

# Graduation RIDDLE NO. 74

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If a chicken-and-a-half  
can lay an egg-and-a-half  
in a day-and-a-half,  
how long would it take  
a grasshopper with a wooden leg  
to kick all the seeds  
out of a dill pickle?



May/June 1994

VOL. XVI #3

# ILLINI POULTRY CLUB

## 11th Annual Fall Show

September 17 and 18, 1994

Judges - Dwayne and Melody Jonas, Larry Denny and Vic Stirnaman

4 National Meets - Naked Neck, SPPA, Silver Laced Wyandotte, Ameraucana  
Several District, State and Special Meets.

Information Write - Ruth Ann Van Fleet  
10733 Woodstock Road  
Garden Prairie, Illinois 61038  
Phone (815) 544-6462

I don't know either,  
but aren't you glad  
it wasn't on the finals?

CONGRATULATIONS!



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ELEANOR VINIAGE  
Secretary



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May 25, 1994

Dear Jeannette:

I have been trying to reach Jim Van Fleet, without success, to obtain motel information for the national meet. The Gilberts, Ergo, and LeJeunes have made reservations at the Comfort Inn, Rockford, Illinois. This is a member of the Choice Hotel group, which gives special rates to people age 50 or over (30% off regular price). They also have a weekend rate of \$59.00 + tax, which allows for up to four in one room. According to my spouse, this motel has an indoor pool, whirlpool, and free continental breakfast. The toll-free reservation number is 1-800-221-2222. But anyone calling needs to ASK for the weekend rate. This motel is located near Interstate 90; I am enclosing a small map from the motel go-getter which gives directions.

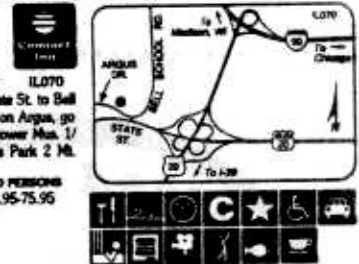
I have heard from George Cairns, the older gentleman who makes the hand carved trophies. His wife is putting the show together in the next 30 days, so they need any club special in, like, yesterday. I will put up the usual \$50.00, but please have any others sent in right away to whomever will be coordinating the club awards. You can handle this if you wish, or I will do it if you prefer that. It makes no difference to me, as long as it gets done.

I am at work, so in a rush. Please let me know A.S.A.P. if there is anything else I should be doing for the national. Thanks, Jeannette, and I hope you and yours are doing OK now - your family has had more than its share of medical problems in the past year or two. Take care, and let me hear from you when time permits. Thank!

As always,

*Mike*  
Mike Gilbert

**Rockford**  
**COMFORT INN**  
7392 Argus Dr. • 61107  
(815) 398-7661 • (800) 221-2222 (USA/CA) IL070  
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ONE PERSON 39.95-65.95 TWO PERSONS 46.95-75.95  
05/01/93-04/30/94



For those of you wishing to pledge for the ABC National Show please - get in touch with Mike yesterday! Mike Gilbert - W 5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 - or call him - in the evening 608-857-3386. Thank you - the club needs your continued support - LF.

Here on the Sonora desert, Spring has arrived.

The roadsides are alive with wildflowers - brittle bush, which looks like Black-eyed Susans, pale lavender spikes of Lupine and an attractive salmon-colored flower on what locals call desert geranium. Palo Verde trees with olive-green trunk and branches are awash in golden-yellow blossoms, while the spindly Ocotillo, which looked dead and desiccated just weeks ago, are covered with tiny, bright green leaves and bear an incredibly bright scarlet spray of blossoms atop its spiky branches.

As the days become increasingly warmer, I am reminded that late spring and summer here can bring daytime temperatures in excess of 120° for days on end and it is time for me to move to the coast and/or mountains soon.

Today at noon, a scruffy Roadrunner stopped in the shade of my trailer and as I watched through the screen door, he cocked his head momentarily and peered at me with a beady eye, pumped his long, stiff tailfeathers and moved off at a trot to the next bit of shelter under a greasewood bush. He was hoping to scare up a bit of lunch at the expense of some unwary lizard no doubt - a classic example of predator-prey relationship.

