

pecially have, even when young, the appearance of old birds, the abdominal protuberance being, as in the Toulouse geese, developed at a very early age. This enlargement of the lower part of the body in over fat specimens causes it to rest upon the ground, not unfrequently to the destruction of the feathers.

As to the origin of the breed, there can be little doubt that it has been bred from the Mallard. The markings found also in the wild species are considered as the criteria of perfection by poultry fanciers and judges in the present day. We give the exact points required in the exhibition pen, as laid down in the "Standard of Excellence."

General Shape and Color—The Drake.

Bill—Long, broad, and rather wider at the tip than at the base; when viewed sideways, nearly straight from the crown of the head to the tip of the bill; the longer the better. Colour, greenish yellow, without any other colour except the black bean at the tip. *Head*—Long and fine; rich lustrous green. *Eye*—Dark hazel. *Neck*—Long, slender, and neatly curved; colour, the same lustrous green as the head, with a distinct white ring on the lower part, not quite meeting at the back. *Breast*—Broad and deep; the front part very rich purplish brown, or claret colour; free from gray feathers, the claret colour extending as far as possible towards the legs. *Back*—Long; higher part ashy grey mixed with green, becoming a rich, lustrous green on the lower part and rump. *Shoulder Coverts*—Grey, finely streaked with waving brown lines. *Wings*—Greyish brown, mixed with green, with a broad ribbon mark of rich purple, with metallic reflections of blue and green, and edged with white; the two colours quite distinct. *Flight Feathers*—Dark, dusky brown, quite free from white. *Underpart of Body and Sides*—Beautiful grey, becoming lighter grey near the vent, and ending in solid black under the tail. *Tail*—Feathers hard and stiff; dark ashy brown, the outer web in old birds edged with white. *Tail Coverts*—Curled feathers,

hard and well curled; black, with very rich purple reflections, *Legs and Feet*—Orange, with a tinge of brown.

The Duck.

Bill—Broad, long, and somewhat flat; brownish orange, with a dark blotch on the upper part. *Head*—Long and fine; deep brown, with two light pale brown stripes on each side from the bill past the eye. *Neck*—Long, slender, and neatly curved; light brown, pencilled with darker brown, and quite free from the least appearance of a white ring. *Breast, Underpart of Body, and Sides*—Greyish brown, each feather marked distinctly with a rich, dark brown pencilling. *Back*—Long; light brown, richly marked with green. *Wings*—Greyish brown, mixed with green, with a broad ribbon mark of rich purple edged with white, the two colours distinct. *Flight Feathers*—Brown, perfectly free from white. *Tail Coverts*—Brown; beautifully pencilled with broad, distinct pencilling of dark greenish brown. *Tail*—Light brown, with distinct broad, wavy pencilling of dark greenish brown. *Legs*—Orange, or brown and orange.

Points in Rouen Ducks.

Shape and colour of bill, 3. Size, 4. Colour of plumage, 3. Symmetry, 3. Condition, 2. Total, 15.

Disqualifications.

Bills, clear yellow, dark green, blue or lead colour; any white in the flight feathers of either sex; birds so fat as to be down behind.

The foregoing description is so full and accurate, that no breeder, after a careful reading of it, but will be able to choose out the properly marked birds from his flock, either for exhibition or breeding purposes. The drake should be of a commanding appearance, and nothing can exceed his beauty when possessing the above colours in perfection. We trust to see this variety of duck bred much more extensively in Canada than at present. The cost of feeding is no greater than that of other ducks, and the return received, both in eggs and flesh, far exceeds that of the common duck we so frequently meet with.