

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

Ameraucana Bantam Club - 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662

Summer, 1981

Vol. III, No. 2

President's Message

This can be a discouraging time of year for poultrymen. Often the adult birds have taken on a bedraggled appearance from a long season in the mating pens. Broken feathers, picked out muffs and beards, and overall loss of condition are quite prevalent. Then too, growing birds are never as attractive as mature ones, nor are they cute like newly hatched chicks. This is when an extra measure of patience is required along with a little extra work and care.

Young wheaten Ameraucanas, especially, can be quite unattractive until that final moult and the arrival of their adult plumage. The males appear mottled with light colored muffs and beards and the pullets can even look splotchy. Don't give up too soon! The final result will be worth the wait and your perseverance will be rewarded.

With the coming of warm weather check your bantams over for mites and lice often, and then follow up with a thorough dusting or other treatment if needed. Above all keep pens clean and provide clean fresh water at all times. If possible get the birds outside to enjoy their natural environment- even once or twice a week can make a big difference. Finally, you may wish to consider force-moulting of breeders which double as show birds.

Mature show prospects, especially the males, may come back into condition faster if provided with a separate pen. This will prevent picking out of each other's muff and beard feathers and keep broken and damaged feathers to a minimum; these should be carefully removed, one by one, in time for replacements to grow in before the special show you are planning and preparing for.

With a little patience, luck, and work you'll have those Ameraucanas in top condition again by the late summer and fall show season. Good luck!

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."
Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

Southern District

Due to the increase in membership in our Southern states, the Board of Directors, in accordance with Article VI, Section 2, of our Constitution, decided unanimously to create a Southern District. We will be electing a District Director for this new district in our general election this fall. Nominations for this and other offices are welcome.

Ameraucana Bantam Club
Breeder's Directory
-1981-

Askew, Marc 1850 Kubel Circle, Sacramento, CA 95825 WHEATEN
 Boettcher, Gail 1129 Elberta Ave., Bensalem, PA 19020
 Book, Stanley 745 North 3rd Ave., Upland, CA 91786 WHEATEN
 Bowman, Mrs. J.M. Rt. 2, Box 63, Stonewall, OK 74871
 Brooksher, Jane 25333 S. Lammers Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN
Cable, Don 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662 WHEATEN
Carpenter, Ken Star's Haven Ranch, 50 Hoag Cross Rd., Ossining, NY 10562
 Clifton, Larry 1623 Harrington Ave., S.E., Renton, WA 98055
Cook, Harry Water St., RD#1, Box 130, Eatontown, NJ 07724 BLUE
 Field, Eugene P.O. Box 1023, Patterson, CA 95363
 Fugate, John 304 W. Washington, Athens, TN 37303 WHEATEN
 Gard, Jack L. 648 N. Lawrence, Yuba City, CA 95991 WHEATEN
 Gareffa, N. 331 Iberville, Sept-Iles, Que., Canada G4R-2C9
Gary, Frank L. 5 Barbara Drive, Crosswicks, NJ 08515
Gilbert, Mike Rt. 1, Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 WHEATEN, BLUE WHEATEN,
 BLUE, BUFF and WHITE
 Hall, Mrs. Joe 16814 Tonkel Rd., Leo, IN 46765
 Holland, Bill 421 W. 5th Ave., Jerome, ID 83338
 Huffstutter, Ken 2239 Lobert St., Castro Valley, CA 94546 WHEATEN
 Hylton, Charles 600 So. Rancho Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89106
 Johnson, John 600 Post Oak Dr., Victoria, TX 77901
Keeney, D.L., Jr. 2211 Commerce St., Dallas, TX 75201
Kellogg, Bernard Box 62, Viroqua, WI 54665 BLACK, BLUE, WHEATEN,
 and WHITE
Klemmedson, Ron Rt. 1, Box 325, Blair, WI 54616 WHEATEN
 Mathies, Gloria 1245 S.W. 84th Ave., Portland, OR 97225
 Meredith, Wayne 1319 N. Jackson #107, Milwaukee, WI 53202
 Miller, W.E. P.O. Box 15, Plymouth, CA 95669 WHEATEN
 Mockler, Patrick Pond Road, Vernon, VT 05354
 Mower, Allan Staatsburg, NY 12580
 Ostrander, Evelyn 612 Dwight St., Boscobel, WI 53805 WHEATEN
 Pearson, William Rt. 2, Lynn, IN 47355 BB RED, BLACK, DUCKWING
 Purcell, Carole Rt. 4, Box 538, Newport, WA 99156
 Rayher, Marie 19822 W. Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN

Roxburgh, Dorian Greystone Cottage, Colemore Lane, Kingwood Common,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 5NA England

Riecke, Arnold J. Rt. 4, Box 35, Huntington, IN 46750

Salvin, Peter J. 151 Bull Run Rd., Trenton, NJ 08638

Segler, Jerry A., Sr. Box 23, Sparland, IL 61565 BLACK, BROWN, BROWN RED
SILVER and WHITE

Smerdu, Harold 1310 Knowles Ave., Carlsbad, CA 92008

Thomas, Dud Rt. 3, Box 36, Collinsville, OK 74021

Tutaj, Duane 17 W. 661 Lorraine Ave., Addison, IL 60101

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

Membership as of 6/15/81

Underlined names are ABC charter members

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Western District Meet

Our Western District Meet, hosted by the Golden Gate Bantam Club, included the Semi-Annual Meet of the American Bantam Association and was held at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds at San Jose, California on June 6-7. Due to the time of year, entries were light, but four of our members were in attendance, including Ken Huffstutter- last seen skulking about with a rumpless pullet- our new member from Tracy, CA, Jane Brooksher, Western District Director Marie Rayher, and your secretary. Marie received Reserve Champion Ameraucana on her hen, and Don Cable had Champion Ameraucana on a Wheaten Cock.