If you are ranging your young birds, the ability to pick up valuable soil minerals, succulent grasses and a variety of insects will do them a world of good. However, this bit of freedom, which they seem to thoroughly enjoy, is not without its risks, particularly due to predators.

Even well fenced yards are not safe from predation by hawks, particularly Cooper's Hawk - while jays and magpies will take eggs and chicks. Night predators can be a menace as well. Raccoons, 'possums, skunks and members of the mink family are especially fond of poultry. Often the most damaging, yet least considered (until they strike) are domestic pets - cats and dogs. Cats will typically take chicks and young birds, but dogs will kill poultry of any age and when running in packs, will kill at random, seemingly for the sheer sport. I have lost more birds to dogs than all other predators combined. Make sure your pens are secure and hope for the best.

Don Cable  
On The Road



We need new club patches - Any of you have any suggestions? who can do them at a reasonable price? Please let me know.

Ameraucana Breeders Club  
Jeannette Frank, Sec./Treas.  
P. O. Box 824  
Great Falls, MT 59403-0824



FROM THE MEMBERS

May 4, 1994  
Dear Jeannette

I'm sending the name and address of a young boy. I sold him some bantams for the price of his dues.

I hope you can send him a handbook and newsletter. I really enjoy this part of our hobby. Showing a young person the path to a lifetime hobby of fun and friendship.

Hope everyone is well and the fishing is good.

Your friend,  
Charlie

(Ed. note: Thank you, Charlie. It is members such as yourself that makes my job easy. We are fine and the fishing is great...shall I tell you about the one that got away? Maybe some other time.)

\*\*\*\*\*

April 27, 1994  
Dear Jeannette,

Hope this finds you and yours well. We have been in the process of moving and have had two very unexpected deaths in our family in the past few weeks. As you can imagine our lives are quite unsettled at this time.

How is your hatching going? We have not hatched anything yet this year. We talked to Cliff Ikenberry at the Sedalia, MO show last weekend and he said he has only hatched four. Hope things get better. We have shown at two shows so far and have done well at both. Good luck to you this summer. Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,  
Kennita Piper

\*\*\*\*\*

May 3, 1994  
Dear Ms. Frank

It was nice to hear from you. It really make us feel like a part of the club.

Mr. Gilbert sent me some nice birds. I have my fifth hatching out of them already. I'm looking forward to seeing what they'll look like. Mr. Gilbert has taken the time, on more than one occasion, to visit with me and has been a great help. I have taken a couple of the hens he sent me to a few shows and they did well.

We are looking forward to our next newsletter because it has been very helpful.

Sincerely,  
Amelia McAlexander

(Editors note: A special HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jessica, who had a birthday on June 5th.)

\*\*\*\*\*

## CULLING THE YOUNG BIRDS

When hatching is complete for another season, the incubator has been turned off and cleaned. Now the breeder's efforts are turned in another direction: that of constant assessment of the youngsters as they grow. We must always be careful that we do not condemn the birds too soon as most exhibition breeds take time to truly finish. Some breeds need more time for feathers, most all need time for the body to fill out properly. I have raised many breeds and varieties over the last twenty-five years and I have specialized in Japanese bantams. The comments and advice I pass along here is applicable to all breeds.

Hatching bantams later in the year can be beneficial to their ultimate size as adults. There are, however, a few drawbacks to this practice. Most obvious will be that fewer cockerels and pullets will be available for the fall shows. Those that are ready will be smaller in size than those raised very early with lots of artificial heat and light. Those hatched very late will not finish out to your expectations during that first season. Do not dispose of them! If at all possible, keep them over and you will be pleasantly surprised when they moult out as cocks and hens. Many will be transformed into some of the best specimens you have ever seen and the added bonus will be their small size.

