
MODERN GAME

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CATEGORY: Hard feather
EGG COLOUR: Tinted (Sitters)
CLASSIFICATION: Heavy breed

MASSES:

LARGE

Cock	3.2 – 4.1 kg
Hen	2.3 – 3.2 kg
Cockerel	3.2 – 4.1 kg
Pullet	2.3 – 3.2 kg

BANTAMS

Cock	570g – 680g
Hen	450g – 570g
Cockerel	570g – 680g
Pullet	450g – 570g

By the introduction of Malay/Old English Game crosses, and with the skill of British fanciers, the Modern Game fowl was evolved as a pure fanciers exhibition bird in contrast to the pit Games used for cock fighting. The Malay Cross was used to improve “reach” and for tighter feathering. Those olden day breeders are to be respected for the skill by which they eliminated by breeding the coarseness of the Malay.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage: Upstanding and active. In the show-pen the bird should show plenty of “lift” as if reaching to its fullest height.

Type: Body short, flat back, wide front and tapering to the tail, shaped like a smoothing iron. Shoulders prominent and carried well up. Wings short and strong. Tail short, fine, closely whipped together, carried slightly above the level of the body, the sickles narrow, well pointed and only slightly curved.

Head: Long, snaky and narrow between the eyes. Beak long, gracefully curved and strong at the base. Eyes prominent. Comb single, small, upright, of fine texture, evenly serrated. Face smooth. Ear-lobes and wattles fine and small to match the comb.

Note: It was customary to dub the Game male, to remove comb, earlobes, and wattles, and thus leave the head and lower jaw smooth and free from ridges.

Neck: Long and slightly arched, fitted with “wiry” feathers, but thin at the junction with the body.

Legs and feet: Legs long and well rounded. Thighs muscular. Shanks free of feathers. Toes four, long, fine and straight, the fourth (or hind) toe straight out and flat on the ground, not downwards against the ball of the foot (or “duck-footed”), which is most objectionable.

Plumage: Short and hard.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

SERIOUS DEFECTS/DISQUALIFICATIONS

Eyes other than standard colour. Flat shins. Crooked breast. Twisted toes or “duck feet”. Wry tail . Crooked back.

COLOURS

Colour is very important in Moderns. Varieties include black-reds, duckwings, piles, brownreds, birchens, blacks, whites and blues. Self-colours were been brought to excellence a few years ago, but are now seldom seen. Legs and feet vary with the colour-varieties, from yellow in piles and whites through willow in black-reds to black in birchens. Eyes similarly vary from bright red to black. Combs and faces vary from bright red to dark purple and black. Leg colours are definitely tied to each variety. Thus whites and piles must always have yellow legs, while shanks are willow in duckwings and black in brown-reds. (Colours are not so numerous as in the Old English Game).

THE BIRCHEN

THE MALE

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

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle similar to that of the male. Remainder rich black, the breast very delicately laced as in the male.

In both sexes:

Beak: Dark horn.

Eyes: Black.

Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Dark purple.
Legs and feet: Black

THE BLACK-RED

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap orange-red. Neck hackle light orange, free from black stripe. Back and saddle rich crimson. Wing bow orange; bar green-black; primaries black; secondaries rich bay on the outer edge, black on the inner and tips, the rich bay alone showing when the wing is closed. The remainder green-black.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle gold, slightly striped with black, running to clear gold on the cap. Breast rich salmon, running to ash on thighs. Tail black, except the top feathers, which should match the body colour. Remainder light partridge-brown ground, very finely pencilled, and a slight golden tinge pervading the whole, which should be even throughout, free from any ruddiness whatever and with no trace of pencilling on the flight feathers.

In both sexes:

Beak: Dark green.
Eyes: Black.
Eyes, comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Bright red
Legs and feet: Willow



THE BLUE-RED

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap orange, hackles and saddle gold, free from blue striping. Back and wing bow rich red; bars lustrous blue; outer edge secondaries and edging of lower primaries bay, the bay alone showing when the wing is closed. All other sections an even, clear, rich medium to pale blue except tail which is a darker shade of blue.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackles gold, slightly striped with blue. Breast light salmon, running to slatey-blue on thighs. Remainder a rich, rich, medium to pale blue; back, shoulders, wing bows, secondaries and top feathers of tail finely and evenly fringed with golden-brown.

In both sexes:

Beak: Dark horn.
Eyes, comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Red
Legs and feet: Willow

THE BROWN-RED

THE MALE

Plumage: Hackle, back and wing bow bright lemon, the neck hackle feathers striped down the centre with green-black not brown. Remainder greenblack, the breast feathers edged with pale lemon as low as the top of the thighs.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle light lemon to the top of the head, the lower feathers being striped with green-black. Remainder green-black, the breast laced as in the male, the shoulders free from ticking and the back from lacing.

Note There should be only two base colours in brown-reds; lemon and black. In the male the lemon should be very rich and bright, and in the female light; the black in both sexes should have a bright green gloss known as beetle green.

