



Spring 2001

Vol XXI #1

Ameraucana Breeders Club 6442 Chestnut Ave. Orangevale CA95662



New ABC junior member Ella Trimble, of Grass Valley, California, holding her Blue Wheaten Ameraucana bantam pullet, best AOCCL at the junior show of the Pacific Poultry Breeders on January 27-28 in Roseville, California. Ella just turned five.

Another ABC junior, Sara Leisgang, of San Jose, California, had Champion AOCCL in the junior show at the Central Coast Feather Fanciers Show on her white bantam Ameraucana just two weeks earlier. Sara also placed first in her division in poultry showmanship. Congratulations to both of our ABC junior members!

A red mark in the box to the right indicates that as of this mailing we have not received your ABC dues for 2001. Please respond soon. Thank you!



## *Welcome New Members!*

Calvin Eastwood (Jr.) 11905 E Empire Ave. Spokane, WA 99206 (509) 928-7466

Frank Elduen 30639 168th Ave. SE Auburn, WA 98092 (253) 631-1019

Michael Fraley 10440 Dolan Rd., Columbus, MI 48063 (810) 392-9256

Patrick Mockler 487 Pond Rd. Vernon, VT 05354

Michael Muenks 33878 Hwy. 87 California, MO 65018-3911

Ella Trimble (Jr.) 13435 Garden Bar Rd. Grass Valley, CA 95949 (530) 268-6405

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### *Club Patch*

An attractive 4" patch displaying the ABC logo in five colors is available for \$7. through your club secretary or from Rene Koch at N27113, US Hwy. 53, Blair, WI 54616. The embroidered patch is suitable for your jacket, cap or showcoat.

### *Breeders Directory*

President Mike Gilbert has produced a five page Breeders Directory listing nearly forty members from coast to coast who will provide Ameraucana hatching eggs, chicks or adult stock. Some will ship, while others will deliver to certain shows. This popular item is available from your secretary for only \$2 for club members, or \$5. for non-members.

### *ABA - APA Yearbooks*

Thanks to those ABC members who supported this effort, our club will have a full page ad in both the ABA and APA 2001 Yearbooks. My apology to those I had to return checks and copy. We just did not have the support we needed for a second page in both yearbooks. Unfortunately, some had indicated they wanted to participate, but did not follow through, so if I handle this next year, it will be on a "Show me the money" basis. Our thanks to John Blehm for setting up the copy for the entire page so that it had a finished, professional look to it. I already miss John's expertise and computer skills and we are fortunate to have him as our club webmaster.

## Board of Directors

### PRESIDENT

Mike Gilbert, W5171 Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 (608) 857-3386 [ameraucana@aol.com](mailto:ameraucana@aol.com)

### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Don Cable, 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662 (916) 988-3709 [ambantams@aol.com](mailto:ambantams@aol.com)

### EASTERN DIRECTOR

Neil Townsend, 22769 Steen Hill, Cochran, PA 16314-9803 (814) 425-3313

### CENTRAL DIRECTOR

Ron Klemmedson, N27113, US Hwy 53, Blair, WI 54616 (608) 525-7353 [ambams4U@aol.com](mailto:ambams4U@aol.com)

### WESTERN DIRECTOR

Koralyn Kibbee, 9069 Wooden Show, Manhattan, MT 59741 (406) 284-6978

### SOUTHEASTERN DIRECTOR

Scott Eutsler, 88 Dobyys Church Rd., Stuart, VA 24171 (549) 694-5910 [tucherth@swva.net](mailto:tucherth@swva.net)

### SOUTH-CENTRAL DIRECTOR

Robbie Lindsey, 318 Whispering Oaks, Burnet, TX 78611 (512) 756-2002 [robelind@thegateway.net](mailto:robelind@thegateway.net)

### SOUTHWESTERN DISTRICT

Teresa Renwick, 13333 Quarterhorse Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95949 (530) 268-2488 [clucky@jps.net](mailto:clucky@jps.net)

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### ABC CLUB MEETS

Our bylaws state that our annual National Meet is placed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and District Meets are the prerogative of the District Director. However, you may ask that your district meet be placed in your state and other meets such as state and special meets may be requested by contacting your District Director. In other words, most of our meets are placed at the request of our members and not an arbitrary decision by someone else. If you would like an ABC meet at your favorite show, contact your District Director listed above. We ask that you request meets at shows likely to include the participation of several ABC club members whenever possible.

