
BRAHMA

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ORIGIN:	Asia
CLASSIFICATION:	Heavy breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Tinted (Sitters)
MASSES:	
LARGE	
Cock	5.0 kg min
Hen	3.5 kg min
BANTAMS	
Cock	2.0 kg max
Hen	1.5 kg max

The origin of the Brahma is wrapped in a deal of mystery, although it is accepted as of Asiatic ancestry. Its original name of Brahma-Pootra, after the river Brahmaputra in India, supports the first arrival of such stock in New York in 1846 from India. Stock reached Britain in 1853. Much of the confusion at the time may have been associated with the lack of uniformity and of breed characteristics in the extra-large and profusely feathered breeds being shipped from China. Both light and pencilled Brahmas were included in the British Poultry Club's first Book of Standards issued in 1865, and the breed was developed with the pea comb as a characteristic.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Sedate but fairly active.
Body:	Broad, square and deep. Back: short, either flat or slightly hollow between the shoulders, the saddle rising halfway between the hackle and the tail until it reaches the tail coverts. Breast: full, with horizontal keel. Wings: medium sized with lower line horizontal, free from twisted or slipped feathers, well tucked under the saddle feathers, which should be of ample length. Tail: of medium length, rising from the line of the saddle and carried nearly upright, the quill feathers well spread, the coverts broad and abundant, well curved, and almost covering the quill feathers.
Head:	Small, rather short, of medium breadth, and with slight prominence over the eyes. Beak: short and strong. Eyes: large, prominent. Comb: triple or 'pea' small, closely fitting and drooping behind. Face: smooth, free from feathers or hairs. Ear-lobes: long and fine, free from feathers. Wattles: small, fine and rounded, free from feathers.

- Neck:** Long, covered with hackle feathers that reach well down to the shoulders, a depression being apparent at the back between the head feathers and the upper hackle.
- Legs & Feet:** Legs: moderately long, powerful, well apart and feathered. Thighs: large and covered in front by the lower breast feathers. Fluff: soft, abundant, covering the hind parts and standing out behind the thighs. Hocks: amply covered with soft rounded feathers or with quill feathers provided they are accompanied with proportionately heavy shank and foot feathering. Shank feather profuse, standing well out from legs and toes, extending under the hock feathers and to the extremity of the middle and outer toes, with profuse leg and foot feather. Vulture hocks should be penalised by deduction of points. Toes: four, straight and spreading.
- Plumage:** Profuse but hard and close compared to the Cochin.

THE FEMALE

With the exception of the neck and legs, which are rather short, the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Comb other than 'pea' type. Badly twisted hackle or wing feathers. Total absence of leg feather. Lack of size in adults. Total lack of condition. White legs. Any deformity. Buff on any part of the plumage of Light. Much red or yellow in plumage or much white in tail of dark males. Utter want of pencilling, or patches brown or red in the plumage of Dark females. Split or slipped wings.

COLOURS

In both sexes and all colours:

- Beak:** Yellow or yellow and black.
- Eyes:** Orange-red.
- Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:** Bright red.
- Legs and feet:** Orange-yellow or yellow except where otherwise indicated.

THE BLACK (CODE: 120)



Matthieu Leuridan

Legs and feet: Orange-yellow or yellow, slate legs allowed but soles of feet must be yellow.

BOTH SEXES

Plumage: Lustrous black throughout with beetle green sheen. Undercolour black or charcoal.

COLOUR DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any other colour than black, black soles of feet.

THE BLUE (CODE: 148)



Matthieu Leuridan



Legs and feet: Orange-yellow or yellow, slate legs allowed but soles of feet must be yellow

THE MALE

Plumage: Head, Hackle, Saddle, Back, and Wingbow: Dark Bluish-slate. The remainder of the plumage bluish-slate, with dark blue lacing permitted.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head: Dark Bluish-slate, Hackle Bluish-slate each feather distinctly laced with dark bluish-slate. The remainder of plumage bluish-slate, with dark blue lacing permitted.

