

APA "Marans" STANDARD



Standard of the Marans

General Description (approved 7/26/10)

The Marans breed originated in France in marshy areas close to the Atlantic coast. The breed is named after the historic port town of Marans. Evolution of the Marans type bird is said to have begun as early as the 13th century, with crosses between the local marsh hens and various gamecocks brought in to the port on ships. Gradual development of the breed then continued through the centuries, including the introduction of Brahma and Langshan blood during the late 1800s. Marans in their modern form first began appearing in French poultry shows in 1914. The Marans Club of France was organized in 1929, and that club established the first standard for Marans in 1931.

Marans have been imported to the USA in small numbers for many years now, probably beginning around the time that soldiers returned to the States after World War II. Over the years, birds and eggs have been brought in not only from France but also from countries such as England, Canada, Australia, and possibly Belgium and Switzerland. Importations of "English type" clean-legged Marans have led to the establishment of many clean-legged flocks in this country, especially in the cuckoo variety; nonetheless, the American standard adheres to the French standard calling for lightly feathered shanks and toes.

Marans are best known for their large, russet brown eggs. This is a defining characteristic of the Marans breed, so selection for egg color and size should never be neglected.

Physically the Marans is a medium-sized bird with the character of a rustic farm hen, giving an impression of solidity and strength without being coarse. The legs are lightly feathered, but leg feathering should never be excessively heavy. Eye color is bright and clear in all varieties, never darkening into brown nor paling into yellow or pearl.

Economic Qualities (approved 7/26/10)

The Marans is a general purpose fowl for production of both meat and eggs. The breed is most famous for its large, dark chocolate-russet eggs, but it is also known for the fine flavor of its meat. Color of skin white; color of egg shells very dark reddish brown.

Disqualifications (approved 7/26/10)

Yellow on shanks or toes. White ear lobes. Pearl or black eyes. Absence of feathers on shanks. (See General Disqualifications and Cutting for Defects.)

Standard Weights (approved 6/11/10)

Cock.....8 lbs. Hen.....6 1/2 lbs.
Cockerel....7 lbs. Pullet.....5 1/2 lbs.

Shape—Male (approved 6/11/10)

COMB: Single, moderately large, straight, upright, evenly serrated with five points; the blade not touching the neck.

BEAK: Long, stout and well curved.

FACE: Smooth, skin fine and soft in texture.

EYES: Large and prominent.

WATTLES: Medium in size, oval, skin fine in texture.

EAR-LOBES: Average in size, long.

HEAD: Moderate in size, slightly flattened on top, and long.

NECK: Moderately long and full, arched. Hackle abundant, flowing well over the shoulders.

BACK: Wide at the shoulders, long, flat, slightly tilted to the rear. Slightly more inclined than that of the female.

Saddle feathers -- abundant, saddle large and slightly raised.

TAIL: Full, rather short, carried at an angle of 45 degrees above horizontal.

Main tail feathers -- broad and overlapping, shorter than average.

Sickles -- shorter than average.

WINGS: Short, held close to the body, carriage nearly horizontal.

Primaries and secondaries -- broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.

BREAST: Strong, broad, and full. Well rounded when viewed from both the front and side.

BODY AND FLUFF:

Body -- deep, long and broad, especially through the shoulders which are carried high. Overall rectangular in shape.

Fluff -- medium in length.

LEGS and TOES: Legs set well apart and straight when viewed from the front.

Lower thighs -- strong and well feathered.

Shanks -- medium length, stout, and straight; lightly feathered down the outer sides.

Toes -- four long and well-separated toes on each foot. Outer toes lightly feathered, middle toes free from feathers.

PLUMAGE: Moderately tight and smooth textured.

Shape—Female (approved 7/09/10)

COMB: Single, smaller than that of the male; straight and up-right, evenly serrated with five points, and fine in texture. No female in or near production with the rear portion of the comb lopped should be discriminated against.

BEAK: Long, stout and well curved.

FACE: Smooth, skin fine and soft in texture.

EYES: Large and prominent.

WATTLES: Medium in size, oval.

EAR-LOBES: Average in size, long.

HEAD: Moderate in size, slightly flattened on top, and long.

BACK: Wide at the shoulders, long, flat, and slightly tilted to the rear. Slightly less inclined than that of the male.

NECK: Moderately long and full, arched.

TAIL: Full, rather short, carried at an angle of 45 degrees above horizontal.

Main tail feathers -- broad and overlapping, shorter than average.

WINGS: Short, held close to the body, carriage nearly horizontal.

Primaries and secondaries -- broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.

BREAST: Strong, broad, and full. Well rounded when viewed from both the front and side.

BODY AND FLUFF:

Body -- deep, long and broad, especially through the shoulders which are carried high. Should be more rounded than the male.

Fluff -- medium in length.

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

Lower Thighs -- strong and well feathered.

Shanks -- medium length, stout, and straight; lightly feathered down the outer sides.

Toes -- four long and well-separated toes on each foot. Outer toes lightly feathered, middle toes free from feathers..

PLUMAGE: Moderately tight and smooth textured.

BLACK COPPER MARANS

COLOR -- MALE

Disqualifications

Brown wing bay. (See General Disqualifications and Cutting for Defects.)