## EGG COLOR AND BREED DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by M.K. Gilbert, January 2001

Early in the development of the Ameraucana breed standard, certain old-timers such as the late Frank Gary (who was then chairman of the American Bantam Association standards committee), graciously passed on a few "pearls of wisdom" with regard to breed characteristics. One such bit of advice was to have the standard allow for at least some white in the earlobes. At the time mixed lobe color seemed a sure sign of impurity, and since we were desirous of escaping the mongrel designation then prevalent for "Araucanas," the idea was respectfully dismissed. As the adage goes, "Fools rush in .."

Close to a quarter-century later we have a greater appreciation for Mr. Gary's words, even though we are still not in complete agreement with them. Why? It now seems clear that Mr. Gary, having bred colored egg large "Araucanas" during the 1930's and 1940's, could foresee potential problems in maintaining excellent blue eggshell color if brown-egg chickens were crossed in to develop recognized plumage patterns. Because brown egg chickens mostly have red earlobes, they were primarily used in forming the breed, and are still used in isolated cases today. The result has been to develop several lines of beautifully colored Ameraucanas that lay green eggs. While not suggesting anyone abandon a strain of birds because of egg color, we do need to move towards the improvement of egg color over time. Blue is correct, green is not.

The reader needs to understand that the genetics for blue shells are inherited independently from the genetics for brown eggs; they are not mutually exclusive. When brown pigment mixes with blue, the result is green. When a bird inherits both blue and brown eggshell genetics, it lays green eggs. The specific shade of green will vary depending upon the relative strength of the two sets of genes and other modifying factors.

White eggshells, on the other hand, result from genetics that prevent brown pigment from developing in and on the eggshell. White is essentially a non-color, hence a chicken with genetics for white and blue shells will lay blue eggs. This is proper for the Ameraucana breed, and seems to lead to the conclusion that white egg chickens instead of brown egg chickens should have been used to develop desired plumage colors.

Most white egg breeds are of Mediterranean origin and have white earlobes. The latter trait is a show disqualification for Ameraucanas. Are we left with a "Catch 22" situation? Not really, but this does present an additional degree of breeding difficulty.

It is possible to breed white out of the earlobes in a strain of birds while maintaining the proper blue eggshell color. To do so simply requires raising more birds because culling for the improper trait(s) will necessarily be more severe. It can be and has been done.

Another approach would be to select (for crossbreeding) one of the few breeds that actually do have red earlobes and lay either white or very slightly tinted eggs. The Crevecoeur (black) and the Lamona (white) breeds are two examples and there are others.

Perhaps there are a few Araucana strains available that lay good blue eggs as well.

There exists other means of improving egg color as well, not the least of which is selection over time. If certain individuals in a flock of hens lay a bluer egg than others, those individuals and their male offspring should be the only ones used for breeding. If certain male birds throw female progeny that produce better-than-average colored eggs they should be bred back to their daughters, other factors being equal. Caution must be exercised to prevent too close inbreeding, as lower production and fertility would result.

A final possibility, and at this stage of the game perhaps the most satisfactory, would be to seek out another strain of the same Ameraucana variety that does in fact lay excellent blue eggs. If the green egg strain is superior to the blue egg strain in certain other respects, the two lines could be crossed. If enough offspring are raised and culling is properly done, the best attributes of both strains should be combined in one new superior strain within merely a few generations. If the same variety is not available, another variety could be used.

White, for example, could be improved by crossing in black, preferably a black male with a little silver in the hackle. This cross will take only two generations to get back to 100 percent white offspring.

