

# *Ameraucana Bantam Bulletin*

AMERAUCANA BANTAM CLUB, 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662

SPRING, 1983

Vol. V, No. 1

## ABC NATIONAL MEET

Ohio National Show Secretary Clell Agler reports that they would be happy to host the National Meet of the Ameraucana Bantam Club in Columbus, Ohio, in November. He also states that they will be able to offer some trophies, and will promote our meet. He also indicated that they will need our list of specials and club awards by no later than early July to get them in the catalog which will be published in Poultry Press.

An undertaking of the magnitude of a combined ABA-APA National Meet requires a great deal of planning and coordination, so in order to do our part, I would like to meet the deadline set by the Ohio National Show Committee and your cooperation would be appreciated. Any specials that you would care to pledge for our National Meet would be appreciated early on. Please contact your secretary.

## APA RECOGNITION UPDATE

All of the paperwork necessary to meet the criteria for admission into the APA Standard of Perfection has been met and submitted to APA Secretary Bertha Traver. In addition, a formal request has been made for a qualifying meet at the Ohio National in November. Further developments will appear in forthcoming issues of the Bulletin.

## ABA PROPOSALS FOR NEW VARIETIES

The Spring issue of the ABA Quarterly contained our proposal for admission of the six new varieties of Ameraucana bantams in Bantam Standard. Article 12, section 2 of the ABA by-laws now requires a minimum of 25 birds (all classes totalled together) to be shown and having at least five breeders exhibiting birds in these classes in order to be considered for admission in Bantam Standard.

However, the qualifying meet need not be the ABA National, but can be held at any show hosting an ABA Meet, providing the minimum of breeders and birds is met as per the Article and section mentioned above. These new changes were voted in Phoenix in February.



If an "X" appears in the box at the left, our records indicate that we have not received your dues for 1983. Our annual dues remain \$5. and they may be sent to your secretary at the address at the top of the page. We hope to have your continued support. Thank you!

## NATURAL LIGHT

It has long been established that light is the factor which triggers laying and approximately fourteen hours of light seems to be the optimal amount necessary for egg production in chickens. Moreover, light is necessary also for sperm production, therefore unless your males are receiving sufficient light, they may be "shooting blanks" until such light is available. The use of artificial light will enable you to stimulate egg production in order to get early chicks hatched or even produce them in the "off season" of fall and winter, but each of us must decide which method best suits our needs.

My own needs seem to be more than met by the use of natural light and over the years I have come to rely more and more upon a seasonal approach in breeding bantams. My bantams do not generally come into lay in any great numbers until about the time the almond trees come into blossom here in the Sacramento Valley, which is usually about mid-February, so that I seldom have more than a handful of chicks hatched until mid-March, which is early enough for me. The vast majority of my chicks are hatched during the months of April and May, which naturally coincides with the lengthening hours of daylight and my hatching season nearly always ends in early June, when the hot, dry, summer days begin to take their toll in egg production.

Most of us who exhibit our bantams in the fall or winter shows would like to have our birds in peak condition at this time, which is at or near point of lay, when pullets are in full "bloom" and are seldom, if ever in better feather and fettle. While there is a decided advantage in getting large birds out early which require a greater amount of time to develop and finish, bantams are more often quite another thing. Unless you desire to hatch from two generations each year, there is seldom any great advantage to getting large numbers of early hatched bantams out if they are to be shown as cockerels and pullets, but then each person must decide this for himself. Since every pullet chick has all of the egg cells in her tiny body the day she is hatched that she will ever lay, I feel no compulsion to hurry the process by the use of artificial light since old Sol does it best anyway.

The amount of natural light we receive depends of course upon the tilt of the earth on its axis as we move around the sun and our relative position of latitude. Local conditions will vary of course, as will weather patterns, but generally speaking, we get just about as much natural light here in Northern California in any given month as does New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois and Colorado. People often confuse the amount of light with temperature and climate and while the latter will certainly effect the number of bright, sunny days, the total amount LIGHT, will probably not vary a great deal, along a certain degree of North latitude.

Forty five degrees of North latitude for instance, can be imagined if we were to tack a rather limp clothesline coast to coast, from Bangor, Maine to Salem, Oregon. Such a line would sag, to accomodate the curvature of the earth and would pass near or through the states of New York, Wisconsin and Wyoming. A second line, 40° N. Lat., would stretch from mid-New Jersey to Northern California as described in the paragraph above. Another line, 35° N. Lat., would begin in mid-North Carolina and end in Southern California, skirting Southern Tennessee and slicing through the panhandle of Texas as it dangles across the nation. By orienting yourself to the nearest of these three degrees of latitude, you can then determine the approximate hours of daylight in your area of the country from this table:

### HOURS OF DAYLIGHT

	<u>45° N. Lat.</u>	<u>40° N. Lat.</u>	<u>35° N. Lat.</u>
FEBRUARY	10:26	10:41	10:56
MARCH	11:53	11:54	11:57
APRIL	13:29	13:15	13:04
MAY	14:51	14:23	13:59
JUNE	15:35	15:00	14:30

As you can determine from the table above, fanciers in Tennessee and others along 35° of N. Lat. are getting about a half hour more daylight than those up in Wisconsin in February, but as the months roll by, Wisconsin soon catches up and by June, has more than an hour more of daylight than their Tennessee colleagues. For a more precise account of your latitude, consult any good map.

