

# AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

**August, 1998**

**Vol.XVIII#3**

Ameraucana Breeders Club, 4599 Lange, Birch Run, MI 48415

Yearly Membership Dues are \$10.00 / Family, \$7.50 / Individual and \$5.00 / Junior.

Members receive quarterly Bulletins & are eligible for awards offered by the club.

New Members also receive a ABC Handbook.

President..... Mike Gilbert, Holmen, WI  
Director/central..... Arne Schmidt, Harris, MN  
Director/southern..... (position available)

Secretary/Treasurer. John W. Blehm, Birch Run, MI  
Director/eastern..... (position available)  
Director/western..... Koralyn Kibbee, Manhattan, MT

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Roger Woodruff Family, Spokane, WA  
Johathan, Michael & Brianna  
Barbara Hoover Family, Graham, WA  
Rosemary Michalski, Feura Bush, NY  
Iris Robertson, Belchertown, MA  
Bruce E. Nothstein, Walnutport, PA  
Karen M. Defazio, Sand Lake, NY  
Zachary Chamberlin (jr.) Boseman, MT  
William R. Lawson M.D., Napa, CA

The deadline to submit articles & ads for the next bulletin is November 15.

Are you coming to our annual National meet?

### **1998 Ameraucana Breeders Club National Meet**

Bay City Poultry Association Show, Alma MI, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Awards offer by:

#### **AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB**

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA .....Chicken Carrying Cage  
donated by Ron Klemmedson of Wisconsin.  
RESERVE CHAMPION AMERAUCANA.....\$20.00  
BEST OF BREED BANTAM .....ABC Traveling Plaque, \$10.00 & Rosette  
RESERVE OF BREED BANTAM.....\$5.00 & Rosette  
BEST OF BREED LARGE FOWL.....\$10.00 & Rosette  
RESERVE OF BREED LARGE FOWL.....\$5.00 & Rosette  
cash prizes donated by Mike Gilbert of Wisconsin.  
BEST PAIR-LARGE FOWL.....The Bruce Hutchinson Memorial Plaque  
RESERVE OF VARIETY.....\$5.00  
for the top 10 varieties shown, donated by various club members.

Awards offered by:

#### **BAY CITY POULTRY ASSOCIATION**

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA.....Trophy  
BEST BANTAM AMERAUCANA.....Trophy  
RESERVE BANTAM AMERAUCANA.....Trophy  
BEST LARGE FOWL AMERAUCANA.....Trophy  
RESERVE LARGE FOWL AMERAUCANA.....Trophy  
BEST OF VARIETY AMERAUCANA.....\$10.00 each  
for the top 10 varieties shown.

If you need more information on the Bay City show or would like to be one of the "various club members" donating award money, let me know.

This is last call to help with the costs of new club handbooks. If you buy an ad in the handbook, you will also receive one at **no charge**. A business card size ad is \$35, ½ page is \$63 & full page \$105 with a deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup>.

My goal is to have the new handbooks printed before our National. We don't have any more of the old handbooks available.

I have not received any nominations for election of officers. Refer to Article VII of our Bylaws. All positions are open and we especially need Directors for the Eastern and Southern districts.

May 1998

*...We would like to know more about the history of the breed. We love them.*

*Roger (Woodruff)*

May 28, 98

*Mr. Blehm,*

*What a nice bulletin, good job. I see you sold some Ameraucana's, that's a real good sign, ...Mr. Rennolet & Roger had called me, I gave them your name. I hope to sell some birds so I can help with a new handbook. We are anxious for our Idaho show. Will be washing birds next week...*

*Sincerely, Koralyne Kibbee*

Koralyne has gone out of her way to get some "Best of Variety" ribbons made, for our Western District members.

May 30, 1998

*Dear John:*

*I received the May Bulletin, which I enjoyed. There was a picture of a Blue Wheaten Ameraucana cock (Bantam). It is gorgeous. I would love to start in them....I will be in Columbus for the national and would also like to pick up some large stock and bantams there....I believe the Ameraucanas are a great breed and I certainly look forward to working with them. Thank you for any assistance you may give & God bless.*

*Sincerely George Patterson*

6/8/98

*Hey John-*

*How was the trip to Branson? We had a terrific trip to Montana and Idaho- have a lot of photo's to share...We got to visit with Jeannette in Great Falls-...Also visited Betty Rundquist in Idaho Falls-near Mary's relatives. Wanted to stop by Kibbee's, but our route didn't go that close to their area, ...My large-fowl brown reds appear to be a bust this year. Poor color - will have to try another male.*

The large blue-wheatens look OK so far - but they do change a lot as they grow and mature....Looks like a poor year for show-quality birds, though making some progress in bantam silver and brown-reds....