Breeding for improvement is seldom quick and easy, but difficulty only makes eventual success all the sweeter. As Winston Churchill, the prime minister of England during World War II, once said, "A kite rises highest against the wind." Good Luck!



# Out West

## Notes from your Secretary

Hello out there across this great land. I am returning as your secretary after more than a decade and to quote Yogi Berra, "It's like deja vu all over again." I retired from teaching in 1993, bought a truck and 5th wheel trailer and spent the next seven years touring the United States. It was a wonderful experience, but I missed my bantams, my pigeons and my garden, so here I am, back to square one.

While I was spending my winters in balmy Arizona and South Texas soaking up the sun or bird watching on Sanibel Island, Florida, Cape May, New Jersey, or Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, my partner, Mike Gilbert was diligently plugging away, guiding the club as president during those years and I owe Mike and John Blehm my thanks for the many hours they put in to keep this club growing beyond our original expectations and prospering as well.

Though a bit older than I was in 1978 when Mike and I created this club, there is still a little gas in the old tank and I pledge my best efforts on behalf of the membership of this fine organization. Mike has kept us on course, John has placed us in solid financial shape and we have a team of directors that are second to none. Your board of directors has increased the number of club districts to six in order to help cut the vast distances some members have to travel to take part in club meets and also to increase the number of meets to deal with the demands of a growing membership. A map showing the new districts including the states within those districts may be found elsewhere in the bulletin. You may want to clip out this map and tape it over the old map in your handbook.

If you are a subscriber to Poultry Press, you have probably noticed our ABC monthly column and the increased numbers of our club members winning awards with their Ameraucanas. Paul and Angela Smith, of Gainesville, Texas continue to win with their large birds and our new Southwest Director, Teresia Renwick, of Grass Valley, California, broke into champion row on two fronts at the same show, winning best AOSB on a large white Ameraucana pullet and Champion AOCCL on a white Ameraucana bantam pullet at the Pacific Poultry Breeders Winter Show in Roseville, California. Way across the other side of the country, Rainer Klock won Junior Champion large fowl on a black Ameraucana pullet at the Garden State Show in Flemington, New Jersey. The situation looks very bright for our exhibitors and for Ameraucanas in general.

We welcome your suggestions for the betterment of the club and your news items, show reports and questions regarding any phase of poultry keeping relating to the Ameraucana breed, large or bantam. You can be of help to your district director if you will send them your news items as well, being sure to include the junior members and their activities. In order for this bulletin to remain timely and informative, it will require the ongoing contributions of all of our members.

Finally, a change in policy. We no longer issue membership cards. When we ran out of stock, we found the cost of printing new ones as opposed to a receipt for dues, etc. was unjustified. If you have not paid your dues for 2001, please do so in a timely fashion. This will be your final mailing if we do not receive your dues prior to the next issue of the bulletin. Thank you!

Hello everyone,

My name is Teresia Renwick and I am the new South Western District Director. First of all, let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am 40 years old, married for 14 years to a wonderful man named John, and have two great kids. Chrissy, age 13 and Brandon, age 8. I am a native Californian, and reside in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Ever since I was a young child, I have always owned and raised fowl of one sort or another. I must have passed on my love for animals to my daughter, Chrissy, who since the age of five has stated that she would like to become a veterinarian. This is how our poultry involvement began. We started with a few feed store birds, six years ago. We enrolled Chrissy in 4-H at age seven, joined the poultry group and she entered a few birds at our local County Fair. When the show superintendent ran up to us and told us that Chrissy had won Best of Show and Reserve of Show, that was all it took! She was bitten by the poultry bug and so was I. Since then, I have taken over as poultry leader for our 4-H club, County Fair Show Superintendent, County Coordinator in Poultry, and founder of the annual Happy Valley Rabbit and Poultry Youth show, and founder of the Northern California Junior Points Program which mirrors our Cal National Points Program for our open exhibitors.

I am a firm believer that the future of the poultry fancy depends on the youth of today. With so many opportunities and activities available for young people to get involved in, I sincerely feel, that we must entice our youth with incentives and awards to keep their interest in the poultry hobby. If we don't, we may lose them to the countless other activities which all compete for their time and attention.

