

President's Message

Our first National Meet is now history and I am sure those who attended felt their time and money were well spent. Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond his control, your president was unable to attend even though the entries were mailed. Please accept my apologies for letting you down.

On the positive side of things, the hatching season is rapidly approaching. From all indications Ameraucana bantams have made great strides forward this past year in terms of shows, exhibitors, getting our message to the fancy as a whole, and most importantly in terms of type and uniformity. We are becoming recognized as a permanent addition to the exhibition poultry fancy. Makes you glad to be a part of it, doesn't it?

Here's wishing each of you a blessed holiday season and a happy and productive 1981.

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Report of 1980 National Meet

Submitted by Herbert Holtz

Champion Ameraucana bantam	... White Hen ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Reserve Champion	.. White Pullet .	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Best Wheaten	... Pullet ...	Ron Klemmedson
Reserve Wheaten	... Cockerel .	Ron Klemmedson
Best White	... Hen ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Reserve White	... Pullet ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Best Any Other Variety	... Blue Hen .	Ron Klemmedson
Reserve AOV	... Black Cockerel	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Best Ameraucana Cock	... White ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Best Ameraucana Hen	... White ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.
Best Ameraucana Cockerel	... Wheaten ..	Ron Klemmedson
Best Ameraucana Pullet	... White ...	Jerry Segler, Sr.

Our congratulations to Jerry Segler and Ron Klemmedson for their fine wins and our thanks to Mr. Herbert Holtz and the Eastern Iowa Poultry Association for hosting our first National Meet.

The Club year ends December 31. Please send your \$5. dues to the address above.

The Ameraucana is a dual purpose breed of bantams which is useful for both meat and egg production. Their type, being a study in moderation, is ideally suited for this duality. Standard weights are the same as for Wyandotte bantams, but here all similarity with the Wyandotte ends, as the feathering of Ameraucanas makes them appear a little larger and altogether different in type. Feather quality should be similar to that of Plymouth Rocks, being neither as "hard" as in games or Leghorns nor as soft as in Cochins or in Orpingtons.

The natural stance of the females results in body carriage nearly horizontal with the floor. The back should be only slightly sloping from front to rear, however male backs have slightly more slope than those of females. The body is quite long with a definite but not abrupt "break" between slope of back and rise of tail. The male tail is 45 degrees above the horizontal while that of the female is about 35 to 40 degrees. Breasts should be deep and round, hackles moderately long and flowing, and main tails of but medium length. Tail coverts are comparatively long, which results in not too much of the main tail showing. Overall appearance should not be one of extreme heaviness, but neither should it be racy or gamey.

The Ameraucana head is medium broad and somewhat flat, giving a deceptively fierce look to the best specimens. These birds are normally quite docile and tame, not flighty as some breeds tend to be. Ear lobes are red, but also very small and pale in the best females. This paleness should not be mistaken for white coloration; it often takes an experienced eye to tell the difference.

All Ameraucanas have blue or slate-blue shanks. Avoid legginess, poorly formed pea combs, and skimpy beards and muffs. Old males tend to experience prolonged molts of their muffs and beard, a real challenge in conditioning for exhibition. Avoid long beaks and narrow heads also.

The hens are excellent producers of medium sky blue eggs. Having made it a practice never to butcher hens in production, the writer has often waited more than a year to dispose of otherwise "cull" hens. The wheaten variety especially, has been selected over the years for egg production, health, and vitality. Varieties such as white, blue wheaten, and buff carry the blood of the original wheatens.

The coloration of Ameraucana wheaten females may differ from female wheatens of other breeds. The originators of the wheaten color reportedly described it as the color of red wheat, but breeders have often sought a softer, lighter shade. The Ameraucana standard calls for a uniform light-creamy shade which affords the greatest possible contrast between the sexes. This extreme sexual dimorphism is one of the attributes which makes the wheaten Ameraucana a unique and a very attractive fowl. The novice poultryman is usually surprised, upon seeing for the first time a flock of wheatens on a green lawn, to find that he is observing but a single variety. Try some Ameraucanas- you'll like them.

Welcome to Our New Member!

Keep your Breeder's Directory up to date by adding the following member:

Mary Von Kampen, Rt. 1, Box 105K, Long Beach, MS 39560

Mary is also a Sebright breeder. If our membership keeps building in the South, perhaps we can create another District for our southern members.