Mike G. (Gilbert)

**AUGUST 1998**

**POULTRY PRESS**

June 11, 98

John,

...I did win AOCCL w/ a white Pullet...

Koralyn

This was at Twin Falls, Idaho, June 6 & 7.

Judge: Dave Anderson

**SNAKE RIVER POULTRY ASSOCIATION -**

**CHAMPION AOCCL, A WHITE AMERAUCONA**

**PULLET BY LARRY AND KORALYN KIBBEE**



June, 1998

Dear Club Secretary,

...The Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers, ...invite you to place a meet at our upcoming show...February 27 and 28, 1999....

Sincerely, Kitty Sanderlin

July 4, 1998

Dear Mr. Blehm,

...I have some beautiful Ameraucanas, and will want to show them, Aug. 13 at a local fair. I haven't had much contact with other breeders, and I'm so anxious to know more about our breed.

Many thanks for your help, Sincerely Rosemary Michalski, 6 Orchard St., Box 16, Feura Bush, NY 12067 (phone 518-439-4014) P.S. Is there such a color as Silver, My one hen is so beautiful with a small trim of black in her hackle, but mostly a silver white.

July 5, 1998

Dear Mr. Blehm,

I enclose my check for \$7.50 for one year's individual membership, and I look forward to receiving the bulletin and handbook.

Thank you. Sincerely Iris Robertson

7/10/98

Dear John:

I appreciate your help by having Mike Gilbert contact me. I have ordered a trio of a blue wheaten cock and two wheaten hens...

Sincerely, George Patterson

7/20

Notes from Northern Michigan.

Been a long time and "been a gonna". Just always run out of time. Don't we all. Work long and hard so many things to do and the days fly by. Just got in from tucking all in safely for the night. So many predators. I've trapped 6 raccoons & one possum so far. Not before some damage was done. Lately all is well. I just can't get home from work & sit in the lazy boy, fall asleep, until all are safely tucked in. the birds and all the hassles drive me crazy, but after a long day at work to come home & just seeing them is so calming to me. I've decided the nicest, sweetest chicken in all of "chickendom" is a wheaten Ameraucana. I have a group of 10 two months or so old. They know how to roost and where the "Nightclub" is, but each night I carry them into the Nightclub because they are roosting in the tall sumac within the yard. I dasn't leave them in the sumac even though the yard is fenced & netted a clever raccoon would find them. Each night I gather them up...Our bonding time perhaps? Whatever it's soothing to the soul....The standard AMs tuck themselves away. The wheatens are fierce moms. I'm on the second wave of wanting to be moms. I'll let them do it. To me the perfect Ameraucana Bantam is a wheaten. They are so beautiful and nice birds. I will always opt. For wheaten. We've had hot weather here. Hot for us. I know those of you south & west of here are really suffering. My heart goes out to you, your animals, crops and land. Rusty (Hart) and I will be at he Alma show. We hope to see any of you who may be able to attend. The Alma show is really nice. Nice people, good place to be. We Ameraucana people get lots of respect at that show. Just a state show (meet) last and almost 50 Ameraucanas were shown. No I didn't show them all. We had 5 or so exhibitors. It's a nice show Oct 10. S/B beautiful fall weather, and if we have enough good birds wouldn't it be nice to see an Ameraucana on champion row winning over a cornish or sumatra? We can do it. 100 perfect Ameraucanas, shall that be our goal? Keep that date in mind. I'll be there,...several other Michigan folks and hopefully many of the rest of y'all. We always have a great time and share birds. I've been a member of the ABC 14 years now. I think we've always been a sharing club. That isn't found very much among people who are solely bent on being totally competitive....our goal is the birds. That's the main reason I've been in this club for 14 years. What else is new? ....My next adventure is to take some birds to a fellow...in Nova Scotia, Canada. He and I have been working on this almost two years. It's so easy to send birds and eggs throughout the states, but across the border, all kinds of troubles. I've sent eggs. The eggs get X-rayed and that kills the embryo. UPS won't take live birds, Canadian P.O. won't take adult birds through the mail. It's been totally frustrating. After two years and much trial and error I think we've got it. I'm due for a vacation so I'll just take the birds and me there pullorum free documents of course. It will be quite the adventure to drive from here 3 hours to Canada cross the border with chicks and fly off to Nova Scotia. For years I've been told we chicken people are nuts. Maybe, maybe not, but we do have a mission. Ameraucanas.