I am starting my position as director with a District Meet at the Greater California Poultry Fanciers show in Fresno, California on February 24-25<sup>th</sup>. If any members in my district would like to have a meet at their favorite show, please e-mail me at [clucky@jps.net](mailto:clucky@jps.net), or call me at (530) 268-2488. I hope all members in my district will send me an e-mail so that I may get to know a little about every one of you. I look forward to promoting the Ameraucana breed and increasing the membership in the Southwestern states. I also feel very positive about the Ameraucana finally getting the show recognition that it deserves.

## DISTRICT DIRECTORS AND STATES WITHIN EACH DISTRICT

**Western District:** Koralyn Kibbee, 9069 Wooden Shoe, Manhattan, MT 59741 (406) 284-6978  
WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, UT, CO and AK

**Central District:** Ron Klemmedson, N27113, US Hwy 53, Blair, WI 54616 (608) 525-7353  
ND, SD, NE, MN, WI, IA, IL, IN and MI

**Eastern District:** Neil Townsend, 22769 Steen Hill, Cochran, PA 16314 (814) 425-3313  
ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, PA, NY, NJ, MD, DE and OH

**Southeastern District:** Scott Eutsler, 88 Dobyys Church Rd., Stuart, VA 24171 (549) 694-4910  
VA, WV, TN, KY, NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS and Washington DC

**South Central District:** Robbie Lindsey, 318 Whispering Oaks, Burnet, TX 78611 (512) 756-2002  
TX, OK, KS, MO, AR and LA

**Southwestern District:** Teresia Renwick, 13333 Quarterhorse Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95949  
(530) 268-2488  
CA, NV, AZ, NM and HI

Members residing in, or citizens of, countries other than the United States of America shall be deemed members of their district of closest geographical proximity.



**Southeastern District Director - Scott Eutsler**

**Dear Southeastern District Members, Fellow ABC Members,  
and all ABC Friends,**

As I write speeding through the frozen prairies of Northern Illinois heading for a visit with Ron Klemmedson, I reflect on the soon to be historic Y2k. I think everyone I've spoken with experienced a dynamic year. After all the hype surrounding the change from 1999 to 2000 it started out with more of a fizzle than a bang as the "non-event" of Y2k left many folks a bit disappointed. I for one was happy for the benign beginnings to the year. Through the now 44 years of my life I have found that things tend to balance out, however, and this was certainly borne out in my life as the second half of 2000 has been quite eventful.

In July one of my best "Chicken Buddies", who also happened to be my Dad began looking a bit yellow. Six weeks and several operations later Dad left us. If there weren't Ameraucanas in Heaven before, I'm sure Dad has found a way to breed some. His friendship and perpetual support are sorely missed by all of us.

Three days prior to Dad's passing, Ron's wife Dinah Klemmedson, also left to save us a place on the "other side of the veil". Dinah was very important to me. She was a fine lady and took very good care of me while I was a struggling graduate student at University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse.

As my Dad was dying when Dinah passed, my family was not able to travel to Wisconsin to attend the Memorial. This is part of the reason for this visit to Ron. Ron has been a mentor of mine in several areas only one of which is the Poultry Fancy. It is always fun and enlightening to visit with him. This will let us check out their birds and get some idea of how stiff the competition is.

As I hope you are all aware the ABC National is being held South of the Mason-Dixon Line in Galax, Virginia, this year in October. I'm hereby putting out a call to all good Southeastern District members to pull out all the stops and bring an unbeatable bunch of birds to the National. The Central District and the Cheese Heads in particular have gotten a bit cocky (all puns intended) lately and are due for a good old fashioned "wing clipping" come this fall. I encourage all other districts to join in.

In all seriousness I do hope folks come from far and wide. This is going to be a "Big Time." The Blue Ridge Poultry Show and sale is a nice, friendly, event. We had around 1500 birds this fall. There is a good Swap as well. You will need to have your blood testing paperwork in order for all birds you wish to show or sell as Virginia is fairly strict in this regard. My wife Kay and I are licensed to test for Pullorum by VA and can help you if need be.

