golden-red. Breast and thighs medium, shade of blue. Back and shoulders deep or bright red. Wings: wing bow deep or bright red, with a rich dark blue bar across; secondaries bay colour on the outer web; primaries blue. Tail blue.

### THE FEMALE

Neck golden-red, streaked with blue. Breast and thighs shaded salmon. Back and wings partridge colour, intermixed with blue. Tail to correspond with body colour.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Any self colour.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

## THE BLUE TAILED WHEATEN.

### MALE AND FEMALE

Similar in all respects to wheatens with the exception of wing primaries and tail shaded with blue.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White, occasionally yellow.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both to be alike.

## THE CRELE

### THE MALE

Neck and saddle chequered (barred) orange. Back and shoulders deep chequered orange. Wings: wing bow deep chequered orange with dark grey bar across; secondaries bay colour on the outer web; primaries dark grey.

### **THE FEMALE**

Neck lemon chequered with grey. Breast and thighs chequered salmon. Back and wings chequered blue-grey. Tail to correspond with body colour.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White preferred.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

### **THE CUCKOO**

#### **THE MALE**

Blue-grey barred, variations of this colour are: yellow, gold or red in the plumage.

#### **THE FEMALE**

Blue-grey barred all over.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White preferred  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

#### **THE PILE**

#### **THE MALE**

Neck and saddle orange or chestnut-red. Breast and thighs white. Back and shoulders deep red. Wings: wing bow red with a white bar across; secondaries bay colour on outer web; primaries white. Tail white.

#### **THE FEMALE**

Neck lemon. Breast salmon, lighter towards thighs. Back and wings white. Tail white.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White or yellow.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

### **THE SELF WHITE**

#### **MALE AND FEMALE**

All over pure white.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** White or yellow.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

## **THE SELF BLACK**

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

All over glossy black

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Any self colour.  
**Face:** Red or dark.  
**Eyes:** Red or dark, both alike.

## **THE SELF BLUE**

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

Medium shade of blue.

#### **In both sexes:**

**Legs:** Any self colour.  
**Face:** Bright red.  
**Eyes:** Red, both alike.

## **SERIOUS DEFECTS**

Thin thighs or neck. Flat sided. Deep keel. Pointed, crooked or indented breastbone. Thick insteps or toes. Duck feet. Straight or stork legs; in-knees or bow-legged legs. Soft flesh. Broken, soft or rotten plumage. Bad carriage or action. Any indications of weakness of constitution.

#### **Defining “pointed breast bone”:**

Pointed breast bone can be seen by looking at a bird from the front (severe cases) or felt when handling a bird.

Pointed breast bone is one that has insufficient muscle and tapers down to a “V” shaped point. This is usually most apparent at the point of the breast bone just under the wishbone. This can be detected by placing the palm of the hand against the breast and running it down through to the thighs.

#### **Defining “crooked breast bone”:**

The breast bone should normally curve slightly in its **linear** direction towards the back. In a crooked breast bone, the curvature is also in a **horizontal** direction, curving left and/or right.

<b>SCALE OF POINTS</b>	
Body (including breast, back and belly)	20
Handling (symmetry, cleverness, hardness of flesh and feathers, condition and constitution)	15
Head (including beak and eyes)	10
Neck	6
Shanks, spurs and feet	10
Plumage and colour	9
Thighs	8
Wings	7
Tail	6
Carriage, action and activity	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