Thanks for listening, hope to see you this fall. Jeanne Trent

July 1998

Dear John,

...Mike & I are quite excited about the Columbus show & delighted that you are planning to join us....

Thanks, Ron (Klemmedson)

July 10, 1998

Dear Mr. Blehm.

Please find enclosed check for new junior member dues, \$5.00 I am 9 yrs. Old.

Thank You, Zac Chamberlin

7/26/98

John,

I'm sending this check for membership into the Ameraucana Breeders Club. I'm new with this breed so any available information you can send me or suggested books would be of great help. I would like to eventually show them, so names of people with show quality stock would be good, too,

Thank You Karen Defazio...PO Box 277, Sand Lake, NY 12153

8/1/98

Dear Mr. Blehm,

Do you have any breeders located in the Southern States. Please send a list of colors and breeders.

Thanks Charles Painter...204 Pritchett Rd. Lula, GA 30554

July 30, 1998

Montana State Fair, ABC meet results. Judge: Bart Pals.

# of Ameraucana exhibitors = 3, # of Ameraucanas shown = 4 Bantam, 7 L.F.

Best of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten cock by Larry & Koralyn Kibbee

Reserve of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten hen by Larry & Koralyn Kibbee

July 31, 1998

Montana State Fair & Prairie Winds Poultry of MT, ABC meet results.

Judge: Ken Cooke

# of Ameraucana exhibitors = 3, # of Ameraucanas shown = 4 Bantam, 7 L.F.

Best of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten cock by Larry & Koralyn Kibbee

Reserve of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten hen by Larry & Koralyn Kibbee

July 17-18, 1998

Montana Poultry Fanciers, ABC meet results. Judge: Russ Carlson.

# of Ameraucana exhibitors = 8, # of Ameraucanas shown = 11 Bantams, 7 L.F.

Best Over-All = LF white pullet by Betty Rundquist

Reserve Over-All = LF white pullet by Koralyn Kibbee

Best of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten pullet by Zac Chamberlin

Reserve of Breed, Bantam = blue-wheaten cock by Koralyn Kibbee

Best AOV, Bantam = white pullet by Koralyn Kibbee

Bantams:

BV, blue-wheaten, P by Zac Chamberlin

RV, blue-wheaten, C by K. Kibbee

BV, wheaten, K by K. Kibbee.

RV, wheaten, P by K. Kibbee

BV, white, P by K. Kibbee

Large Fowl:

BV, black, C by Paula Kellerman

BV, white, P by Betty Runquist

RV, white, P by K. Kibbee

Some of the abbreviations commonly used by our members and other poultry fanciers include:

ABC = Ameraucana Breeders Club, AMs = Ameraucanas, LF = Large Fowl, BB = Best of Breed, RB = Reserve of Breed, BV = Best of Variety, RV = Reserve of Variety, AOV = Any Other Variety, AOCCL = All Other Combs, Clean-Legged, C = Cock, H = Hen, K = Cockerel, P = Pullet.

Aug. 7, 98

Hi John:

*Just a note...the Wisconsin International Show ...was canceled. (September 26 & 27)...I was doing pretty good with my buff Ameraucana L.F. until the owls got in there. They always get the best ones.*

*See you at Alma in Oct. Arne (Schmidt)*

If you are looking for birds or information, send the information to me and I will include it in the next bulletin. As you read about members that have questions, that you can answer - please do so. I will forward your correspondence to the other member, if you wish and include it in the next bulletin for the benefit of all. Members wishing to sell AMs can also use the bulletin to advertise. Remember, many of us may never meet face to face so we rely on these quarterly bulletins to keep us connected.