The show is about one hour's drive through the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains and traditionally the leaves (Fall/Colors) are at near peak at that time of year. We propose to make Spirithaven Farm "Ameraucana Central" for the National. We have a limited amount of traditional accommodations available and an unlimited amount of "camping style" accommodations available. There is parking space for RV's. We invite all to come and stay with us in Spirithaven. There are motels in Stuart and Galax and I will include all of that info in the next newsletter. If anyone wants to reserve early, please call me (Scott) my wife (Kay) or my Mom (Jeanne) at (540) 694-5910. If after 6pm please call (540) 694-5810. We will do everything we can to set you up.



We plan to have an old-fashioned fun, food, and music good time at the farm on Saturday night. We sure hope to have a record number of birds for this year's ABC National. I need to get an approximate count on the numbers of Standard and Bantam Ameraucanas our members will show so enough coops can be reserved for the ABC. We already have commitments for about 80 birds. I think this is going to be a good one! I also need to know if anyone would like to sponsor any awards or specials. I have heard from several folks already so let me know.

In conclusion, I would like to apologize for not being as efficient in publicizing Southeastern District Shows and business in the last year. I will try to do a better job in the coming year. If anyone would like to take the reins and run with the Southeastern Directorship please let me know. In the meantime, if you have ideas for regional or district meets, please contact me. I trust everyone's breeding season will be a good one. I look forward to seeing your results in Galax, if not before. Best wishes to all.  
Respectfully submitted,

John Scott Eutsler

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#### TREASURERS REPORT

11/24/00 - 12/31/00

ABC checking account #16980-10 Frankenmuth Credit Union, 485 N. Main, Frankenmuth, MI

Starting Balance, \$733.70

Income - Membership dues and donations, \$160.00

Income - Handbook sales, \$6.00

Income - Breeders Directories - \$6.00

Income - Patches \$42.00

Income - APA Yearbook ad \$72.00

Income - ABA Yearbook ad \$56.00

Subtotal, \$1,075.70

Expense - Postage, \$72.60

Expense - Supplies and printing, \$216.58

Expense - Patches (reimbursement to Rene Koch) \$42.00

Expense - APA Yearbook ad \$72.00

Balance as of 12/31/00 \$672.52

A check for \$672.52 was sent to the new club Secretary/Treasurer, Don Cable, on 1/1/01

Another check will be sent that includes \$5 from the savings account and \$18.33 (reconciliation) from the old checking account when I closed it. Respectfully submitted, John Blehm.



Lindseys' Scratchalot Farm Ch. Large Fowl Blue Amer. Ckl.  
TEXAS NATIONAL 2000



ROBBIE LINDSEY  
SCRATCHALOT FARM  
BURNET TEXAS

## ABC Iowa State Meet Report, by Mike Gilbert

The Iowa State Meet of the Ameraucana Breeders Club was hosted by the Eastern Iowa Poultry Association on November 24, 2000. Only one large fowl was shown, a blue, and that by a non-member. About 25 bantams were entered, but actually only 19 were present, as one member who entered did not show up. Where were you, Roger? Here are the results as judged by ABC member and APA District Director Duane Urch. Best and reserve Whites were shown by John Bashaw on a cock and hen, respectively. The only wheaten, but reserve of breed, was a pullet shown by Teresa Brittnacher. Best Blue wheaten was won by John Bashaw on a pullet, while Mike Gilbert took reserve on a cock. The best and only Buff was a nice pullet shown by John Bashaw. Reserve Brown-red bantam was a cockerel by Phil, Linda and Camber Jones of Iowa City. Best Brown-red, champion Ameraucana, and champion AOCCL of the show was a pullet by Mike Gilbert.