COLOUR DISQUALIFICATIONS

Any other colour than bluish-slate. Brassiness in hackle, shoulders, and saddle. Black/slate soles of feet.

THE BLUE LIGHT COLUMBIAN (CODE: 176)



Matthieu Leuridan

THE MALE

Plumage: Head: silver white. Neck and saddle hackles silver white, with a sharp stripe of bluish-slate in the center of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from white shaft. Saddle: white preferably, but white slightly striped with blue in birds with dark neck hackles. Wing primaries: blue or edged with white; secondaries: white outside and blue on part of the inside web. Tail: blue, or edged with white. Remainder clear white, with white, blue-white, or slate under colour, not visible when the feathers are undisturbed. Blue and white admissible in toe feathering. Shank feathers: white.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle: silver white striped with blue (dense at the lower part of the hackle), the blue center of each feather entirely surrounded by a white margin. In other respects, the colour of the female is similar to that of the male.

THE BLUE PARTRIDGE (CODE: 186)



Matthieu Leuridan

THE MALE

Plumage: Head dark orange red, neck hackle bright orange or golden red, becoming lighter towards the shoulders and preferably shading off as near lemon colour as possible, each feather distinctly striped down the middle with blue and free from shaftiness, blue tipping or blue fringe. Saddle hackle to resemble neck hackle as nearly as possible. Breast, thighs, underparts, tail, coverts, wing butts and foot feathers, hock feather, and fluff: Bluish-slate, free from white. Back: shoulder secondaries blue inner web, wing bay outer, showing a distinct wing bay when closed.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head and neck hackle: light gold or straw, each feather distinctly striped down the middle with blue. Remainder clear light partridge brown, finely and evenly pencilled all over with concentric rings of dark shade (preferably bluish-slate). The whole of uniform shade and marking and the ground colour of the soft brown shade are frequently described as the colour of a dead oak leaf, with three concentric rings of pencilling or more over as much of the plumage as possible.

THE BLUE SALMON (CODE: 193)



Matthieu Leuridan

THE MALE

Plumage: Hackles and saddle: straw, ideally free from striping. Back, shoulders, and wing bows bright cherry mahogany. Breast, thighs and under fluff, tail, and shank feathering: blue. Wing bar: blue. Primaries: blue. Secondaries: white outer edge, blue inner edge, and at tips.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Breast, thighs, and fluff: cream. Remainder wheaten brown; head and neck striped with a dark shade of the same colour (free from blue, blue in hackle to be heavily penalised), and the wings softer and lighter than back. Primaries, secondaries, and tail: wheaten brown.

THE BLUE SILVER ORANGE (CODE: 199)



Matthieu Leuridan

THE MALE

Plumage: Head: yellow-white to light straw. Neck and saddle hackles yellow straw, with a sharp stripe of blue-slate in the center of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from white shaft. Breast, under part of body, thighs, and fluff: intense blue-slate. Back: yellow straw, except between the shoulders where the feathers are glossy blue laced with straw. Wing bows: Orange-red; primaries: blue, mixed with occasional feathers having a narrow straw outside edge; secondaries: part of outer web (wing bay) white shading to orange, remainder (wing butt) blue; coverts: blue, forming a distinct bar across the wing when folded. Tail: blue, or coverts laced (edged) with straw. Leg feathers: blue, or slightly mixed with straw.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head yellow-white striped with blue or grey. Neck hackle similar to that of the male, or pencilled centers. Tail: blue, or edged with grey, or pencilled. Remainder any shade of orange-grey finely pencilled with blue, following the outline of each feather, sharply defined, uniform, and numerous free from smut.

THE BLUE SILVER PARTRIDGE (CODE: 200)



THE MALE

Plumage: Head: silver white. Neck and saddle hackles silver white, with a sharp stripe of blue-slate in the center of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from white shaft. Breast, under part of body, thighs, and fluff: intense blue-slate. Back: silver white, except between the shoulders where the feathers are glossy blue laced with white. Wing bows: silver white; primaries: blue, mixed with occasional feathers having a narrow white outside edge; secondaries: part of outer web (wing bay) white, remainder (wing butt) blue; coverts: blue, forming a distinct bar across the wing when folded. Tail: blue, or coverts laced (edged) with white. Leg feathers: blue, or slightly mixed with white.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head silver white or striped with blue or grey. Neck hackle similar to that of the male, or pencilled centers. Tail: blue, or edged with grey, or pencilled. Remainder any shade of clear grey finely pencilled with blue, following the outline of each feather, sharply defined, uniform, and numerous, free from smut.