## Chicken Feathers For Diapers Or Insulation?

USDA researchers may have a new way to recycle chicken feathers - use them as building insulation or disposable diapers (wouldn't that tickle your fancy?). USDA's Agricultural Research Service Center in Maryland has been studying the problem of chicken feather disposal since 1993, under the lead of Dr. Walter Schmidt.

Chicken feathers consist primarily of a fibrous protein called keratin, which is also found in wool, hair and fingernails. Because the fibers are straight, they are absorbent enough to be used as a raw material for insulation.

An Illinois manufacturer tested 500 pounds of chicken feathers to determine whether they

could be used to make diapers. The process worked well enough that the company wanted more feathers. However, those feathers had been plucked and washed by hand at the ARS facility. The technology does not yet exist to economically separate the fibers from the quills and wash them.

The concept is far enough along that the USDA/ARS has been granted a patent on a fiber separation process. They are now looking for a pilot plant capable of separating the fibers and washing them on a cost effective basis. Schmidt feels that it is only a matter of time before the technology is fully developed and feathers from processing plants will be put to new uses.

Louise Helland  
12100 Center Avenue  
San Martin CA 95046

June 6, 1998

Mr. J.W. Blehm  
4599 Lange Road  
Birch Run MI 48415

Dear Mr. Blehm -

I am writing on behalf of my daughter. She is seven years old and spends about an hour a day caring for her "pouf poufs" as she affectionately calls her Ameraucanas. We had a older L.F. Silver Ameraucana cock that she showed at the 4-H & Open shows last year. He always wins BB, since there have rarely been other Ameraucanas. What's sold as Ameraucanas here are "mutt crosses", usually with a partridge color pattern, yellow legs and green eggs. The judges call them "Easter Egg Chickens", and disqualify them.

Unfortunately, we had no good hens for breeding. Thanks to the kindness of Mr. Jim Fegan, we now have a dozen young chicks we are raising. My daughter is so thrilled! She hopes to show them in the Fall / Winter Open Shows, and next years fairs.

We are also interested in information on the slate leg genetics. We did read the information in the handbook, which was very helpful. Our cock has dark slate legs with pink bottoms. As he has aged, we have seen some darker reddish pink areas in the toe webs, which no one seems to know the cause of. Are various shades of slate acceptable? We have had some hens which have lighter blue gray legs, and light yellow on the bottoms of their feet. Are those still considered willow? I have seen birds with legs the green of willow branches. Is that what is meant by willow legs, or would my slate appearing birds with light yellow on the foot pads be genetically willow? Or must they be green looking to be considered willow? We know they can't be shown, but when should willow or yellow legged birds be used in breeding?

To all the people who helped us find our new chicks and, especially, to Mr. Fegan, thank you so much for your kindness. To any who are interested in corresponding about breeding L.F. Silver Ameraucana, or about slate leg genetics, we would love to hear from you. Katie just loves getting her "Chicken Mail".

Sincerely,



Louise Helland (on behalf of Katie Helland)  
12100 Center Ave, San Martin, CA 95046  
408-683-2480

M.K. Gilbert  
W5171 Baker Road  
Holmen, WI 54636

June 19, 1998

Katie Helland  
12100 Center Avenue  
San Martin, CA 95046

Dear Katie:

I understand you are working with Silver Ameraucana chickens for your 4-H project. I used to raise them myself but gave them up for a time to work on developing other varieties. Now I have a start in them again and hope to improve the coloring on the females. It will take several years to complete this project, as I am just getting started.

As you no doubt have discovered, leg and toe coloring will vary somewhat. Baby chicks will start out with dusky shanks and may appear for a time to be willow colored. As they grow older they will gradually turn to the required slate color. For a time they will appear to be willow in color, but if they are still willow by the age of ten to twelve weeks they may be culled. Willow is made up of the yellow outer skin (epidermis) and a dark underskin (dermis). Yellow must be pure, genetically speaking, in order to manifest itself so a bird with willow shanks will always pass on the yellow factor to 100% of its' offspring. That doesn't mean the offspring will necessarily show it; if it doesn't it will pass on the yellow factor to only one-half of its' offspring. I hope this is not too confusing.

If adult hens have blue-gray legs and yellow on the bottom of their feet, either the yellow comes from grass or other stains or they have had willow shanks. The yellow will fade with egg production, leaving a gray appearance. One sure sign is when they show yellow in the beak as well. When dressed out, a pale yellow skin is also a sure indication that the unwanted yellow is present - in a genetic sense.