Alex Duffy, of large fowl Cochin fame, told me that some of the best advice he had been given came from the famous Judge Harry M. Lamon. Mr. Lamon was the originator of the Lamona and long-time associate of the Poultry Experimental facility at Beltsville, Maryland. "Exercise no sentiment in your culling; killing any and all birds that do not meet your expectations." I believe this, and I do it consistently. Certain precautions must be taken into consideration with the very late-hatched birds. I rarely kill any pullets that appear too long in the back, IF they are not completely finished in the saddle area. This is also true of cockerels. The saddle feathers are often among the last to come in fully, and can change the overall back line of many breeds.

Be harsh on narrow feathers. Narrow feather width rarely produces anything but the same in the offspring. Be sure that the quills of the main tail feathers have good substance at their base and strength throughout their length. This is also true for primary and secondary wing feathers. Even the width of the saddle feathers can be a factor in determining back line and broadness carried all the way back to the main tail if that is a breed requirement.

A few years ago I visited with Dick and Juanita Gee of Rhode Island. They attribute the beautiful combs on their Rosecomb bantams to the fact that they used to go out to the coops at night, with a flashlight, and take the birds off the roost to examine their combs. All birds that had poor combs were killed, in the dark, so that temptation would not spare them in the daylight which may have revealed a bird that was too good in other respects. Here is a thought! Perhaps we are too tolerant of combs that are not good. Most breeds require a broad base on the combs of males and females, so anything else should be culled. Have an ideal in your mind and compare those youngsters combs to that mental picture. Cull those that do not meet your requirements.

Look at the lobe color of the birds as they reach maturity. Be sure that you are aware of the true color required by the STANDARD. Those breeds which are dubbed should still be culled for improperly colored lobes, as the offspring of these birds will produce females whose lobes cannot be 'fixed' or hidden in any way.

Check out the mismarking of feathers. Primary and secondary wing feathers will sometimes show the results of stress while they (those feathers) were growing. A streak of white where another color is required can sometimes mean a touch of coccidiosis, especially if there is a matching streak on the opposite wing. A particularly hot summer day with no water or a day without proper feed, or some other stressful situation also can cause this matched mismarking as those feathers were growing. A mismark on one side only may have been caused by an injury to the feather or the feather follicle, such as having been picked at by a penmate, or some similar mishap. The breeder will have to decide whether or not the mismark is sufficient to cull the bird or keep it to see what happens.

CULLING THE YOUNG BIRDS (continued)

Shank and/or toe color is something that each breeder must decide upon and cull when it does not meet his/her satisfaction. Ask other breeders and judges whenever you get the chance for their opinions. Remember, the STANDARD stated shanks and toe color and talks about the color of "bottoms of feet" only in certain breeds. Do not be casual in your interpretation of the STANDARD requirements here. Too many birds with feathered shanks and toes, or shanks and toes which are not readily seen are allowed to live and produce offspring. Suddenly an entire bloodline is ruined. Improper shank and toe color is a disqualification, even if it is not apparent from the aisle.

Eye color is one of the most easily overlooked of the requirements. It is a defect in most breeds. A maximum of two points is cut when the eyes are not of the proper color. The young birds need to be fairly mature before their eye color is truly 'set'. I have noticed, since I have been using the eye drop method of vaccinating for laryngotracheitis, that the vaccine seems to change the iris color of the bird's eye. For this reason, I use the same eye every year and then can look at the other eye of the older bird to see if it has maintained the proper eye color. Proper eye color is something that can and should be sought after in one's breeding. Believe me, the safety factor of having vaccinated for LT is well worth the effort and the risk of a faded eye color in the eye in which the vaccine is given.

Believe it or not, I weigh every bird on my place each year. I bought a postal scale at a garage sale years ago, and I check the weights. Anything over or under the tolerances is scrutinized and a decision is made to keep for whatever reason, or to cull. Do not show a bird that is over or under the weight tolerances described in the STANDARD. I know that to mention weights to some breeders is like waving the proverbial red flag in front of a bull, but if breeders would pay more attention to these factors, the problem would not be so great. It is fairly easy to get a wealth of feather on a bird that is larger than it should be; the challenge is to meet STANDARD requirements on a bird that weighs what is dictated by those requirements.