THE BUFF COLUMBIAN (CODE: 238)



Matthieu Leuridan

THE MALE

Plumage: Head golden buff. Neck and saddle hackles: golden buff with a sharp stripe of brilliant black in the center of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from buff shaft. Saddle: golden buff preferably, but slightly striped with black in birds having very dark neck hackles. Wing primaries: black or edged with golden buff; secondaries: golden buff outside and black on part of inside web. Tail: black, or edged with golden buff. Remainder a clear golden buff, with buff under-colour. Black and buff in toe feathering. Shank feathers: buff.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle: golden buff striped with black (dense at the lower part of the hackle) the black center of each feather entirely surrounded by a golden buff margin. In other respects, the colour of the female is similar to that of the male.

THE BLUE BUFF COLUMBIAN (CODE: 236)



Matthieu Leuridan

Plumage: Markings the same as the Buff Columbian, but the black is replaced with an even shade of clear bluish slate or blue. Fluff colour light buff or blue-grey, blue-grey preferred. This colour is also known as Blue Buff Columbian.

COLOUR DEFECTS

Black in feathers. Too light or too dark blue.

THE COLUMBIAN (CODE: 278)



THE MALE

Plumage: Head, neck hackle and saddle as in the dark variety. Wing primaries: black or edged with white; secondaries: white outside and black on part of the inside web. Tail: black, or edged with white. Remainder clear white, with blue-white, or slate undercolour, barely visible when the feathers are undisturbed. Black and white are admissible in toe feathering. Shank feathers: white.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle: silver white striped with black (dense at the lower part of the hackle), the black centre of each feather entirely surrounded by a white margin. In other respects, the colour of the female is similar to that of the male.

THE DARK (CODE: 296)



THE MALE

Plumage: Head: silver white. Neck and saddle hackles silver white, with a sharp stripe of brilliant black in the center of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from white shaft. Breast, under part of body, thighs and fluff: intense glossy black. Back: silver white, except between the shoulders where the feathers are glossy black laced with white. Wing bows: silver white; primaries: black, mixed with occasional feathers having a narrow white outside edge; secondaries: part of outer web (wing bay) white, remainder (wing butt) black; coverts: glossy black, forming a distinct bar across the wing when folded. Tail: black, or coverts laced (edged) with white. Leg feathers: black, or slightly mixed with white. This colour is also known as Silver Pencilled.

THE FEMALE

Plumage:

Head silver white or striped with black or grey. Neck hackle similar to that of the male, or pencilled centers. Tail: black, or edged with grey, or pencilled. Remainder any shade of clear grey finely pencilled with black or a darker shade of grey than the ground colour, following the outline of each feather, sharply defined, uniform, and numerous.

THE ISABELLA PARTRIDGE (CODE: 371)



THE MALE

Plumage:

Head: Warm Isabella (Straw Yellow). Neck and saddle hackles: Straw Yellow, with a sharp stripe of Lavender in the centre of each feather tapering to a point near its extremity and free from straw shaft. Breast, under parts of body, thighs, and fluff: pure smooth lavender some hints of straw allowed. Back: Vivid Straw except between the shoulders where the lavender feathers may be laced with straw. Saddle same as the hackle, lavender edged with straw. A darker tint of straw is allowed but preference is given to birds with a uniform straw throughout. Main sickles lavender with coverts also lavender edged with straw. Wing bows: Dark Straw, primaries: lavender, with a narrow outer edge of vivid straw, secondaries: outer web (wing bay) partly straw, free from outer edge of lavender, remainder (wing butt) lavender. Wing coverts: rich lavender, forming a distinct bar across the wing when folded. Footings and leg feathers: lavender, or slightly mixed with straw.