A number of birds changed hands, with members Judith Graf going home as proud owner of a pair of Blue wheatens, and Ken Lawniczak family started out in Ameraucanas with a trio of Brown-reds. "Remedial" club member Jim Fegan judged all the large fowl chickens and entertained the Saturday evening banquet guests with a great report. A good time was had by all, and hopefully 2001 will see a larger entry of Ameraucanas at this nice show, which was the last of the season for many of us.

## Central District Report - Ron Klemmedson, Director

The ABC Officers have chosen to redistrict the ABC into six districts instead of the four we had previously.. This is good news. The club is growing and we are finding more people interested in Ameraucanas. We would like more participation on the part of the membership however. We welcome input on any club or breed matter, articles for the newsletter and meet requests. Any member may request a meet if a reasonable entry might be expected at a particular show. It's simple - just contact your district director with the club name, show dates, location and a contact person's name and address. It's up to the director to do the rest.

This has been an "off" season, but hatching will soon be underway. We started extra lighting to the bantams and it's working. The eggs are coming fast and furious. We'll deliver our hatching eggs to Mike Gilbert early in March. Mike has a good incubator and has been kind enough to hatch for us. We won't be raising many young birds this year, probably 35-40. We have already raised a few young pigeons- the ultra rare and beautiful very small Budapest and Breslauer Tumblers.

Don't forget - the 2001 Ameraucana National will be in Galax, Virginia this year. We should try to make each national meet bigger and better than the one before. Scott, you have your work cut out for you- it was pretty good at Hutch. The Board seems to be leaning toward Columbus, Ohio for the 2002 National Meet. Those of us involved in the new Golden Quail variety will be working to gain admission to the Standard.

Ed. note- please see the proposed standard for Golden Quail elsewhere in the bulletin.

**Golden Quail Ameraucana Plumage**  
**Color of Male**

- COMB, FACE, AND EARLOBES:** Red  
**HEAD:** Golden bay  
**BEARD & MUFFS:** Light golden brown tinged with grey  
**NECK:** Hackle - Golden bay, slight black striping permitted in lower hackle  
Front of Neck - Golden orange  
**BACK:** Golden bay, each feather penciled with a single broad band of black  
**SADDLE:** Brilliant black, each feather laced with golden orange and with straw colored shafting.  
**TAIL:** Main Tail - black with straw colored shafting  
Sickles, Lesser Sickles and Coverts - brilliant black with light orange shafting and thinly laced with light orange.  
**WINGS:** Shoulders and Fronts: Light orange with a single broad penciling of black.  
Bows: Deep orange bay  
Coverts: Orange bay  
Primaries: dull black, leading edge light gold coarsely stippled with black, straw colored shafting.  
Secondaries: Black, lower edge orange-gold stippled with black, producing a wing bay of orange gold heavily stippled with black.  
**BREAST:** Upper Breast - same as front of neck  
Lower Breast and Upper Thighs - Orange gold, each feather having a broad single penciling of black.  
**BODY, STERN AND FLUFF:** Dull black irregularly barred with light golden orange  
**LOWER THIGHS:** Same as body and stern.  
**UNDERCOLOR:** Slate

**Color Of Female**

- COMB AND FACE:** Red  
**EARLOBES:** Very pale, conforming to color of skin  
**HEAD:** Light golden bay  
**BEARD & MUFFS:** Light golden brown, tinged with grey.  
**NECK:** Hackle - Light golden bay, striping in lower hackle permitted.  
Front of Neck and Upper Breast - Golden Orange  
**BACK AND CUSHION:** Black, finely laced and shafted with bright golden straw.  
**TAIL:** Main Tail - Black, finely laced and shafted with bright golden straw.  
Coverts - Same as main tail.  
**WINGS:** Shoulders, Fronts, Bows, and Coverts - dull black, finely laced and shafted with bright golden straw.  
Primaries - Dull black, leading edge bordered with golden straw  
Secondaries - Black, shafted with golden straw, leading edge stippled with golden straw.  
**LOWER BREAST:** Dull black, each feather shafted and penciled with golden straw.