Each breed and every variety has very specific requirements to be considered when culling your young birds, or the older ones. Be sure you read the STANDARD often and heed the statements contained therein. To leave your STANDARD gathering dust on the shelf indoors rather than dust in the coop can be a big mistake. Pay attention to all the details for your breed and variety so you are not disappointed in the showroom.

One last word of advice: to cull is to kill. Please do not pass along birds with defects or disqualifications to unsuspecting buyers. It costs just as much to feed poor birds as it does to feed the good ones, so why not keep and breed the very best you can? Good luck in your efforts.

Paul Kroll

NEW MEMBERS

- JOHNSON, PHILIP 1280 Old Pleasant St., Bridgewater, MA 02324
- LINDSEY, LEE 466 County Rd 1640, Cullman, AL 35055
- LEE, ALICE & TERRY 131 Howland Hill Rd., Berkshire, NY 13736
- MARSHALL, TONY 11055 S. 76th Ave. W., Prairie City, IA 50228





# American Poultry Association, Inc.

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503-630-6759

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May 18th, 1994

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421 West 5th Ave.  
Jerome, ID 83338

Mr. Don Cable, President  
Ameraucana Breeders Club  
P.O. Box 1776  
Georgetown, CA 95634

Dear Don:

This letter is to acknowledge receiving your letter of May 5th, 1994 and the accompanying proposed standard revisions for the Ameraucana breed. I have added your proposals to the revision file to be processed by the Standard Revision Committee when one is appointed. The A.P.A. president, directors, and Standard of Perfection Committee are all committed to a general revision of the next edition of the A.P.A. Standard.

Thank you for your interest and help in making the Standard of Perfection as accurate as humanly possible. If I can be of further service please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mr. Pat Malone, Chairman  
A.P.A. Standard of Perfection Committee

cc: file, Vi Halbach, Jeanette Frank

5/10/94

# THE TALE OF THE FLEA TRAP

Most of you who know me know I love research and the more difficult it seems to be the more I research...so

I'm sure that generally most of you have never really paid attention to fleas or worried about how to get rid of them...until they invade your house.

I used to live in Florida so I know how terrible they can be and not just for dogs and cats. My kid's legs were often covered with welts from flea bites from playing in the grass or if we had been gone for a weekend the minute we walked into our house our legs would be covered with what looked like moving black stockings. I depended on a pest control man twice a ~~month~~ to keep them under control.

Then I moved back to Montana. Other than an occasional dusting of the cat or dog, we really didn't have any flea problem...until

About a month ago when our long haired indoor/outdoor cat brought in the first ones. I dusted him and bought him a flea collar. Also dusted my chickens and their house...with Sevin 5%.

A few days later my husband started complaining about some welts that appeared on his ankles and legs. (He is very allergic to bee stings and insect bites so I keep Benadryl on hand at all times.) We treated his welts with Benadryl cream and let it go at that. The next morning his ankles, legs and arms looked like hamburger. He started taking Benadryl tablets and I dusted everything...carpets, furniture, beds..on the advice of the local pest control man. That slowed them down for a few days.

That weekend I vacuumed everything...carpets, mattress, furniture...you name it.. I vacuumed it. And stripped the bedding, washed it in hot, soapy water, rinsed it in vinegar water and hung it on the line to dry in the sun. Then I redusted everything. This I did every weekend ... without fail. It slowed them down some but he still ended up with a new bite here or there. I even sprayed his legs and feet with insect repellent at night. Sometimes he would go a day or two with no new bites.

Jerry, my husband, was becoming very difficult to live with..he didn't think I really took the situation serious because if I had a bite it would itch for a minute and go away. His looked like he had been stung by huge bees and at one time close to 30% of his body was full of welts. I took it serious but I could find no one who had a solution.

We started calling pest controls, veterinarians, pet shops. None of them had any idea as to what to do..I don't think they realized how serious the situation was. I called the State Veterinarians office and they told me, "Montana doesn't have fleas."