On the other hand, various shades of slate are possible. If the clear outer skin (epidermis) is thicker or more dense, it will be more difficult for the dark underskin to show through, so the bird will have a lighter slate or gray appearance. If the outer skin is thin and very translucent, the shank will have a darker appearance. I don't consider light or dark slate to be a major item, as long as the shank is, indeed, slate. There are many more important items to consider, body type and Ameraucana characteristics being the foremost.

I hope this has been of a little help, and be sure to write if you have other questions. Good luck with your Ameraucanas.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Gilbert



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July and August are known as the "dog days of summer" in the coulee region. This year our area was hot and without moisture for a time; our lawn all but dried up and blew away. Recently the rains have come . . . and came . . . and came, so now everything is soggy and wet. The 1998 hatch Ameraucanas are mostly in that ugly intermediate stage of growth, but many are beginning to show signs of blossoming into attractive adult birds. Culling is an ongoing process, as they continuously outgrow their quarters, so thinning the ranks helps by preventing overcrowding.

Soon the fall shows will be here, giving us all an opportunity to exhibit and promote our favorite breed of domestic fowl. We especially hope to meet many of you during our Ameraucana national meet at Alma, Michigan in October. We will deliver any birds that have been ordered to Alma; Hutchinson, Minnesota; and Columbus, Ohio. I spoke with John Blehm the other day, and he has many surplus birds to share this year as well. We have already shipped out via express mail quite a few birds this summer. I certainly hope you are taking advantage of this newsletter's free want ads if you have extra birds to share or are looking for something special. Good luck at the shows!

### Did You Know:

\* The 1998 A.P.A. color *Standard of Perfection* contains six new Diane Jacky portraits in three varieties of Ameraucana large fowl?

\* Internet users can view the Jacky painting of Blue-wheaten Ameraucana large fowl on Diane's home page? Her "web" address is <http://home.earthlink.net/~jackynet>. You can E-mail your impressions to her at : [jacknet@earthlink.net](mailto:jacknet@earthlink.net).

\* The Wisconsin International show scheduled for September 26 - 27, 1998, has been cancelled. Our Wisconsin State Meet was to have been held there. There was a problem obtaining cooping.

\* John and Kathy Blehm celebrated their Silver wedding anniversary earlier this summer, and since then have become proud grandparents? Congratulations to the Blehms!

\* A new poultry publication in full color is being published monthly by Shelia Clanton, 33130 CR 8, Killen, AL 35645-9330? We have received two complimentary copies, and enjoyed them immensely. A one-year subscription is \$16, two-years \$31, or three-years \$44.

\* Ron Klemmedson is working on a brand new bantam variety of Ameraucana? Derived by a cross of buff and brown-red bantams, Ron is calling them "golden quail" . Very attractive color pattern!

\* The Kibbees placed a white bantam Ameraucana pullet as best A.O.C.C.L. at the Snake River show in Idaho last June? Congrats!

## *MORE ON THE BROWN-RED VARIETY*

Brown-red is apparently one of the least popular varieties within the Ameraucana breed judging by the number of fanciers currently raising them. Neither large fowl nor bantam are often shown, advertised for sale, or requested by prospective buyers. It's uncertain what to attribute to this variety's lack of success, because a good brown-red is difficult to surpass for sheer eye appeal. They have been officially recognized since 1984, and it has been our experience that temperament and vices are no worse than those found in other, more popular varieties. Jerry Segler of Illinois was the first to promote brown-red Ameraucanas, but Jerry no longer raised them the last time we checked with him.

A strain of *good* brown-reds is not easily produced, or at least not in large numbers to this point in time. The ideal combination of properly balanced Ameraucana type and correct brown-red coloring has proven difficult to attain. It has been said that in every problem lies an opportunity. Herein lies a challenge for the perfectionist breeder possessing the patience and the endurance to raise a large number of chicks in order to produce a few that excel in the desired attributes. We need a specialist! As Don Cable so aptly stated years ago in one of our newsletter articles, "the finest show birds always seem to come in clusters of one." A prophetic observation indeed!

