

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB, RR 1 Box 196h, Central Lake, Michigan 49622

December
Spring, 1987

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We here in Northern Michigan cannot believe this weather. It was 55 degrees and sunny today, prediction for tomorrow is warmer! This kind of thing keeps up and I'll be able to fire up my incubator soon. I began getting a few eggs in February. I don't remember ever getting eggs in February.

Jeannette, our president, called me at work yesterday. It was great to hear her voice. I know her letters, now her voice. Maybe one of these days I'll get to meet her. We in Michigan feel we're having fantastic weather. Well Jeannette said it was 78 degrees in Great Falls! That's almost too hot.

It was brought to my attention that it was hard to figure out which articles were written by me, Jeanne Trent, your secretary. I thought since I write all of the bulletins except those parts that do have a signature I wouldn't clutter things up, but thanks for bringing it to my attention. Unless you see a name after something, folks, it's just me writing away. JT your secretary.

LOGO PATCH UPDATE

Finally folks they are ordered and Lynn at 'The Place' says it'll be 6 weeks. I talked to Lynn today, March 6 and 6 weeks will be April 17. We decided to go with the embroidered ones. They really look much nicer than the silk print type. They will be available for \$4.00 each. Send your money and orders to me.

BAY CITY, MICHIGAN SHOW REPORT

The Bay City show was held in January and I left on a rather shaky weather wise day. All kinds of dire weather reports were out. Things like 10 inches of blowing drifting snow, zero visibility, high winds, etc. I have a really good car, birds were in super shape. I'd worked 11 days to get the week end off. I'd urged John Blehm and Lois Bouck 'to be there', plus my Mom and Dad were going. I had to go. So off I went. The first hour was a little shaky (poor visibility), but when I got to the expressway it was blue skies and dry roads. When I got to the fairgrounds I found 22 bantams were expected! By 5 different people! Earl Jones the judge told me he had gotten a new standard and read up on Ameraucanas. Is that a first or what? I had the only standards. I expected that. All 22 bantams did show up along with John Blehm and Lois Bouck.

I did get BB on a wheaten hen, John Blehm RB on a wheaten pullet. Lois got BW on a BW cock bird. Earl Jones looked them over very thoroughly. I felt we gained a lot of respect points at this show.

Meantime in the standard dept. A black pullet of mine was picked AOC pullet (any other class, meaning other than American, English, etc, and 'Georgous George', a beautiful Brown-Red cockerel was picked AOC cockerel. AOC Hen was a nice Sumatra, AOC Cock was kind of a ratty looking Malay. George did make it to champion row briefly. The winner was not the nice Sumatra, but the ratty looking Malay. I was quite busy during all that part so I didn't get to ask why the Malay? If anything the Sumatra should have gotten it. She was in great condition as well as mine, but then who are we? That was a first to have Ameraucanas even considered. I was very pleased.

By the time the show was over we had gained 2 new members and a 3rd. before the week was out. Mom and Dad did show up and were impressed with me and my show coat, club table, and all the nice chicken people, oh, and my birds too. Dad liked especially, I hate to say this - O.E. I'll work on him, promise.

TIPS FROM TOM

Now about getting good fertility. Use only one male bird to four to six hens, and change male birds each week. You can use 15 to 20 hens and three male birds but you will get a lot of infertile eggs, because after about a week you will see two male birds setting on the roosts instead of on the floors with the hens. One male bird will lick the other two. Don't expect to show the birds you have in breeding pens. The hens will pick all of the muffs and beard out of the male bird within 3 weeks after he is in the pen. Also if you have good sexy roosters the hens will have bare backs from his action and it takes a long time for the back feathers to grow back, as the skin is distorted and the quill sockets are damaged. Don't set small eggs or eggs over 4 days old.

SIERRA SLOPE

Breeding poultry is much like any other endeavor- your results are generally in direct proportion to the concerted effort put into the project. There are good and bad years to be sure, but all in all, they tend to balance and what you see out in your pens is pretty much what you deserve, especially if you have been at it for several years. The improvement in type and color among Ameraucana bantams in less than a decade is testimony that change can be rapid and obvious if that is what is truly desired and a genuine, sustained effort is wisely applied in that direction.