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: Bright red.

BEAK: Horn, black shading permitted.

EYES: Reddish bay.

HEAD: Lustrous deep copper, neither yellow nor mahogany.

NECK:

Hackle -- Lustrous deep copper, neither yellow nor mahogany. Some feathers, especially in the lower hackle, may include a narrow dark stripe through the middle of each feather, terminating in a point near its lower extremity.

Front of neck -- Black with markings of deep copper.

BACK: Lustrous deep copper.

Saddle -- Same as hackle.

TAIL: Main Tail -- Black with slight luster.

Sickles and Coverts -- Lustrous black.

WINGS:

Shoulders -- Black.

Fronts -- Black.

Bows -- Deep russet red.

Coverts -- Lustrous black.

Primaries -- Black.

Secondaries -- Black, exposed portion

forming black wing bay.

BREAST: Solid black or with a few copper spots. Not laced.

BODY AND STERN: Black.

LEGS AND TOES:

Lower Thighs -- Black.

Shanks and Toes -- Shanks and toes light to mid-slate, showing pink between the scales.

Bottoms of feet pinkish white.

Shank and Toe Feathers -- Black.

COLOR -- FEMALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: Bright red.

BEAK: Dark horn.

EYES: Reddish bay.

HEAD: Lustrous copper.

NECK:

Hackle -- Copper, with a narrow dark stripe through the middle of each feather, terminating to a point near its lower extremity.

Front of Neck: Black with markings of copper.

BACK: Black.

TAIL: Black.

WINGS: Black.

BREAST: Solid black, or with a few copper spots. Not laced.

BODY AND STERN: Black.

LEGS AND TOES:

Lower Thighs -- Black.

Shanks and Toes -- Dark slate, bottoms of feet pinkish white.

Shank and Toe Feathers -- Black.

WHEATEN MARANS

COLOR -- MALE

Disqualifications:

Spotted Breast. Black or no Triangular wing bays at all.

Wheaten cocks are black, with a coppery-red coat, and so looking like the Black Copper cocks except as for the triangular wing mirror which is brown.

Comb, Face, Wattles and Earlobes: Bright red.

Beak: Light horn shading to white at tip.

Eyes: Reddish bay.

Shanks and Toes: Pinkish white.

Head: Light orange, free from dark feathers.
(varying from golden-red to brown-red)

Neck:

Hackle: Light orange, free from dark feathers. (varying from golden-red to brown-red)
Front of neck: Black.

Back: Mahogany Red

Saddle: Mahogany Red color matching the hackles

Tail:

Main Tail: Black with reddish cast.
Sickles and Coverts: Black with glints of beetle green

Wings:

Shoulders: Strong Mahogany Red
Bows: Strong Mahogany Red to match back
Coverts: Lustrous Black forming a bluish black armband.
Primaries: Black, edged in brown.
Secondaries: Brown with internal Black barbs forms a Brown Triangular wing bay.

Breast: Black.

Body and Stern: Black.

Legs:

Lower Thighs—Black
Shank and Toe Feathering—Black.
Ear Down: Brown

Under-color: Light slate. Very light in hackle and saddle.

COLOR -- FEMALE

Disqualifications:

Washed off back colors.

The hens coat is a *dark* wheat color (the color of the grains of wheat). Each feather has a lighter staff and edge. Head and hackles are a rich wheaten color. The breast is *wheaten* and the underside of the body is a medium wheaten color. The secondary color is whitish.

Comb, Face, Wattles and Earlobes: Bright red.

Beak: Light horn shading to white at tip.

Eyes: Reddish bay.

Shanks and Toes: Pinkish white.

Head: Lustrous Rich Wheaten

Neck:

Hackle: Lustrous rich Wheaten
Front of neck: Wheaten
Back: Dark Wheaten

Tail: two top main feathers rich wheaten, slightly stippled with black. Balance of main tail feathers dull black, outer web, slightly edged with wheaten.

Wings:

Fronts, bows and coverts Wheaten
Primaries: outer web medium shade of wheaten; inner web, ashy wheaten stippled with brownish black.
Secondaries: outer web, wheaten; inner web, ashy wheaten shaded with brownish black.

Breast: Wheaten.

Body and Stern: Medium Wheaten.

Legs & Lower Thighs: Light Creamy Wheaten

Shank and Toe Feathering:

Creamy wheaten feathering down the outside of the leg and outer toe

Ear down: Cream color

Under-color: Varying from light Wheaten to slate

WHITE MARANS

Approved by the APA Board of Directors—January 2014

COLOR -- MALE

Disqualifications

Black or red feathers in any part of plumage. Yellow skin. Positive white in ear-lobes.

Defects

Brassiness in plumage.

Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes: Bright Red

Beak: Pinkish White

Eyes: Reddish Bay

Shanks and Toes: Pinkish White

Plumage: Web, Fluff, Shafts of all feathers, in all sections, white

COLOR -- FEMALE

Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes: Bright Red

Beak: Pinkish White

Eyes: Reddish Bay

Shanks and Toes: Pinkish White

Plumage: Web, Fluff, Shafts of all feathers, in all sections, white