In both sexes:

Beak: Very dark horn, black preferred
Eyes, comb, face, wattles, and ear-lobes: Red
Legs and feet: Black

THE WHEATEN (Light Red)

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap orange-red. Neck hackle light orange, free from black striping. Back and saddle orange to crimson. Wing bow orange; bar green-black; primaries black; secondaries rich bay on outer edge, black on inner and tips, the rich bay alone showing when the wing is closed. Remainder green-black. Altogether showing a brighter top colour than the 'partridge' black-red male.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle golden-orange very lightly striped with black running clear on the cap. 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.

In both sexes:

Beak: Yellowish horn.

Eyes, comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Red

Legs and feet: Willow, often showing yellowish soles, a distinguishing mark of the wheaten.

THE LEMON-BLUE

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap, hackles, back and wing bows bright lemon, hackle feathers striped with blue. Remainder an even, clear, rich, medium to pale blue, breast feathers finely laced with lemon as far down as top of thighs, with no lemon shafting. Tail a darker shade of blue.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle light lemon to top of head, lower feathers striped with blue. Remainder an even, clear, rich medium to pale blue, breast laced as in male.

In both sexes:

Beak: Black or blue.

Eyes: Black

Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Mulberry (gypsy-faced) and as dark as possible.

Legs and feet: Black or blue.

THE SILVER-BLUE

THE MALE

Plumage: Cap, hackles, back and wing bows silvery white, hackle feathers striped with blue. Remainder an even, clear, rich, medium to pale blue, breast feathers finely laced with silvery-white as far down as top of thighs, with no silver shafting. Tail a darker shade of blue.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle silvery-white to top of head, lower feathers striped with blue. Remainder an even, clear, rich medium to pale blue, breast laced as in male.

In both sexes:

- Beak:** Black or blue.
Eyes: Black
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Mulberry (gypsy-faced) and as dark as possible.
Legs and feet: Black or blue.

THE GOLDEN DUCKWING

THE MALE

- Plumage:** Hackle cream-white, free from striping. Back and saddle pale orange or rich yellow. Wings; bow pale orange or rich yellow; bars and primaries black with a blue sheen; secondaries pure white on the outer edge, black on inner tips, the pure white alone showing when the wing is closed. Remainder black with blue sheen.

THE FEMALE

- Plumage** Hackle silver white, finely striped with black. Breast 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 ear-lobes: Red.
Legs and feet: Willow.

THE SILVER DUCKWING

THE MALE

- Plumage:** Hackle, back, saddle, shoulder coverts and wing bows silver white. Secondaries pure white on the outer edge and black on the inner, with tips of bay, the white alone showing when the wing is closed. Remainder lustrous blue-black.

THE FEMALE

- Plumage:** Hackle silver white, finely striped with black. Breast pale salmon, diminishing to pale ash grey on thighs. Tail black, except top feathers which should match the body colour. Remainder light French grey with almost invisible black pencilling.

In both sexes:

- Beak:** Dark horn.
Eyes: Ruby red.
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Red.

Legs and feet: Willow.

THE PILE

THE MALE

Plumage: Hackle one shade of bright orange-yellow. (dark or washy hackles to be avoided.) Back and saddle rich maroon. Wing bow maroon; bar white and free from splashes; primaries white; secondaries dark chestnut on the outer edge and white on the inner and tips, the dark chestnut alone showing when wing is closed. Remainder pure white.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle white, tinged with gold. Breast rich salmon red. Remainder pure white.

In both sexes:

Beak: Yellow.
Eyes: Ruby cherry red.
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Red.
Legs and feet: Rich orange-yellow.

SPLASH

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: Mixture of black, red, white or blue, giving an overall appearance of being white to light grey.
Fluff: White to light grey.
Face: Red.
Eyes: Red, orange or dark brown to black.
Beak, legs and nails: Any self-colour. Mottling allowed.

THE BLACK

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: Black, free from any other colour, with a purple or green sheen (the latter preferred).

In both sexes:

Beak: Black.
Eyes: Black
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Mulberry (gypsy-faced) and as dark as possible.
Legs and feet: Black.

THE WHITE

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: Pure white, free from any other colour.
Beak: Yellow.
Eyes, comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Red
Legs and feet: Yellow.

THE BLUE

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Plumage: An even, clear, rich medium to pale blue free from lacing but with darker blue top colour in males and hackle of females.

In both sexes:

Beak: Black or blue.
Eyes: Black
Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Mulberry (gypsy-faced) and as dark as possible
Legs and feet: Black or blue.
Note: The blacks, blues and whites are now seldom seen.

BANTAMS

Modern Game bantams follow the standard for the large fowl. Fine body, “reachiness” and colour are the main points in bantams. The bantam is the favourite of “die-hard” showmen.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and style	30
Head and neck	10
Eyes	10
Tail	10
Legs and feet	10
Colour	20
Condition and shortness of feather	10
TOTAL	100