Assuming that a real commitment has been made to improve your stock, the first decision must be made to determine the direction your efforts will be placed based upon your particular circumstances. It will do little good to make improvement of head points your number one goal if fertility is poor and hatchability is spotty. Start with the basics and shoot for a robust, healthy flock able to produce viable chicks in good numbers before you charge off after desirable, but less essential points. Assume nothing- know which are your best breeders based upon the quality of the chicks they produce consistently.

When we began to put the Ameraucana breed together and standardize the various points such as lobe and shank color, overall size and type, etc., it seemed as though it was an almost impossible task, particularly since we as breeders were scattered across the continent and cooperation, much less coordination, was hit and miss at best. In spite of these obstacles, when we met in Ohio for our qualifying meet, the uniformity of the breed, gathered from all parts of the nation for the first time, was absolutely uncanny. The point is that if the desire is there, the job will get done even if you frequently feel isolated with a 'new' breed and all of its inherent problems. Take heart. Persevere!

once the basic traits necessary for a sound breeder flock are met, carefully select your goals and set your priorities. Some of these may be a clear hackle in males, a smaller, neater comb, a more intense blue egg, a more docile disposition, or whatever you deem an improvement in your family of birds.

The old shotgun technique would have you go for all of your objectives simultaneously. A more deliberate approach would be to tackle one or two based upon immediate needs and having made a measure of improvement, move on to other goals that you have established.

Much has been made of record keeping and many pay lip service to it, but I really believe that nothing is more fundamental to breed improvement than a well-planned program and an accurate record kept from year to year. It is really surprising just how many details we forget from season to season and it is often the details that make the difference between the successful breeder and the also rans. As always the choice is yours, so keep the ideal in your mind's eye and enjoy the challenges and the rewards of this best of all pastimes.

Don Cable

Thank you Don and persevere we will. We must. This is the year of the Ameraucana.

GREETINGS FROM THE BIG SKY COUNTRY...

You know for someone that talks a lot I'm at a loss for what inspiring message to send your way.

I'm sitting here staring out the window at the tulips that are 2 inches out of the ground and listening to the birds singing - wishing I was outside digging in my garden or watching my feathered friends scratching in the dirt and clucking to each other about this tidbit or that. I can't believe it is early March in Montana. The temperature is in the low 70's today. Usually we are up to our knees in snowdrifts waiting for a 'chinook'. Oh, well- back to the drawing board.

Are you ready for the hatching season? My hens and incubators are. Nothing but champions this year! That is my motto. How about yours? Seriously, if you have a few hatching eggs you want to ship my way let me know your price. I need some champions for the shows this fall/winter.

I'm hoping you are all getting into the true spirit of spring - thinking 100% hatchability and 100% champions. The only way we are going to get our AMERAUCANAS on Champion Row is think positive and show positive. THINK CHAMPION!!!

I heard a rumor not too long ago so listen carefully while I whisper this to you....

I heard there is going to be a National showing of Ameraucanas at Hutchinson, MN in late Oct. '87. Better start getting ready. I'm going to do everything I can to be there. Hope you will be too.

Jeannette Frank
President

I know all of us are chomping at the bit to get hatching and all of that. Almost everyone who writes me speaks of the mild winter and that pushes spring thoughts even earlier. The last letter I had from Mary Lou Phelps in Springfield, MO said she had hens setting!

I thought it would be a great help for all of you to have the latest club mailing list. We now number 63 and it is going to take up quite a bit of space in the bulletin, so it is hoped that you will take advantage of this valuable information and contact those folks nearest you. We can all help each other with eggs, chicks, and going to the same shows. That way you won't be the only one at a show. You've probably driven a few miles to get to a show and been disappointed. I'm speaking for the board of directors when I urge you. Look at the list, write a few letters, you could even call (I can't, no phone, no electricity remember) get in touch with those folks nearest you. We are determined this is the year of 'Ameraucana Recognition'.

THE NATIONAL

The Board voted to hold the National Ameraucana Breeders meet at Hutchinson, MN. in late October. I'm not real sure of the date. As Mary Lou says, Put it in your 'think cap'. Mike Gilbert says it's a fine quality show. All the Wisconsin members go. I'm planning on going. Mary Lou and I have started trip funds already. Jeannette is considering flying in from Montana. It'll be a long drive for me but to see and meet club members would be truly great. We'll have a fine club table. We're letting you know early so you can put it on the back burner and get ready. One can save a lot of egg money from now until the end of October.