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Financial Report

The annual financial report, as required by the Bylaws, is as follows:

Balance brought forward	\$80.37
Income (12/5/79 - 12/5/80)	
Dues	\$127.50
Donations	\$ 20.00
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	\$227.67
Expenditures (12/5/79 - 12/5/80)	
Sommer Badge Co.-Rosettes	\$ 58.65
Advertising-Poultry Press	\$ 24.00
Bulletin/Postal expenses	\$ 40.60
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	\$123.25
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Ending Balance (12/5/80)	\$104.62
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Again this year we find our club finances well in the black. In part this is due to the generosity of certain club members who donated cash, such as District Director Ken Carpenter, and others, who picked up the bill for club expenditures such as Mike Gilbert, who paid all of the printing costs of our Constitution and Bylaws. Your secretary is also able to get paper and other Bulletin materials at a substantial savings plus duplicate the Bulletin at no cost to the club. And while the Bulletin is not professional in appearance, it only costs about \$10. per issue, which is just a fraction of what other comparable clubs must pay.

Until such time as our membership builds to the point where we can afford professional printing, please bear with us, as we are attempting to make every penny count. Your Board of Directors is working for you.

First a bit of good news- the editors of Backyard Poultry, Waterloo, WI 534, requested an article about our club and the Araucana bantam. It was sent to them, and editor Loretta Bronson writes that the article will be published in the February or March issue.

On the other hand, we received a couple of broadsides from two different sources within a week. Don Krahe, writing in the Fall APA News & Views assails those attempting to have new breeds admitted to the Standard and lists their motives as either, 1- doing so as an ego trip, or 2- trying to profit from the sale of these birds to unsuspecting newcomers to the fancy. Since Mr. Krahe does not name us specifically, he will be sent a copy of the Bulletin and give him an opportunity to reply.

The other brickbat came by way of an article in Poultry Press by Roland Williams, who mentioned us by name and accused us of not possessing the skills to breed APA recognized Araucanas, and again that bugaboo, money-making. I sent a reply to Mr. Williams' article to Poultry Press and hope that editor Bob Delancey will see fit to publish our side of the story. I really do not know what prompts these accusations of profiteering, but if there is anybody out there making money on their bantams, please let me know, as it will be a real scoop.

Psychiatrist to patient: "Just because you are paranoid does not mean that they are not out to get you!"

Back to the good news- we received the following plug from the Fall issue of Backyard Flock, by William O. Cawley, of Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843: "What's an Araucana Bantam? You can't keep a good man (or woman) down. Not for long anyway. Those breeders who had blue-egg laying araucana bantams with tails, wuffs and beards have formed a new special-ty Club since the ABA and APA would not accept their variety as Standard.

A new organization has gotten off to a flying start and the ABA has now recognized their birds as a new breed - the Araucana bantam. A description of this new breed will be included in ABA's forthcoming Bantam Standard. The club publishes an excellent newsletter four times per year."

In other news, veteran breeder Ralph Sturgeon (mentioned in the last issue under the Mulberry Tree), has published a new book on poultry breeding titled "Start Where You Are- With What You Have". It is \$5.95 postpaid at 2464-308 Rd., Bellevue, OH 44811. I have sent for my copy and am looking forward to reading it. My friend, Walt Leonard, of Santa Rosa, California, compiled the material for the book and it should be well worth having.

Speaking of books, I was able to locate a first edition of Bantams and Miniature Poul, by W.E. Silk, from a book dealer friend of British member Dorian Roxburgh, of Henley on Thames, England, and it arrived just the other day. Dorian noticed my request in the classified ad section which is a free service to members who have yet to take advantage of it. Remember, if you have any items relating to the poultry field to sell, swap, or whatever, just let me know and I will include it in the Bulletin.

Finally, let me thank those members who have written or called with the very nice remarks about the Mulberry Tree. It is rather easy to find fault with others, but the fancy is still big enough and healthy enough to tolerate all legitimate points of view and I will be glad to hear from you and your suggestions for the betterment of the club.

Submitted by Bernard Kellogg

Coulee Region Poultry Club Show, Viroqua, WI, Oct. 4-5, 1980

Champion Ameraucana bantam ... White pullet - Mike Gilbert

Reserve Champion Ameraucana ... Wheaten pullet- Bernard Kellogg

Best of Variety Plaque

White pullet ... Mike Gilbert

Wheaten pullet . Bernard Kellogg

Best Opposite of Variety

White cock ... Mike Gilbert

Wheaten cock ... Jerry Segler, Sr.

... Reverse these names on the
BOS awards. Sorry folks.

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Forthcoming Meets

California State Meet, Jan. 31-Feb.1, California National Show sponsored by the Pacific Poultry Breeders at Cal Expo Fairgrounds, Sacramento, CA. Marie Rayher, Ken Huffstutter and Jack Gard- get those entries in soon! For a premium list, contact Mike Stotts, 302 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472. See you there!

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Orangevale, California
December 14, 1980

Dear Mike,

I was sorry to hear that you missed the National Meet, but under the circumstances, I don't know what else you could have done.

All is well here and the Club seems to be in good shape.

Have a fine holiday season!

Sincerely,
Ann

