

Plymouth Rocks

The first breed of poultry to bear this name was first exhibited at America's first poultry show, held in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1849. It is believed that these original fowls lost their identity and that the progenitors of our present Barred Plymouth Rocks were first exhibited at Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1969. These were composited of several bloodlines. The first and most prominent cross was that of a Dominique male with Black Cochins or Black Java females, which was originally made in Putnam, Connecticut. The Dominique male used was not the American or Rose Comb Dominique, which became a standard breed in 1874, but a single-combed, hawk-colored fowl commonly found in that locality. This Plymouth Rock was recognized as a distinct breed and was admitted to the first American Standard of Excellence published at Buffalo, New York, January 15, 1874.

ECONOMIC QUALITIES

Dual-purpose fowls for the production of eggs and meat. Color of skin, yellow; color of eggshells, brown. There may be considerable differences in the shades or tints of the shells, which vary from a very light to a dark brown, depending on the strain and the stage of production.

Overlarge specimens are not to be desired, as they become clumsy and poor producers. They are not the active, useful fowl desired for this dual-purpose breed. Quality of feathers is of great importance; it usually denotes early and complete feathering as well as a good protective covering.

DISQUALIFICATIONS of the Variety

Red or yellow in any part of the plumage; two or more solid black primaries or secondaries, or main tail feathers; shanks or other than yellow or dusky yellow.

STANDARD WEIGHTS

Cock..... 9 ½ pounds

Cockerel..... 8 pounds

Hen..... 7 ½ pounds

Pullet..... 6 pounds

SHAPE – MALE

COMB: Single, medium in size, set firmly on the head; thick at base, straight and upright, with five well-defined, evenly serrated points, those at front and rear shorter than those in the middle. Blade not conforming too closely to the shape of the head

BEAK: Moderately short, stout, regularly curved

FACE: Smooth surface, skin fine and soft in texture

EYES: Large, round, and prominent

WATTLES: Moderately long, uniform in size, well-rounded at lower edges. Skin fine and soft in texture, free from folds or wrinkles.

EAR-LOBES: Elongated oval, medium size

HEAD: Moderately large

NECK: Moderately long, arched

HACKLE: Abundant, flowing well over the shoulders

BACK: Rather long, broad its entire length, flat at shoulders; nearly horizontal from neck to saddle, then showing a slight concave sweep to tail

SADDLE – Moderately long, abundant, filling in well at juncture of tail

TAIL: Medium length, moderately spread, carried at an angle of thirty (30) degrees above horizontal; forming no apparent angle with back

MAIN TAIL feathers – broad and overlapping

MAIN SICKLES – well curved, concealing ends of main tail feathers and conforming to the general shape of the tail

LESSER SICKLES AND COVERTS – of medium length, well curved and sufficiently abundant to almost conceal the stiff main tail feathers when viewed in profile

WINGS: Medium size, well-folded, lower edge of folded wing is nearly horizontal. Fronts well covered by breast feathers and point well covered by saddle feathers

PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES – broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded

BREAST: Broad, moderately deep, well-rounded

BODY AND FLUFF:

BODY – rather long, broad, deep; keel extending well to front and rear of legs

FLUFF – medium in length, moderately full

LEGS AND TOES: Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from the front

LOWER THIGHS – large, medium length, well feathered, smooth

SHANKS – medium length, stout, smooth

TOES – four on each foot, medium in length, straight, well-spread

SHAPE – FEMALE

COMB: Single, medium in size, set firmly on the head, straight and upright. Evenly serrated, having five well-defined points, those at the front and rear smaller than those in the middle. BEAK: Short, stout, regularly curved

BEAK: Moderately short, stout, regularly curved

FACE: Smooth surface, skin fine and soft in texture

EYES: Large, round, prominent

WATTLES: Medium in size, well-rounded at lower edges. Skin fine and soft in texture

EAR-LOBES: Elongated oval, medium in size. Surface smooth, skin fine and soft in texture

HEAD: Moderately large

NECK: Medium in length, arched.

HACKLE: Moderately full, sufficient to cover shoulders and blend smoothly and evenly with back

BACK: Rather long, broad its entire length, flat at the shoulders; extending with a slightly concave incline to tail

TAIL: Medium length, moderately spread, carried at an angle of twenty (20) degrees above horizontal; forming no apparent angle with back

MAIN TAIL feathers – broad and overlapping

COVERTS – well developed

WINGS: Medium size, well-folded, lower edge of folded wing is nearly horizontal. Fronts well covered by breast feathers and point well covered by back feathers

PRIMARIES AND SECONDARIES – broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded

BREAST: Broad, moderately deep, well-rounded

BODY AND FLUFF:

BODY – rather long, moderately deep; keel extending well to front and rear of legs

FLUFF – medium in length, moderately full

LEGS AND TOES: Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from the front

LOWER THIGHS – large, medium length, well feathered, smooth

SHANKS – medium length, stout, smooth

TOES – four on each foot, medium in length, straight, well-spread

Barred Plymouth Rocks

COLOR – MALE AND FEMALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES, and EAR LOBES: Bright red

BEAK: Yellow

EYES: Reddish bay

SHANKS AND TOES: Yellow

PLUMAGE: Web – each feather throughout its length crossed with sharply defined, regular parallel bars of alternate light (short of positive white) and dark (short of positive black) color and ending in a narrow dark tip. The light and dark bars in each section of the male should be approximately equal in width and moderately narrow, except for in the flight and main tail feathers, which carry a slightly wider bar due to those feathers being wider. The light bars of the female should be slightly narrower than the dark ones. A 60% dark and 40% light ratio would be about right. The overall impression of the female color should be crisp and bright, not smoky or dull. All dark bars on a given feather should be approximately the same width. The same is true of the light bars. In general, the width of barring will vary with the size of the feathers in the various areas of the body, the wider bars being found in the larger feathers. Much importance is attached to the straightness of the barring, as it crosses each feather. There should be no dark overflow in the light bar and no tendency for shafting or brownish tinge to the dark bar. The light bar on any feather should be of equal width. The same is true for the dark bar on any given feather.

UNDERCOLOR OF ALL SECTIONS: Same as web, but not as distinct, due to the looseness of barbs.

Source: *American Standard of Perfection*. 45th ed., AMERICAN POULTRY ASSOC, 2025.