Folks I have much more to report. Take a break get a 'cuppa' - back in a minute, gotta feed my cat 'Wee'.

NEW MEMBERS

Ed Mongold - Middle Point, OH.

This is a person I've known quite sometime, you may have seen articles in the PP from him regarding New Hampshire. Ed is a crusader and I think he likes our birds and wants to help in our Ameraucana crusade. Thanks Ed. We'll get you some Ameraucanas real soon.

Bennd Sieg - Ann Arbor, MI.

This is really a crazy story. Ben had never been to a poultry show ever. He's a friend of a chicken friend of mine. Ben just went to Bay City to see why Tim was so excited about all this business. Ben went from Saturday thinking 'the BW Ameraucanas are really neat', to Saturday night 'I really like them', to Sunday am. 'Jeanne, send me eggs', to coop out time joining the club and I gave him a hen and a cockerel. He didn't even have any chickens at his place. not one!! Crazy!

Joan Bisco - Farwell, MI.

She fell in love with 'Georgous George' the Brown-Red STD at the Bay City show, wrote me. I got her letter on Tues. after the show, I wrote her, she called me and was up the following sunday. She bought a trio of standards and joined the club. Welcome Joan and we all hope you get your own Georgous George.

OTHER NEWS

Tom Lippincott has a nice article in the February PP.

There is a really helpful chart in March's PP. It states certain conditions of eggs that don't hatch and then possible reasons why. I know many of you get the PP and may have already seen it but for those of you who don't, I had copies made and would be more than happy to send you one. Please feel free to ask. I had thought about including the chart, but felt including the membership took precedence.

The mail bag got a bit more mail, but there are quite a few still silent members

BROODY HENS

I am a real advocate of letting the hens do all the work. The biggest disadvantage is they may not do it when you'd like them to. A good example is my blue hen who was supposed to go to the Columbus show (I maybe could have whooped tom in November!), but I had to leave her home. She was setting. By the way, out of that group I do have a real nice blue pullet. Watch out Tom!

The Ameraucanas seem to be great Moms and here are a few things I've found to do when one goes broody. The broody hen needs a nice quiet spot all by herself. She really doesn't care where it is. When I find one I move her at night to a secluded spot, a cage works fine. I have previously made the nest and put in selected eggs. If she's on what you think are good eggs you can move them too, carefully and quickly, but at night. Chickens are really easy to handle in the dark when you get to the new spot put the hen on the nest and have at the ready a box. I get from the grocery store boxes that oranges and tomatoes come in. They are perfect size and have holes, air holes. As you put the hen on the new nest put the box over her and put a weight on the box. I use a hunk of fire wood. Most of the time they settle right down, the weight is just in case they don't. I leave them covered at least 24 hrs. Always remove the box again at night. If the hen is really serious, there she'll stay. I always have previously set up water and feed. The main thing is to do it at night, and have that box over them at least 24 hrs. I have many a happy hen and chicks this way. The hen does need a spot by herself, away from the nest. If you get lucky and a hen finds a good spot but you don't like, or aren't sure of the eggs she has, again at night, just take away the ones she has and give her your chosen ones. If you are real calm and gentle about it you'll come away fairly uninjured. I remember wearing a nice black and blue mark on my hand for a long time from one really fierce and protective hen.

I just discovered a really great article on natural incubation in the '86 APA yearbook. It's on page 122 and is written by William Cawley of Texas A+M University. I just happened to run across it. Jeannette called me at work today. She had found something in the '86 yearbook, did I have it? It's the only APA yearbook I do have and as luck would have it, it has a really good article on 'real Moms'. I was happy to find he was passing along much the same advice as I. He stresses and I do too, the broody hen must be separate from the rest. The only time I've had failures is when I didn't put the broody hen separate and away from the others. I didn't only because, I had so many. It gets crazy around here. At times I'll have 8 - 10 hens I know of setting. I ran out of places to put them.

This is such a good article I thought, I'll have copies made and like the 'why they didn't hatch chart'. I'll send it to those of you who would like it. That was Rex's idea. Rex is my guy and not really into chickens but

he's amazed at the dedication we poultry folks have, and is always willing to listen to my questions about what's the best thing to do and has good ideas. The broody hen article is quite long. So like the chart it was Rex's idea. I have it available for those of you who'd like it and haven't seen it. Don't hesitate to ask!

