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# MARANS

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**CLASSIFICATION:**

Heavy breed: Soft feather

**EGG COLOUR:**

Dark brown. (Sitters)

**MASSES:**

**LARGE FOWL**

|           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| Cock:     | 3.7 kg |
| Cockerel: | 3.2 kg |
| Hen:      | 3.2 kg |
| Pullet:   | 2.7 kg |

**BANTAMS**

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| Male:   | 1.5 kg maximum |
| Female: | 1.3 kg maximum |

Taking its name from the town of Marans in France, this breed has in its make-up such breeds as Coucou de Malines, Croad Langshans, Rennes, Faverolles, Barred Plymouth Rock, Braekel and Gatinaise. It was developed around 1920 as a dual-purpose sitting breed. As with many utility type breeds around this time, there was great pressure to export the Marans before the type was properly fixed (which took longer due to the number of breeds that were used to create it). The original birds were producing many variations from the standard type but when it was brought to England in 1929, the type was fixed and by the mid 1930's, the first Cuckoo Marans entered the British Poultry Standards. In France, the standard was approved on January 15, 1931.

The original Marans had lightly feathered legs, something that can still be seen in French birds. Many strains of Copper Black Marans (non-standard in the UK) still have reasonable amounts of feathering on the legs and are often referred to as 'French Copper Black Marans' because of this. The British Poultry Standards lists feathered shanks as a serious defect. The American Poultry Association has stated that if a Marans is accepted to their standard, it will no doubt have feathered shanks and a cleaned shanked bird will not be accepted

Like other barred breeds the Cuckoo Marans hens can be mated with males of other suitable unbarred breeds to give sex-linked offspring on the white headspot distinguishing characteristic.

## **GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS**

### **THE MALE**

**Carriage:** Active, compact and graceful.

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Type:</b>          | Body of medium length with good width and depth throughout; front broad, full and deep. Breast long, well fleshed, of good width, and without keeliness. Tail well carried, high. The line of the inclined flat back must not form the deep curved or concave "boat" shape, sought after in other breeds such as the Barnevelder or Langshan for example.              |
| <b>Head:</b>          | Refined. Beak deep and of medium size. Eyes large and prominent; pupil large and defined. Comb single, medium size, straight, erect, with five to seven serrations. Face smooth or with fine feathers. Wattles of medium size and fine texture. Lobe not touching the nape of the neck.                                                                                |
| <b>Neck:</b>          | Of medium length with long and abundant hackle feathers covering the shoulders well.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Wings:</b>         | Fairly short, close to the body and carried horizontally.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Tail:</b>          | Broad at the base, full, rather short, slightly raised, carried at a maximum of 45°.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Legs and feet:</b> | Legs of medium length, wide apart, and good quality bone. Thighs well fleshed but not heavy in bone. Toes: four, well spread and straight, sole colour depending on variety.<br><br><b>Important:</b> Shanks clean and unfeathered in the clean leg variety. Shanks sparsely feathered to the outer toe of the feathered leg variety. Both leg varieties are accepted. |
| <b>Plumage:</b>       | Dense, fairly tight and of silky texture generally.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Handling:</b>      | Firm, as befits a table breed. Flesh white, and skin of fine texture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

### THE FEMALE

General characteristics similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

Back more horizontal than male. Tail small and tight. Comb thin, straight or slightly inclined, but the front the comb must be straight and vertical up to the first serration and not exceeding the line of the eye.

Both table and laying qualities to be taken carefully into account.

Clean Leg Variety



Feathered Leg Variety



### SERIOUS DEFECTS / DISQUALIFICATIONS

General coarseness. Lack of activity. Superfine bone. Any points against utility or reproductive values.

## **SERIOUS DEFECTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

Deformities, other than four toes. Body narrow or triangular or too short. Too much feathering in shanks of the feathered leg variety. Feathers in shanks and toes of the clean leg variety. Shanks too short. Tail carried too high. Comb in female completely inclined. Pigmentation in shanks of Whites.

### **Minor defects in Blacks:**

Restricted white in under-colour of both sexes. A little darkish pigmentation in white shanks. Dull colour in plumage (no sheen).

## **COLOUR**

### **In both sexes:**

**Beak:** White or horn, depending on variety, quite strong, slightly hooked.  
**Eyes:** Bright orange preferred to red.  
**Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:** Red.  
**Legs and feet:** Pinkish white to greyish, but colour depending on variety.

### **BLACK MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:** Dark horn  
**Legs and Feet:** Grey, soles pinkish white to greyish.  
**Plumage:** Black throughout, with a green sheen. No other colour in plumage allowed.

### **BIRCHEN**



This colour is also known as Silver Black or Silver Birchen

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:** Dark horn.