Then we had a cold snap and for ten days he had no new bites. During this time one night when I was watching Jeopardy I saw them show a Flea Trap but didn't hear the manufacturers name.

Now it's warm again and THEY ARE BACK..in full force. Well my husband decided he could find out how to get rid of them and started making phone calls..no one knew what to do so he tried asking about the Flea Trap. No one had ever heard of such a thing. That's when I took over the quest..I called every pet shop, hardware store, vet in our area. At least they had a good laugh at the crazy woman looking for something to trap fleas in.

Then I decided to go to the 800 # directory. I must have called 50 veterinarian supply houses all over the USA before one in MO told me they had heard of them and thought one particular place had them. The 800# for this place didn't work. I spent two days trying to find someone who know I wasn't crazy and then one more day trying to get the correct telephone #. I FOUND THEM...I'll let you know...

South Iowa - club meet Spring 44

**AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB**

**SHOW REPORT**

VARIETY	C.H.K.P	EXHIBITOR'S NAME
Champion Ameraucana WHITE	H	JEAN TOBIASSON
Reserve Champion Ameraucana WHITE	C	JEAN TOBIASSON
Champion Large Fowl WHITE	H	JEAN TOBIASSON
Reserve Large Fowl WHITE	C	JEAN TOBIASSON
Champion Bantam WHEATON	K	RAND -AM
Reserve Bantam WHEATON	H	RAND-AM

BANTAM	LARGE FOWL
Best Variety - Wheaten C., B.B., B.V.	0
Reserve Variety - Wheaten 1st H., R.V., R.B.,	J
Best Variety - Blue Wheaten	0
Reserve Variety - Blue Wheaten	0
Best Variety - Black	0
Reserve Variety - Black	0
Best Variety - Buff 1st H., B.V.,	0
Reserve Variety - Buff 1st., K.,	0
Best Variety - White	WHITE, H.,
Reserve Variety - White	WHITE C.
Best Any Other Variety (other than listed above) BLUE, 1st., H., B.V.	
Reserve Any Other Variety (other than listed above)	BLUE C.,

Please list exhibitor's name with champions and reserve champions. If there are no winners please enter 0 in space. Enclose exhibitors list with this report, please.

Type of show: (eg- District, State, National, Regional) \_\_\_\_\_ CLUB \_\_\_\_\_  
 Host Club Name South Iowa Poultry Association  
 Date of Show May 28, 1944 Location Presidents Inn 5156-3 5163-2  
 Judge of Ameraucanas' Jerry Wallach  
 Show Secretary Lucy Manning Phone # 512 242 178  
 Address Rt 1 Box 63 Stanton, Mo 51593 City, State & Zip, Stanton Mo 51593

Please send copy of this report to: AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB  
 Jeannette Frank, Sec/Treas.  
 P. O. Box 824  
 Great Falls, MT 59403-0824



North Iowa Poultry Breeders  
April 1940

April 1940

THE AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB

CHAMPION AMERAUCANA BANTAM	White-H - Randy Burke	44
RESERVE CHAMPION BANTAM	Black-C - Michael Gilbert	21
BEST VARIETY -- WHEATEN:	H - M. Gilbert	21
RES. VARIETY -- WHEATEN:	C	21
BEST VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN:	H	21
RES. VARIETY -- BLUE WHEATEN:	—	
BEST VARIETY --BLACK:	C -	21
RES. VARIETY --BLACK:	H -	21
BEST VARIETY - WHITE:	H - Randy Burke	44
RES. VARIETY - WHITE:	K - John Bare	23
BEST VARIETY - BLUE:		
RES. VARIETY - BLUE:		
BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY:	Buff-? M. Gilbert	21
RES. ANT OTHER VARIETY:		
CHAMPION LARGE FOWL:		
RES. LARGE FOWL:		
BEST VARIETY BLACK:		
RES. VARIETY BLACK:		
BEST VARIETY BLUE:		
RES. VARIETY BLUE:		
BEST BLACK-RED:		
RES. BLACK-RED:		
BEST BLUE RED:		
RES. BLUE RED:		
BEST ANY OTHER VARIETY:		
RES. ANY OTHER VARIETY:		

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Very seldom am I at a loss for words or something to say but I have been trying for over 4 weeks to compose a worthwhile article for this newsletter. At least the paper company can appreciate all my efforts.