CLOSING ITEMS

We have a new look this time because one of the guys with whom I work is a computer nut. Dave offered to do our bulletin and print it out, all 70 copies, all we have to do is buy the paper. That folks is saving us a lot of money. The paper cost us \$30 and that's enough for this one and the one in June!! The printing cost of the last bulletin was \$60.

Dave is all excited about this. He did our mailing list and can even do mailing labels. Thanx Dave mayby we'll sign you up!

Speaking of money - well, dues have been due since Jan. 1. They have been trickling in. There are however still quite a few silent members. If you see a red check - that means we have no record of your dues having been received, and this will be the last bulletin. If the record is incorrect, please let us know. Time does have a way of passing by and we find things suddenly coming due we thought we had plenty of time to take care of.

Special meet in Michigan, May 9 and 10 at Centerville. Bernard Kellogg is coming from Wisconsin and bringing Jim Tuckwood's birds. Maybe even Jim himself, who knows. I'll be there, hopefully John Blehm and Lois Bouck. We may even top the Bay City high of 22 birds (bantams). You can be sure I'll get in touch with Joan Bisco and Bernd Sieg.

This is the year of the Ameraucans!

I found this in the February PP. Good thoughts for all of us.

DO YOU JUST BELONG?

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend association
meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay home
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belong?

Do you bring in new members
And help the old ones stick.

Our association has a progressive
Program that you've heard
plenty about
And you'll be rewarded if you
Will cooperate in helping us out

So join in our activities often,
And help us with hand
and heart.
Or do you leave the work to a few,
And talk about the clique?

Don't just be a member
But take an active part.

Think this over, brother,
You know right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

This poem was on the cover of a recent issue
of the Nebraska Cattleman and printed in the
'Tarantaise Recorder'

We can't urge all of you too much to get out and be a part, good, bad, or otherwise. This ole desk is getting fuller, but some parts are still silent!

Many thanks again to those of you who have written.

It got cold again, but the sun is shining. Snow is mostly gone, and best of all the horses are beginning to shed. I don't have any broody hens, but I'm getting eggs and the kerosene incubator gets fired up April 1.

WE SUPPORT

American Bantam Association
Eleanor Vinhage, Sec.

Box 127
Augusta, N.J. 07822

Poultry Press
Box 542
Connersville, IN 47331-0542

Countryside
312 Portland Rd.
Waterloo, WI 53594

American Poultry Association
Bertha Traver, Sec.

Box 351 RD 4
Troy, NY 12180

Hen House Herald
Box 1011
Council Bluffs, IA 51502
(Glenda Heywood, Editor)

YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP

'Let us not give up meeting together,
as some are in the habit of doing,
but let us encourage one another and
all the more as you see the day approach-
ing'.

(Hebrews 10:25 NIV)

AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP ROSTER as of March 1, 1987