THE FEMALE

Plumage:

Head: rich Straw yellow or striped with lavender. Neck hackle: crisp straw with sharp lavender striping free from shaftiness, the striping completely surrounded by straw, the striped hackles nearly meeting at the throat. Wings: primaries lavender on the inner web and fine straw outside the web, secondaries inner edge lavender, outer edge straw, finely pencilled with lavender. Tail: lavender, edged with straw or pencilled. Remainder of plumage rich, even, clear straw, finely pencilled with lavender, the markings numerous, sharply defined, and uniform, following the outline of the feather. Preference is given to specimens with uniform clear and concentric pencilling throughout. Hens older than 12 months are expected to have no transverse pencilling (barring).

COLOUR DEFECTS

Any white in feathers a disqualification (clearly lighter than the lavender, usually seen in the tail, foot feathers, and wings), too light ground colour as to lose sharp contrast between lavender and straw. Poor or lack of pencilling in chest and saddle.

THE ISABELLA WHEATEN (CODE: 373)



KIPPEN ENSIKLOPEDIE

THE MALE

Plumage: Hackles and saddle: straw, ideally free from lavender striping. Back, shoulders, and wing bows rich straw yellow. Breast, thighs and under fluff, tail, and shank feathering: Lavender. Wing bar: Lavender. Primaries: Lavender. Secondaries: straw outer edge, lavender inner edge, and at tips.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Breast, thighs, and fluff: lavender tinged with cream. Remainder yellow straw; head and neck striped with a dark shade of the same colour (free from lavender) and the wings softer and lighter than the back. Primaries, secondaries, and tail: lavender.

THE LIGHT (CODE: 400)



THE MALE

Plumage: Head and neck hackle as in the dark variety. Saddle: clear white. Wing primaries: black or edged with white; secondaries: white outside and black on part of inside web. Tail: black, or edged with white. Remainder clear white, with white under-colour. Black and white admissible in toe feathering. Shank feathers: white.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Neck hackle: silver white striped with black (dense at the lower part of the hackle), the black center of each feather entirely surrounded by a white margin. In other respects the colour of the female is similar to that of the male.

THE PARTRIDGE (Code: 432)



THE MALE

Plumage: Head dark orange red, neck hackle bright orange or golden red, becoming lighter towards the shoulders and preferably shading off as near lemon colour as possible, each feather distinctly striped down the middle with black and free from shaftiness, black tipping, or black fringe. Saddle hackle to resemble neck hackle as nearly as possible. Breast, thighs, underparts, tail, coverts, wing butts and foot feathers, hock feathers, and fluff: lustrous green-black, free from grey, rust, or white. Back: shoulder secondaries black inner web, wing bay outer, showing a distinct wing bay when closed.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Head and neck hackle: light gold or straw, each feather distinctly striped down the middle with black. Remainder clear light partridge brown, finely and evenly pencilled all over with concentric rings of dark shade (preferably beetle-green black). The whole of uniform shade and marking and the ground colour of the soft brown shade are frequently described as the colour of a dead oak leaf, with three concentric rings of pencilling or more over as much of the plumage as possible.

THE SALMON (CODE: 480)



The Male

Plumage: Hackles and saddle: straw, ideally free from striping. Back, shoulders, and wing bows bright cherry mahogany. Breast, thighs and under fluff, tail and shank feathering: black. Wing bar: black. Primaries: black. Secondaries: white outer edge, black inner edge, and at tips.

The Female

Plumage: Breast, thighs, and fluff: cream. Remainder wheaten brown; head and neck striped with a dark shade of the same colour (free from black, black in hackle to be heavily penalised) and the wings softer and lighter than back. Primaries, secondaries and tail: wheaten brown.

THE WHITE (CODE: 550)



Matthieu Leuridan

Plumage: Pure white throughout.

BANTAMS

The Bantams are exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts, so all standard points apply.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type, size, feather and carriage	35
Head, legs and feet	20
Colour and markings	40
Condition	5
TOTAL	100