On the sad note - one of my mentors has passed away. Bill Holland introduced me to the fine art of showing and judging poultry. I know he was important in establishing the Ameraucana breed to the public but I wasn't involved in the club at the time and therefore can not state facts. I know Bill was always there to answer my questions and to give advice. The last time I saw Bill was in Sept. 1990. He was the last judge I worked with as an apprentice before taking the judges test. He will be greatly missed by many.

And on a happier note...a special congratulations to all the graduates...be they kindergarten, grade school, high school or college. May the sun shine on you as you seek that special niche in the world.

The most recent word from Mike Gilbert regarding the 1994 ABC National Show is found earlier in this newsletter. PLEASE take the time to read it. I hope all of you are planning on being there and showing champion AMERAUCANAS. The show books will be sent out in a month or so. I'll submit a membership list so you should receive one. In the meantime mark your calendar now for the weekend of Sept. 17-18, 1994 to be in Belvidere, IL. I do hope you have your Ameraucanas trained to charm the judge.

We are still waiting for nominations for officers. The election is only a few weeks away. Do not assume that if there is noone listed on the ballot the position will automatically be filled by whomever held the office before the election. We still need nominations for the Sec/Treas. and Southern Dist. Dir.

Special thanks to Paul F. Kroll, APA licensed judge, of New York state for letting me print his article on culling. I have to admit this was always a problem for me when the chicks were little and then when they became obnoxious I had no problem. I hope you read this article and learn from it.

Time seems to be slipping away so rapidly this year...is it because I am older that I never seem to have enough time for everything there is to be done or is it just that in the summer so much has to be done and the calendar is so full of things going on? I know that keeping my garden clear of weeds and quack grass sure cuts into my fishing time. We have only fished eleven times this year (not counting this coming weekend). And for the record we have had pretty good luck so far this year...wish I could show you the pictures of what we have kept for eating. I finally figured out how to use the flyrod on the river...and caught three nice whitefish and a 2# rainbow. This weekend we go for brookies. Enough of this....

I'd like to add a couple lines regarding predators...in the sixteen years I have lived in the boondocks I have lost only one goose to a predator and probably well over 100 birds plus two Pekingese to "the family pet" dog. In fact this past Sunday I had the county sheriff's deputy explain the rules of the neighborhood to the next door neighbors. The sad part is that the man came home seven hours later and really beat up the dog...because the man was at fault. There is a longer story here but I won't bore you with it.

Do take care and keep the champions in good health for the 1994 ABC National.

P. . I am still waiting for articles.

*Jeanette*  
6/7/94

1994 AMERICANA BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Dues: Family \$10.00 Individual \$7.50 Juniors \$5.00 (All dues due by 1/1)

name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

city: \_\_\_\_\_ state: \_\_\_\_\_ zip: \_\_\_\_\_

phone #: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

If you are paying for a family membership would you please list family members names & ages?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Use additional paper if necessary.)

I (WE) raise and breed the following AMERICANAS  
LARGE FOWL:

BANTAM:

I (We) will sell: Hatching Eggs \_\_\_\_\_ Chicks \_\_\_\_\_ Started Stock \_\_\_\_\_ Adult Birds \_\_\_\_\_

Will you ship any of the above? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes..which? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you deliver to shows any of the above? \_\_\_\_\_ What shows? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list below other breeds of poultry you raise, breed, show. Be sure to state if they are Large Fowl or Bantams, Bearded/nonbearded and varieties. Thank you.

Please use the space below for your comments, thoughts, ideas or general information about you or your family. Any suggestions for future newsletter articles would be appreciated.

Please return this questionnaire and membership dues to:

Americana Breeders Club  
Jeannette Frank, Sec./Treas.  
P. O. Box 824  
Great Falls, MT 59403-0824

Remember ALL membership dues are due the first of each year.