

EARLY WING CONFORMATION VISUALS

By Bryant Helvey, September, 2020

Early Wing Conformation Visuals- by Bryant Helvey

The birds in these photos are all approximately 16 weeks old and have been raised in the same conditions.

This birchen pullet has "good" wing confirmation at this age. Her secondaries and primaries have grown in to a consistent length allowing us to make a judgement. All of the feathers are facing up individually and are level the full length across the wing, giving the appearance of a smooth fan. There is not a significant gap between the secondaries and primaries. This pullet should be re-evaluated as she ages but at 16 weeks of age shows good promise in this area.

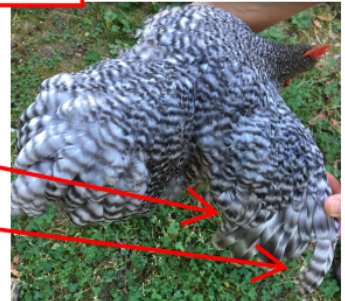
Wing is flat across the top, fans evenly, no significant gap between secondaries and primaries for a bird of this young age.



This barred cockerel should not be further judged on his wing confirmation at this age. His secondaries and primaries are varying lengths indicating that they still have growing to do. He can be re-evaluated when these feathers have all grown in to a consistent length.

Secondary feathers still not grown to full length.

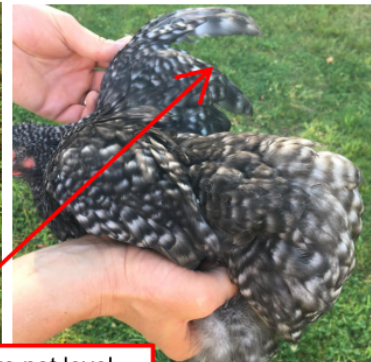
Primary feathers at varying levels of growth.



This barred pullet demonstrates poor wing confirmation that will not improve with age. Her secondaries and primaries have grown in to a consistent enough length allowing us to make a judgement. A gap is visible between the secondaries and primaries when viewing from above- the secondaries seem to be stacked up upon themselves close to the body. More obvious is that the wing is not flat across the feathers- when viewed from the sides, the secondaries seem to be "falling away" from the primaries. This bird can be culled for wing confirmation.

Gap between secondaries and primaries, visible from above.

Secondary feathers are not level with primary feathers, seem to be "falling away" leaving a large gap when viewed from the side.



This mille fleur cockerel demonstrates questionable wing confirmation. His secondaries and primaries are flat across the top- no gap when viewed from the side. However, there is a visible gap between the secondaries and primaries when viewed from above. The secondaries are stacked upon themselves to some degree and each feather is rotated slightly toward the body, giving the secondary group a slight "cupped" appearance. Both wings are similar (frequently birds will exhibit one strong wing and one weak wing.) One could proceed by comparing this bird to his brothers; if some do not exhibit these traits, it can be assumed a flaw and the bird can be culled. If this trait only shows on one wing, or shows very consistently across brothers of the same age, the breeder may consider holding the bird for evaluation at an older age.

Concerning gap between secondaries and primaries, visible only from above.