At this time it seems that our National Meet, to be held in the Western District this time, will be hosted by the Pacific Poultry Breeders Association at their California National Show, not in Sacramento as originally planned, but in Santa Rosa. In any case, it is usually on the last weekend in January, so you Western members start making plans to exhibit and attend this great show and support the Ameraucana National Meet held for the first time on the West Coast.

Forthcoming Meets

Wisconsin State Meet June 27-28 at Richland County Fairgrounds, Richland Center, WI. Hosted by the Badger Poultry Club. For information, contact Mrs. E.L. Poole, Sec.-Treas, Box 174, Muscoda, WI 53573. Trophies, Rosettes and cash up for grabs and plenty of competition in all varieties of Ameraucana bantams.

What Do You Feed Your Ameraucana Bantams?

Bernard Kellogg, Wisconsin:

I feed my baby Ameraucana chicks hard-boiled eggs for at least ten days along with a good mash. Also some rolled oats. Gradually, I give them bread crumbs and fine cut lettuce and continue the mash. When feathered out I feed a good scratch along with the 20% protein mash-not pellet form. When grown, an occasional treat such as fresh hamburger and sweet corn.

Ken Carpenter, New York:

I have put all my birds on Purina Game Bird Chows. My breeders get Breeder Layena- 20% protein- a handful of oats every day as a treat and whatever greens we happen to have- lettuce, spinach, cucumbers and diced apples. Chicks get Game Bird Starter mixed with finely chopped hard boiled egg. At six weeks, chicks get Game Bird Flight Conditioner and whole oats and greens as a treat.

Jerry Segler, Illinois:

I feed all my birds a mix of 150 lbs. corn, 150 lbs. oats, 50 lbs. of alfalfa meal and 50 lbs. of 48% soybean meal. Sometimes I have 50 lbs. of oyster shell ground in with it. This mixture is ground fine at the mill. I give this and chick starter to the young chicks and they are on just ground feed by one month of age.

Mike Gilbert, Wisconsin:

Our chicks are given only medicated Purina chick starter and fine granite grit for the first three to four weeks. We then offer a mixture (by weight) of 62½ % ground oats, 25% ground corn and 12½% "Bio Chicken Chowder", another Purina product. This is fed side by side with starter, then becomes their permanent ration. Adults get oyster shell as a calcium supplement and birds confined indoors get an occasional vitamin supplement (Vit-A-Pol) mixed in their water.

This program works well for us in a climate with bitterly cold winters and hot, humid summers. We get eggs year-around, and the most consistent producers we have are Ameraucana bantams.

Don Cable, California:

My bantams are on Purina Game bird Chows from chick to adult. Chicks are fed Game bird starter until four to six weeks of age and are then fed a grower until maturity. Adults are fed a breeder ration in season and a maintenance ration at other times. Chicks are allowed access to grassy runs when they leave the brooder and when fully feathered, have the run of the back yard, where they thrive on insects and glean the fallen fruit in season as well as an occasional purloined tomato.

In spite of the hazards of predators, I feel that it is important, especially for young birds, to have an opportunity to range, even on a limited basis. Perhaps Ralph Sturgeon said it best: "There is something about sunshine, green grass, and soil out on the range that we humans have never been able to put in a feed bag."

Under the Mulberry Tree

The ABA Semi-Annual Meet provided the opportunity to finally meet and talk with secretary Fred Jeffrey. We discussed the admission of the Ameraucana bantam into Bantam Standard and he said that member Bill Holland's positive report on our qualifying meet at Pleasanton last year may well have been the key factor in ABA acceptance of our breed and standard. Our thanks again, Bill!

Fred said he was impressed with the progress we had made with the Ameraucana bantam, especially on the improvement in combs on male birds. Member Jack Gard, of Yuba City, had made a similar comment on the male combs at the California National Show at Sacramento in January. It is gratifying to find evidence of progress even with much work yet to be done on the breed. Mr. Jeffrey is a fascinating chap to talk with and his grasp of genetics has brought another dimension to the office and organization that he serves so well. His knowledge is shared through ABA publications and if you are not an ABA member, you are missing a great deal of valuable information.

While examining poultry supplies in one of the commercial booths at the show, I casually glanced at the instructions for using a can of common poultry dust. If you want a good scare, try it some time! It read something like this: Do not inhale (O.K., fine!), do not let product come in contact with skin (Oh, Oh, how is this possible?), take a shower after using product (Now I'm getting worried!), wash all clothing thoroughly after using product, (I'm surprised they didn't advise burning all clothing- good grief!) The only thing they did not mention was to see a lawyer about a will. The point is, read the label folks, Rachel Carson advocate or not.

It was a pleasure to renew an old friendship with new member John Fugate of Athens, Tennessee. We had been out of contact for over a decade, but he is back in poultry after living abroad and with his knowledge and skill as a breeder, should make a real contribution to our breed and to the Club. A welcome also to new member Jane Brooksher, who holds the world record for trips over Altamont Pass, and to our second member from the state of Washington, Carole Purcell, way up there above the city of Spokane, near the Idaho border.

Finally, the mail indicates that some of our newer members are really not aware of the services and helpful information available to them by way of national poultry organizations and periodicals. I recommend the following for serious beginners:

American Bantam Association, P.O. Box 610, North Amherst, MA 01059
Annual dues \$5. Outstanding yearbook and quarterly second to none.

American Poultry Association, Box 351, RD 4, Troy, NY 12180
Annual dues \$5. Publications as per ABA, above.

Poultry Press, Box 947, York, PA 17405
Annual subscription \$7. Finest monthly tabloid available.