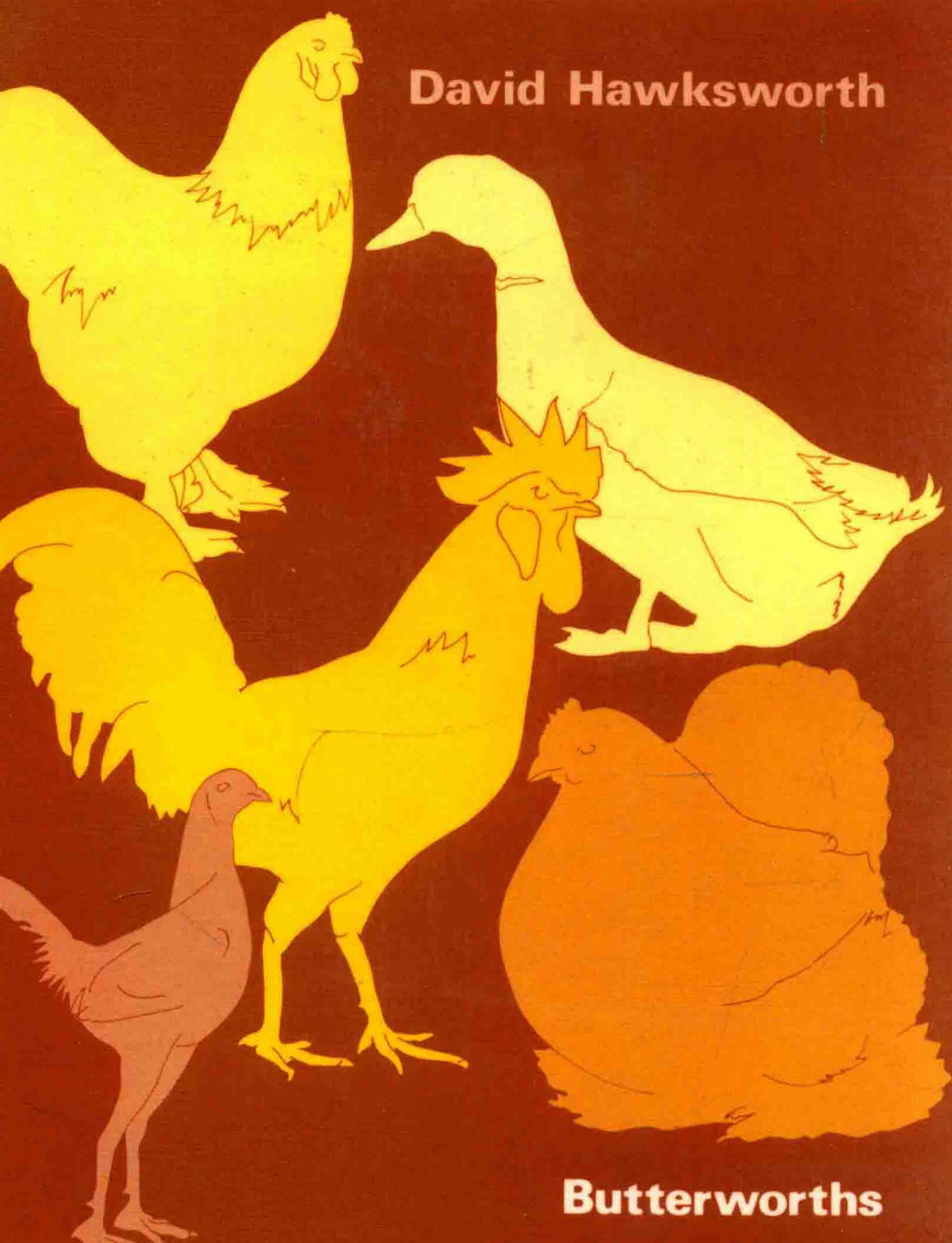


**Fourth Edition**

# **British Poultry Standards**

**David Hawksworth**



**Butterworths**

# British Poultry Standards

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Complete specifications and judging points of all Standardized Breeds and Varieties of Poultry as compiled by the Specialist Breed Societies and recognized by the Poultry Club of Great Britain

Fourth Edition

Edited by **C.G. May**  
formerly editor of Poultry World

Revised by **David Hawksworth**  
Chairman, Poultry Club of Great Britain

**Butterworth Scientific**

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facing page 14

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facing pages 16, 18,  
20, 22

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## *A. Rice Poultry Photographs*

As in previous editions, the majority of the black-and-white illustrations come from the photographic library of Arthur Rice. This is one of the best collections of winning specimens of poultry and waterfowl in this country. Collectively they reflect in no uncertain manner the contribution made to the Standard-bred poultry movement by Arthur Rice. We should also like to thank his son, S. A. Rice, for his help during the compilation of this edition. Photographs of large fowl, bantams and turkeys from *A. Rice Poultry Photographs* appear on pages 27, 29, 43, 49, 56, 60, 63, 67, 69, 73, 77, 81, 85, 88, 89, 92, 93, 97, 100, 103, 105, 107, 109, 113, 120, 123, 124, 125, 129, 133, 140, 143, 146, 147, 150, 153, 156, 159, 165, 166, 173, 174, 183, 185, 187, 189, 193, 195, 197, 198, 200, 203, 205, 208, 213, 219, 220, 223, 227, 230, 234, 236, 238, 241, 242, 243, 245, 248, 255, 258, 259, 261, 262, 270, 271, 273, 277, 279.