**Legs and Feet:**

Pinkish white to greyish.

**Plumage:**

**Male:** Hackle, back, saddle, shoulder coverts and wing bows silver white, the neck hackle with narrow black striping. Remainder rich black, Breast black or having a narrow silver margin around each feather, giving it a regular laced appearance gradually diminishing to perfect black thighs.

**Female:** Hackle similar to that of the male. Remainder rich black. Breast black or very delicately laced as in the male.

### **BLACK-TAILED BUFF**



This colour is also known black-tailed mahogany fawn.

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:**

Light horn.

**Legs and Feet:**

Pinkish white.

**Plumage:**

**Male:** The whole plumage is bright golden reddish colour. The head and the hackles are bright golden-fawn coloured as are the lancets, which are slightly darker. Shoulder and wing covers are darker, and mahogany-red deeply coloured. Primary flights; black with external half edged with brown. Secondary flights; brown with internal half edged with black. Tail black, with some brown edges. Under colour salmon/buff. Black spots at the hackles' extremity are a fault.

**Female:** The whole plumage is fawn/buff coloured and plain. The slight difference between the hackles and the shoulders is less contrasted than in the cock. The head and hackles are golden-fawn coloured with black lacing on the bottom feathers, which are in contrast to the clear coloured hackle of the cock. Black tail with main tail feathers edged with brown. Flights, shank, and under colour the same as the cock.

## COPPER BLACK



This colour is also known as Brown Red, Black Copper, Black Copper-neck, Golden Birchen or Red Birchen.

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:** Dark horn.

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white to greyish.

**Plumage:** **Male:** Hackle, back and wing bow bright copper red, the neck hackle feathers striped down the center with black. Remainder black with green sheen, the breast feathers black or edged with copper as low as the top of the thighs. No brown or other colour in plumage allowed.

**Female:** Neck hackle dark copper red to the top of the head, the lower feathers being striped with black. Remainder black with green sheen, the breast black or laced as in the male, the shoulders free from ticking and the back from lacing. No brown or other colour in plumage allowed.

## COPPER BLUE



This colour is also known as Blue Red Birchen.

### MALE AND FEMALE

**Beak:** Dark horn.

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white to greyish.

**Plumage:** Black in Copper Black replaced by blue.

**Male:** Hackle, back and wing bow bright copper red, the neck hackle feathers striped down the center with blue. Remainder uniform blue, the breast feathers blue or edged with copper as low as the top of the thighs. Copper is often lighter, compared to the black variety. No brown or other colour in plumage allowed.

**Female:** Neck hackle copper red to the top of the head, the lower feathers being striped with blue. Remainder uniform blue, the breast blue or laced as in the male, the shoulders free from ticking and the back from lacing. Copper is often lighter, compared to the black variety. No brown or other colour in plumage allowed.

## **COLUMBIAN**



This colour is also referred to as Ermine.

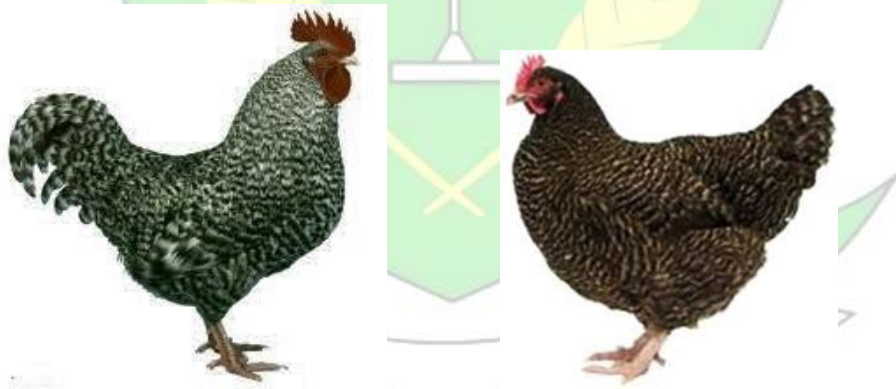
### **MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white. Bluish shanks a minor defect.

**Plumage:** Head and neck plumage white striped with black, the center of each feather entirely surrounded by a white margin. Wings white with black in flights. Tail: black, remainder pure white. Black striping in saddle of males allowed.

## **DARK CUCKOO**



### **MALE AND FEMALE**

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white.

**Plumage:** Cuckoo throughout, each feather barred across with bands of blue-black. A lighter shaded neck in both male and female, and also the back of the male, is permissible, if definitely barred. Cuckoo throughout is the ideal, as even as possible.

## GOLDEN CUCKOO



### MALE AND FEMALE

**Beak:** Light horn.

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white.

