

WEIGHT AND SIZE OF WYANDOTTE BANTAMS



By: Leo van Wetering
With our thanks to the
Dutch Wyandotte Club

In the June issue of Aviculture Europe Frank Harrer (Germany) drew attention to the too heavy and too large white Wyandotte bantams in Germany. In the Netherlands the Wyandotte Club has been engaged for some years in a study of size and weight of the Wyandotte bantams.

In earlier years the standard weights of Wyandotte bantams were as follows:

Year	Male	Female
1953	850-900g.	775-850g.
1985	900-950g.	850-900g.
1996	1100-1200g.	900-1000g.

According to the present Standard of 2011, this is 1200-1300g for the cocks and 1000-1100g for the hens.

The Dutch Wyandotte Club has been weighing bantams during two years at the 3 National Shows in the Netherlands (Oneto Show – Noordshow – Champion Show) during the show season 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. All entered Wyandotte bantams have been weighed at these shows. Photos were taken of the lightest and heaviest bantam together in a show pen.

In Conclusion

In several colour varieties the females turned out to be too heavy:

- The laced varieties
- Partridge and silver pencilled
- Barred, Red and Lavender
- Black and Blue

In a great many colour varieties the males are too heavy.

MALES	Good	10% too heavy	25% too heavy	Too heavy
1 - Silver black laced				
2 - Gold black laced				
3 - Gold blue laced				
4 - Yellow (buff) white laced				
5 - White black columbia				
6 - White blue columbia				
7 - Buff black columbia				
8 - Buff blue columbia				
9 - Partridge				
10- Blue partridge				
11- Silver pencilled				
12- Barred				
13- Red porcelain				
14- Mottled black				
15- White				
16-Black				
17-Blue				
18-Buff				
19-Red				
20- Red partridge				
21- Salmon				
22- Lavender				
23- Lemon partridge				

FEMALES	Good	10% too heavy	25% too heavy	Too heavy
1 - Silver black laced				
2 - Gold black laced				
3 - Gold blue laced				
4 - Yellow (buff) white laced				
5 - White black columbia				
6 - White blue columbia				
7 - Buff black columbia				
8 - Buff blue columbia				
9 - Partridge				
10-Blue partridge				
11-Silver pencilled				
12-Barred				
13- Red porcelain				
14-Mottled black				
15-White				
16-Black				
17-Blue				
18-Buff				
19-Red				
20-Red partridge				
21-Salmon				
22-Lavender				
23-Lemon partridge				

The following colour varieties scored best concerning the desired weight:

- The Columbia varieties and Mottled black
- White, Buff and Salmon
- Red Partridge and Lemon Partridge

Unlike in Germany, the white bantam hens of the Dutch breeders do very well in the weight table. The white bantam roosters are a little heavier, 10% to 25% overweight, the maximum measured weight was 1600g.

Where we go from here

It had been decided to firstly announce what our thoughts and plans are for the specialty club; we will fully explain this to the breeders at the shows in the coming season 2013/2014. Then we can arrange our plans for the season 2014 – 2015.

Proposal 1, for the show season 2014 – 2015:

- 20% deviation of the weight is acceptable
If more than 20% overweight then this must be reflected in the judge's report

Proposal 2, for the show season 2015 – 2016:

- 10% deviation of the weight is acceptable
- If more than 10% overweight then this must be reflected in the judge's report

These proposals have been discussed at the meeting of the Wyandotte Club in February 2013 and at the last held Poultry Judges' Congress in May 2013. No one came up with the idea to increase the weights (again).

The breeders need the judges to indicate the breeding direction.

Note: Judging is not only the visual perception but also a matter of feeling. A chicken that looks robust may – holding in your hands – turn out not to be a heavy weight, but still it is too large. Weighing is an option if a significant deviation from the prescribed weight is suspected.

Notes to the photos

We took photos of the lightest and heaviest bantams together in a cage. I hope you get the picture.

Below: The white black columbia females are generally good weight, the males 10 to 25% overweight.





Above: Silver pencilled. The cocks are all almost 25% overweight or more. The hens are 10 to 25% overweight, with peaks up to 1450 grams.



Above, left: Partridge cocks, most of them are really too large and too heavy. Right: Red Partridge cocks are on average 10 to 25% too heavy.



Left: Gold black laced cocks, too heavy or even much too heavy, many weighing as much as 1600 grams. Right: Gold blue laced hens are on average 10 to 25% overweight. With one hen the scale even read 1500 grams.



Left: The silver black laced males are too heavy. Right: Silver black laced females, as you can see there is a significant difference between the lightest and the heaviest hen.



Left: Barred hens. Mostly 10 to 25% too heavy.
 Right: Not many chickens to compare in the Mottled class. On average they had a good weight, though there is still much difference in weight and size.

Heartily recommended www.nederlandsewyandotteclub.nl and <http://www.facebook.com/nederlandsewyandotteclub> (also in English)