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# Introduction

To the commercial poultryman of today, the pure breeds of poultry are of little or no consequence. His outlook penetrates no farther than the hybrid strains of layers and broilers and he either does not know, or has found it convenient to forget, that all of them owe their origin to the standard pure breeds.

Far-seeing geneticists, on the other hand, think differently. Many of them visualize the time when hybrid strains may have to be remade and it will be then that there will come a resurgence in the demand for pure breeds, not necessarily those that are of outstanding show quality but certainly those whose blood lines are pure. Even today, with new hybrids coming off the pipeline, there is a consistent call for pure blood lines.

Standards owe their origin to the demand for uniformity in type and colouration of the various breeds. Without them the shows could never have been born and it was as long ago as in 1865 that the Poultry Club authorized the publication of the first 'Standard of Excellence in Exhibition Poultry', an exceedingly modest predecessor to the larger work which was not to appear until after the turn of the century.

Right from those early days, the Club has remained the guardian of the standards without necessarily being the body responsible for framing them. This task is normally undertaken by the specialist breed club or by the originator of a new breed or variety. So seriously, however, is this guardianship imposed, and accepted by the clubs, that until a new variety is admitted to standard it remains unrecognized by show authorities whose events are staged under the rules of the Poultry Club of Great Britain.

As a result of the incorporation of the British Bantam Association, the Poultry Club finds itself with added responsibilities, particularly by reason of the fact that at most of the shows bantams now outnumber large fowl. There has also been a considerable increase in the number of specialized bantam shows.

Normal procedure for the admittance of a new breed or variety of an existing breed to standard involves the submission to the Poultry Club by the originator of that breed of live specimens of more than one generation of the birds to be standardized, a draft of the proposed standard and a sworn declaration to the effect that the breed reproduces its like to a remarkably high degree. Through its Council the Club considers the breed

## *Introduction*

and recommends changes in the submitted standard where changes are necessary or, in some cases, a complete revision. So searching are these investigations that seldom does it occur that a breed is accepted on first application.

The only deviation from this programme is made when a recognized breed is imported from another country in which it has already been accepted to standard – the Club usually accepts these without the necessity of submitting specimens as sworn declarations.

This is the fourth edition of British Poultry Standards. In it are a number of major revisions/additions without excluding those features which claimed wide popularity for the earlier works. The format has been simplified and both large fowl and bantam standards appear together for each breed.

Retained are the coloured sections featuring no fewer than 47 breeds of large fowl and bantams in their natural colours and four plates of feathers copied from specimens taken from prominent show winners. While each of the feathers is identified to its breed (or breeds), the actual colour descriptions of them in the appropriate breed standard can also be applied to colour descriptions of other breeds. Mahogany, for instance, is the same in Indian Game as in gold laced Wyandottes or millefleur Belgian bantams; the salmon of the brown Leghorn is also the salmon of the Faverolles, and no difference exists between the beetle green of the Ancona and that of the black Leghorn.

As a consequence, therefore, the feathers serve generally as a complete colour guide to every one of the breed standards included in this publication. Accompanying each perfect standard feather is an imperfect one of a type which most often occurs in the breeds specified.

Supplementing the full standards of all the recognized breeds, previous editions of this work contained, in addition, short descriptions of breeds almost on the verge of extinction but still occasionally seen on the show bench. The same applies to this edition with the important exception that, where a breed has revealed unmistakable signs of revival, it has been taken out of the 'Other Breeds' section and given more prominence with a full standard.

Conversely, and where popularity has waned, other breeds have been relegated to the 'Other Breeds' section. Where a standardized breed, or variety of a breed, is now known no longer to exist that breed or variety has been omitted. The work of the Rare Breeds Society has been invaluable in reviving interest in, and finding standards for, many breeds which otherwise would be extinct. The Society holds the standards for most of the rarer varieties sometimes seen in this country but not included in this book.

Introduction by the Club of a judges' panel has gone a long way towards standardizing judging. Under a system of both practical and written examination judges are graded according to their capabilities. Newcomers are probably satisfied to qualify for a single breed only, coming up for further examination as their experience widens. The 'plum' certificate is, of course, one which qualifies its holder as an all-round judge. Very few of these are awarded.