The female Brown-red Ameraucana should possess a head of lustrous orange (not lemon), a hackle that is orange with black center stripes, and body, wings, back, and tail a glossy shade of black, preferably with a green sheen. The males' description is similar, except the back will be orange and the saddle will be orange striped with black, matching the hackle. In both sexes the upper breast area should be black finely laced with orange. The orange lacing should extend around the visible perimeter of each upper breast feather, as incomplete lacing results in a spangled appearance and is to be avoided. The lower breast should be solid black.

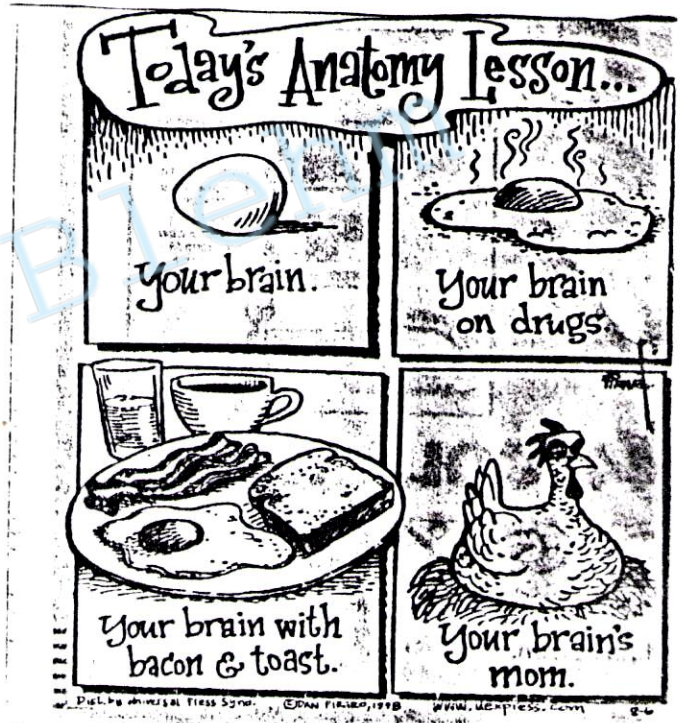
Sound breast lacing, when accompanied with the desired orange of head and hackle, is difficult to attain without producing shafting in the upper breast area. Shafting may be defined as the undesirable condition of the feather quills being lighter in color than the remaining center of the feather. In brown-reds, this means the quills are orange instead of the desired black, a troublesome coloring defect. To produce birds with great lacing without shafting, with sound head and hackle color, is a challenge. But it's doable; witness the fine brown-red coloring achieved in the modern game and some other breeds.

Different breeds call for different shades of color in the non-black sections of the plumage. Some even require lemon instead of orange, which seems nonsensical to the writer. Proper Ameraucana orange is the same as for bantam brown-red cochins, and is described on page 298 of the 1998 color edition of A.P.A.'s *Standard of Perfection*. The 1998 standard contains color paintings by Diane Jacky of Brown-red Ameraucana large fowl on page 196. She did a fine job depicting the coloring in our opinion. Unfortunately, the Ameraucana written description refers not to the bantam Cochin, but to the Modern Game for color. This is an error and will be corrected in future editions.

As of this writing (August 1998) no bantam or large fowl Brown-Red Ameraucana has placed 'best of breed' at an Ameraucana meet. We are confident, however, a brown-red could finish on top within the next several years. Why not give this variety a try and see if it doesn't soon become your favorite?

*The Lighter Side*

- Q: Why don't chickens make good basketball players?  
 A: They always "fowl" out.
- Q: Why did the chicken cross the road?  
 A: To show the 'possum it could be done.
- Q: A duck and a rabbit went to dinner. Who paid?  
 A: The duck - he had the bill.
- Q: What is most useful after it's broken?  
 A: An egg.
- Q: What kind of gum do chickens prefer?  
 A: Chicklets.
- Q: What is chickens' favorite fish?  
 A: Perch.
- Q: How do chicks hatch from eggs?  
 A: They eggsit.
- Q: Chickens favorite composer?  
 A: Bach, Bach, Bach, Bach!
- Q: How do you open the coop door?  
 A: You pullet!
- Q: Which side of a chicken has the most feathers?  
 A: The outside!
- Q: So why don't you send in some bulletin material to John?



# SHOW BIRD JOURNAL

c/o Shelia Clanton  
 33130 CR 8, Killen, AL 35645-9330  
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