The table above has meaning of course, only in a general way and I find that as I get older precise times and dates become meaningless in breeding bantams. They are in tune with the seasons and they are ready to lay when they are ready to lay. It is we who are so often out of sync, and it is no matter of great importance if my bantams begin to lay in February or March in earnest, or if they take a prolonged holiday in June, natural light is all the stimulus they need, and if I am doing my job properly and they are getting the care and attention they deserve, let nature take its course.

Don Cable

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Richard Burger 5046 Ogletown-Stanton Rd., Newark, DE 19713  
H.G.M. Winter Box 43, Maxville, Ont. KOC ITO, Canada  
John Wunderlich 3512 Maywood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63121

#### ABA YEARBOOK AD

For the past several years various members of our club have gone together to purchase an Ameraucana Bantam Club full page ad in the ABA Yearbook. Each member has an individual eighth page ad at a cost of \$10. and the club has a quarter page. It takes six club members to make a club page ad and I will accept ads on a first come, first served basis. As of now, there are four openings.

Deadline for ads as set by the ABA is April 30. If you would like to take part in this project, send me your ad copy and a check for the sum of \$10. made out to the American Bantam Association right away. I will return those checks over and above the four openings as quickly as possible to enable you to take an individual ad on your own. Please hurry on this so that I can get our club ad to Secretary Jeffrey and meet the April 30 deadline. Thank you.

## UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Leonora Hering, of Saratoga, California, in February. Mrs. Hering will be familiar to those associated with the American Bantam Association as a long-time member and contributor of articles on various subjects to past ABA Yearbooks. She was a prolific writer and bantam breeder of no small talent, having imported the first Houdan bantams from Great Britain some years ago. Mrs. Hering had one of the finest private collections of poultry books and had long since willed them to the Poultry Department of Kansas State University. She is pictured in Fred Jeffrey's "Bantam Chickens" and referred to as bantam historian.

I first met Mrs. Hering at the home of our mutual friend, the late Don Given, of Campbell, California, who was a crested fowl specialist and had been working with the Houdan bantams that she had imported. This was some twenty years ago, and we had corresponded off and on since then and she had been a great help to me in researching what little material is available on the Araucana breed in preparation for the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook. She was among the first to receive a copy and is credited in the foreword. She was a very great lady and I will miss her wit, charm and friendship.

Speaking of the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook, I would like to thank all of you people for the kind remarks about it and I am gratified that it has been received so well. I hope that it will serve you well. The spring issue of the ABA Quarterly gives it a very nice plug- thanks, Fred! We also received a nice boost by way of Poultry Press when Editor Bob DeLancey enlarged our new classified ad a couple of issues back- thanks to you too, Bob! Finally, I have word that the April issue of Backyard Poultry will have an excerpt from the Handbook, so the word is getting around. Remember, it is a freebie with membership so if you do not have a copy, get those dues in!

In correspondence with charter member Harry Cook, of New Jersey, I find that he has been working with what came to be Ameraucana bantams for some twenty years! Along with his blues, Harry is currently working on barred Ameraucanas, which would be quite interesting. Harry mentioned the name of one Clarence Begner as one who bred bearded and muffed "Araucana" bantams early on. Does anyone else have information regarding this fellow?

Glenda Heywood sent information regarding changes in the subscription rates for Hen House Herald- \$5.50 for 12 issues. You can get a sample for a stamp to P.O. Box 1011, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51502.

The State Fair of Texas will host the first Ameraucana Bantam Club Meet in the Lone Star State. C.L. Donaho and D.L. Keeney will lock horns in our first club meet which will hopefully generate some interest in the breed down that-a-way. Good luck gents!

Member Jaime Ikeda recently won a thousand dollar scholarship in avian science at the University of California, Davis. Not only is he a serious student, he also has time to work with Ameraucanas and several other varieties of poultry, write a waterfowl column for the Pacific Poultry Breeder's Quarterly, the Chicken Wire, and serve as Secretary-Treasurer of the Ancona Breeders Club. Congratulations, Jaime!

Finally, you will find a form for our annual Breeder's List and membership roster for the next issue of the bulletin. If you have changes from last year, or are a new member, please use it to bring us up to date.

AN ELECTION YEAR

This fall we will hold our biennial election of officers and it would seem an appropriate time to consider candidates for all offices. The entire Board of Directors are open to nominations and if you have a person in mind that you feel would serve the club well, by all means, send in that nomination to your secretary so that permission to place their name on the ballot may be secured well ahead of the election. There are many qualified newer members and the club would benefit from an infusion of new ideas so that we continue to grow and serve the Ameraucana breeders wherever they may be. If you would like to serve the club in any of the various offices, send me your name and I will be happy to place your name on the ballot. Please think it over.

AN APPEAL FOR HELP

Unlike the vast majority of bantam breeds, we have no great amount of historical data from which to draw material for the Bulletin. In order to provide the membership with the kind of material they would like to see each quarter, it is necessary that we have the help of the entire membership to send in items of interest that you would care to share. Please send your news items and articles to your secretary. Many thanks!

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1983 BREEDER'S LIST

NAME Mike Gilbert

ADDRESS W5171 Baker Road

CITY Holmen STATE WI ZIP 54634

I BREED THE FOLLOWING VARIETIES OF AMERAUCANA BANTAMS:

Wheaten, Blue-wheaten, white, blue, black, buff

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PLEASE CLIP AND SEND TO YOUR SECRETARY