While every care has been taken in compiling the standards the form of presentation does not necessarily follow that adopted by the specialist

breed clubs. Instead, and for ease of reference, a prescribed pattern has been set without in any way departing from the salient points of any of the breeds concerned. It is this form of layout that has the approval of the Poultry Club and is, therefore, recommended to all breed clubs to follow.

To safeguard publication interests the Poultry Club has agreed not to accept or authorize publication of any alterations to existing standards for a period of two years from the issue of this edition. The Poultry Club, through its 53 affiliated breed clubs, maintains the strictest watch on these standards of excellence. It will not allow alterations or amendments until its governing council has made a thorough examination of all the circumstances. In this way the Poultry Club can be truly said to be the guardian of the standards and so play its part in ensuring that our pure breeds of poultry will be part of the heritage we pass on to future generations.

## Large fowl

- 1 Australorp, male
- 2 Dorking, silver grey female
- 3 Indian Game, male
- 4 Jubilee Indian Game, female
- 5 Orpington, buff male
- 6 Old English Pheasant Fowl, gold female
- 7 Ixworth, male

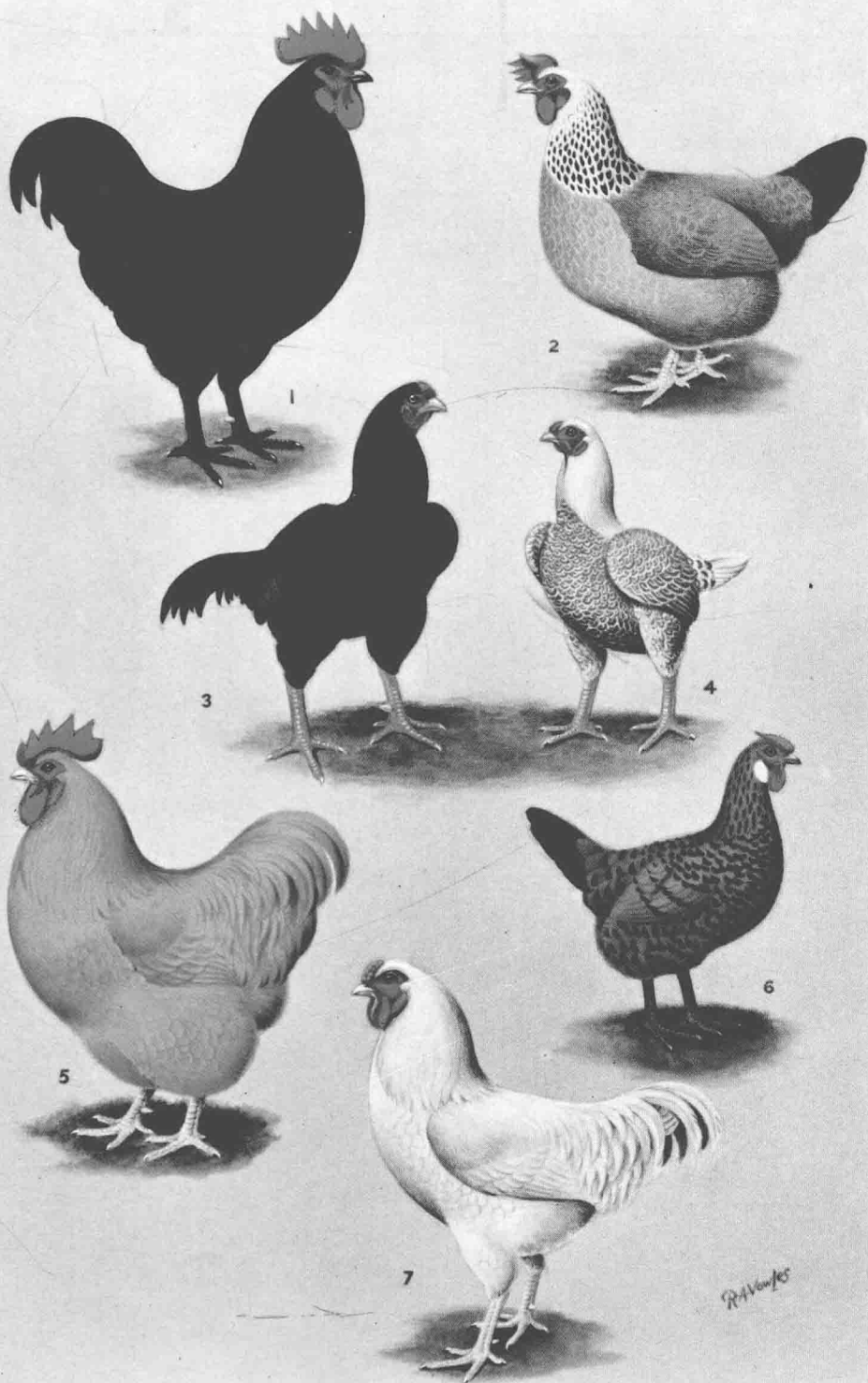
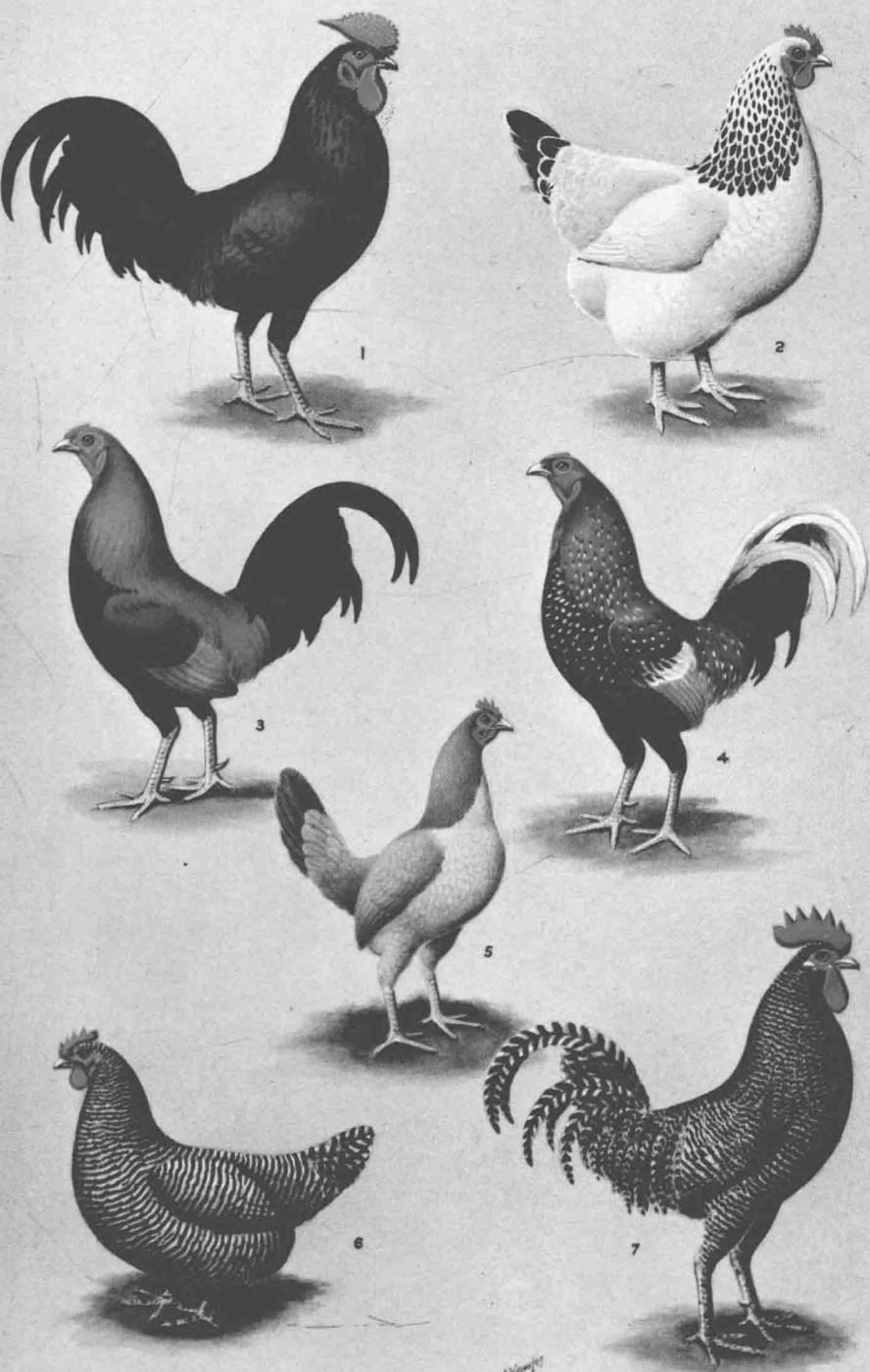


Plate 1

## Large fowl

- 1 Redcap, male
- 2 Sussex, light female
- 3 Old English Game, black-breasted red male
- 4 Old English Game, spangled male
- 5 Old English Game, wheaten female
- 6 Scots Dumpy, female
- 7 Scots Grey, male





## Large fowl

- 1 Brahma, light female
- 2 Cochin, partridge male
- 3 Silkie, white male
- 4 Croad Langshan, female
- 5 New Hampshire Red, female
- 6 Jersey Giant, white female
- 7 Plymouth Rock, white male
- 8 Rhode Island Red, female
- 9 Wyandotte, silver laced female