**Plumage:** **Male:** Hackles bluish-grey with golden and black bars; neck paler than saddle. Breast bluish-grey with black bars, pale golden shading on upper part. Thighs and fluff light bluish grey with medium black barring. Back, shoulders and wing-bows bluish-grey with rich bright golden and black bars. Wing bars bluish-grey with black bars; golden fringe permissible. Wings: primaries dark blue-grey, lightly barred; secondaries: dark blue-grey, lightly barred, with slight golden fringe. Tail dark blue-grey barred with black. General cuckoo markings.

**Female:** Hackle medium bluish-grey with golden and black bars. Breast dark bluish-grey with black bars, pale golden shading on upper parts. Remainder dark bluish-grey with black bars. General cuckoo markings.

## SILVER CUCKOO



### MALE AND FEMALE

- Beak:** Light horn.
- Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white.
- Plumage:** **Male:** Mainly white in neck and showing white on upper part of breast, also on top. Remainder barred throughout, with lighter ground colour than Dark Cuckoo.
- Female:** Mainly white in neck and showing white on upper part of breast. Remainder barred throughout, with lighter ground colour than the Dark Cuckoo.

### GOLDEN SALMON



### MALE AND FEMALE

- Beak:** Dark Horn
- Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white to greyish
- Plumage:** **Male:** Head and neck rich golden brown. Hackles: rich golden brown as uniform as possible, free from black striping, yet under parts (out of sight) may show a little striping. Back, shoulder coverts and wing bow: bright red-brown. Wing coverts: black with green sheen forming a broad bar across (a little brown peppering permissible); primaries (out of sight when wing is closed): inner web black, outer web brown; secondaries: outer web brown, inner web black with brown peppering. Main tail: black with beetle green sheen; coverts: upper black, lower black edged with brown. Breast: black with red mottling. Abdominal and thigh fluff: black and red mottled.
- Female:** Head: golden brown. Hackle: golden brown or copper, the lower feathers with black striping and golden shaft. Breast: rich chestnut red going well down to the lower parts. Back and wing bow: reddish brown, shaft of feather showing lighter. Wing bar: chestnut brown; primaries: inner web black, outer brown; secondaries: outer web brown, coarsely stippled with black; inner web black, slightly peppered with brown. Abdomen and thighs: brown with grey shading. Tail: black, outer feathers pencilled with brown.

## SILVER SALMON



### MALE AND FEMALE

**Beak:** Dark Horn

**Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white to greyish

**Plumage:** **Male:** Head, neck and hackles: white. Breast: black with white mottling. Back, shoulder coverts and wingbow: white. Wing primaries: flight feathers, inner web black, outer web white; secondaries: outer web white, inner web black, with white peppering, coverts: black with green sheen forming a broad bar across primaries. Main tail: black with beetle green sheen coverts: upper black, lower black edged with white. Abdominal and thigh fluff: black with white mottling.

**Female:** Head and skull: silvery white. Hackle: silvery white and lower feathers with black striping, and white shaft. Breast: salmon red or robin red. Back and wing bow: silvery grey, shaft of feather showing light. Wing bar: silvery grey; primaries: inner web black, outer web white; secondaries: outer web white, coarsely stippled with black, inner web black slightly peppered with white. Abdomen and thighs: silvery grey. Tail: black outer feathers pencilled with white.

## WHEATEN



### **MALE AND FEMALE**

- Beak:** Light horn.
- Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white. Bluish shanks a minor defect.
- Plumage:** **Male:** Head orange-red. Neck hackle light orange, free from black striping. Back and saddle orange to crimson. Wing bow orange; wing bar black with green sheen; primaries black; secondaries rich brown on outer edge, black on inner and tips, which form the brown wing bay, only showing when the wing is closed. Remainder black with a green sheen.
- Female:** Head and hackle golden-orange, very lightly striped with black running clear on the head. Breast light salmon diminishing to fawn or cream on thighs. Body colour pale cinnamon or wheaten. Primaries black with wheaten to outer edge; secondaries black with dark wheaten to outer edge. Tail black except top feathers which, with tail coverts, are darker wheaten.

### **WHITE**

### **MALE AND FEMALE**

- Beak:** Light horn.
- Legs and Feet:** Pinkish white.
- Plumage:** White throughout. Slight straw colour in adult males allowed.

| SCALE OF POINTS                                                                                 |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Type, carriage and table merits (to include type of breast and fleshing, also quality of flesh) | 40         |
| Size and quality                                                                                | 25         |
| Colour and markings                                                                             | 15         |
| Head                                                                                            | 5          |
| Condition                                                                                       | 10         |
| Legs and feet                                                                                   | 5          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                                    | <b>100</b> |

### **BANTAMS**

Marans bantams should be true miniatures of their large counterparts.