- Bernd Sieg : 2654 Scio Church Rd. : Ann Arbor, MI. 48103
Bisco Joan : 1580 Battle Rd. : Farwell, MI. 48622
Blehm John : 4599 Lange Rd. : Birch Run, MI. 48415
Bouck Lois : 9519 Ridge Rd. : Goodrich, MI. 48438
Bugner Ronald : RR1 Box 32 : Reader, ND. 58649
Burger Richard : 5046 Oglethoun-Stanton Rd. : Newark, DE. 16713
Bunson S.M. : 2121 Marsalis : Abilene, TX. 79603
- Cable Don : P.O. Box 179 : Garden Valley, CA. 95633
Carey Larry : RR1 Box 295 F : Clyde, TX. 76510
Carpenter Ken : Star's Haven Ranch, 50 Hoag Cross Rd. : Ossining, NY 10502
Clark Evelyn : Rt. 3, Box 242 : Lebanon, MO. 65336
Clark Jimmy Leon : Route 9, Box 433A : Gainesville, GA. 30506
Conkling Bernhard H : Rt. 1, Box 63 : Stanton, IA. 51573
Cook Harry : Water St., RDM# Box 130 : Eatontown, NJ. 07724
Cooper Harold : 70-30 Schronon River Rd. : Diamond Point, NY. 12624
Crane Margaret : 207 Pioneer : Keena, TX. 76659
Davis Donald J : 124 So. 6th St. : Fairfax, OK. 74637
Donaho C.L. : 4401 Wilson Lane : Fort Worth, TX. 76133
- Ferris Ted : 7050 West 6th Ave : Lakewood, CO. 80215
Fosbrink Carl : RR3, Box 331 : Seymour, IN. 47274
- Frank Jeannette : P.O. Box 924 : Great Falls, MT. 59403
Fugate John : Rt. 4, Box 376E : Athens, TN. 37303
Garrison Harold : Rt. 1, Box 3160 : Elizabethton, TN. 37643
- Getyina Susan : 4202 Thomas St. : Oceanside, CA. 92036
Gilbert M.K. : W5171 Baker Rd. : Holmen, WI. 54636
Gladhill William : 3729 Petersville Rd. : Knoxville, MO. 21758
Goodwin Mack : Rt. 1 Box 141 : Lilesville, NC. 28091
Grankey Gerald E. : Route1, Box 320 : Mascoda, WI. 53573
Gwynes Ray : P.O. Box 14 : Andersonville, GA. 31711
Hart Rusty : 5109 W. Mobils Trail : Traverse City, MI. 49684
Heywood Glenda : P.O. Box 1011 : Council Bluffs, IA. 51501
Hicks Claire : 224 Bragg St. : New Orleans, LA. 70124
- Holland Bill : 421 W. 5th Ave. : Jerome, ID. 83338
Horman Dave : RFD #2 : Holmen, WI. 54636
Huffman Billy D. : 3305 E. Orlando R. : Panama City, FL. 32405
Jenkins Phil : 3124 Auburn Rd. : Concord, OH. 44077
Johnson Carroll : 457 E. South : Caledonia, MN 55921
- Kalinski Stanlane : 3455 W. Turkey Lane : Tucson, AZ. 85741
Keeney D.L. Jr. : 2211 Commerce St. : Dallas, TX. 75201
Kellogg Bernard L. : P.O. Box 152 : Readstown, WI. 54652
Lippincott Tom : 2572 Loudon St. NW, Rt. 2 : Granville, OH. 43023
McKinnon William (pastor) : 623 Martha Lane : Cedartown, GA. 30125
Meuthing Charlie & Carol : RR 2, Box 315-A : Sunman, IN. 47041
Mongold Ed : Box 202 : Middle Point, OH. 45363
- Monson Mrs. E.M. : 25527 E. Parlian : Orange Cove, CA. 93648
Oakes Jack : 5012 Brown's Gap Rd. : Knoxville, TN. 37918
Phelps Mary Lou : Rt. 22, Box 380 : Springfield, MO. 65803
Pieritz Scott : 14195 Doris Court : Woodridge, VA. 22191
- Rayher Marie : 19822 W. Grant Line Rd. : Tracy, CA. 95376
Segler Jerry A. : Box 23 : Sparland, IL. 61565
Simpson Chris R. : 710 Thorn St. : Stanton, IA. 51573
Simpson Steven M. : 710 Thorn St. : Stanton, IA. 51573
Smith Laurence & Mary Bea : 7715 Homer Dr. : Beaumont, TX. 77708
Sodemann Harold : RR 5, Box 367 A : Paola, KS. 66071

AMERICAN BREEDERS CLUB MEMBERSHIP ROSTER as of March 1, 1987

- Spencer Mike : 6668 So. Cody Ln. : West Jordan, UT. 84084
- Spinas Virginia : 6261 Flounoy Valley Rd. : Roseburg, OR. 97470
- Stahlkuppe Joe : 3199 Wilkinson Rd. : Mt. Olive, AL. 35117
- Stoner David Lee : 1410 East 50th St. : Chattanooga, TN. 37407
- Thompson Burt & Jodi : Box 995 : Ulm, MT. 59485
- Trent Jeanne : RR#1, Box 196H : Central Lake, MI. 49622
- Tuckwood Jim : Rt. 3, Box 21 : Escobedo, WI 53805
- Tutaj Duane : 17M 661 Lorraine Ave. : Addison, IL. 60101
- Wilson Roy : 1010 Chestnut St. : San Marcos, TX. 78666
- Munderlich John : 3512 Maywood Ave. : St. Louis, MO. 63121
- Yeatts Curtis : Rt. 3, Box 1623 : Ringgold, VA. 24586

John W Blehm