**BODY:** Black, finely laced and shafted with golden straw.

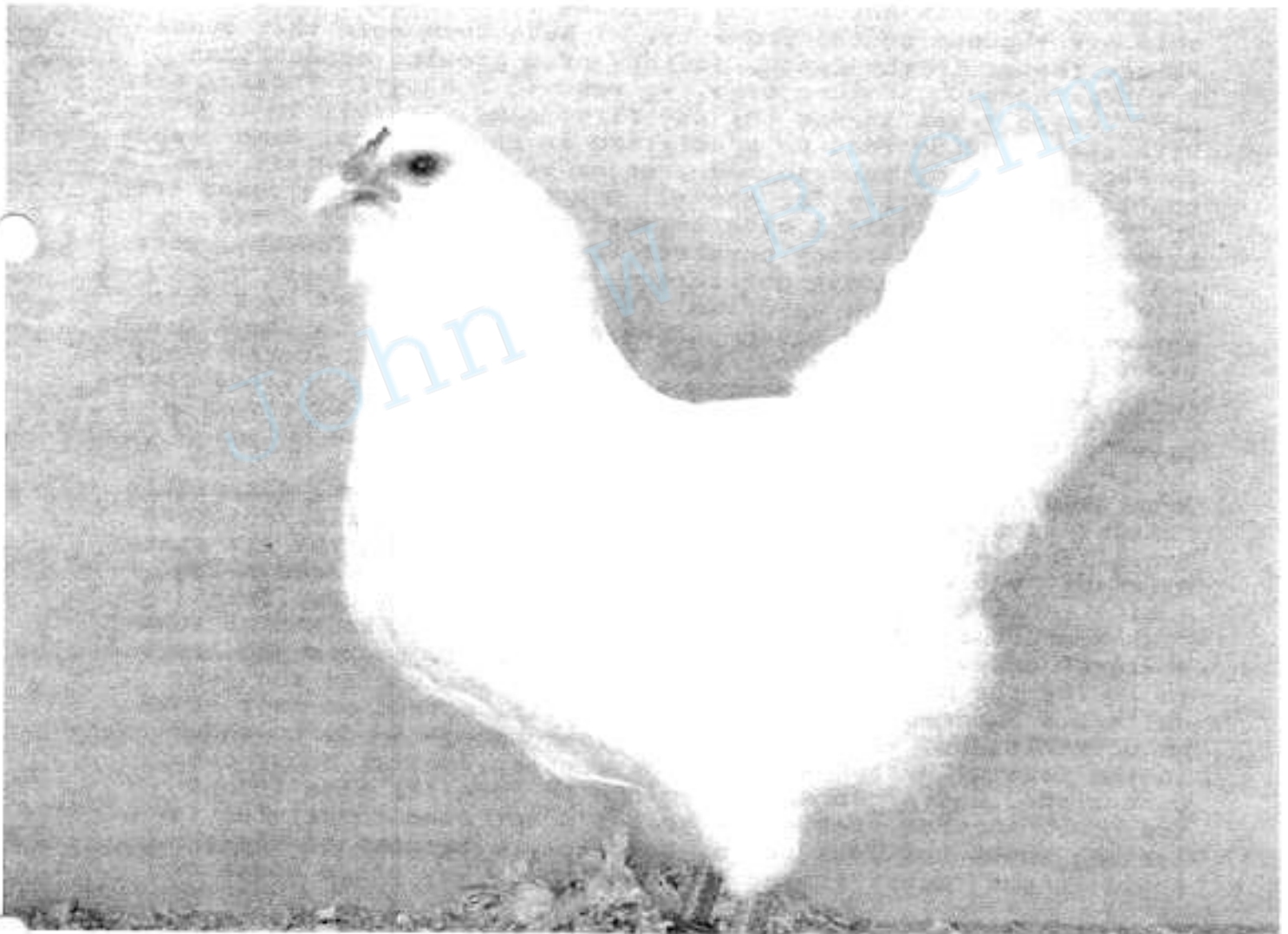
**STERN:** Dull black

**LOWER THIGHS:** Same as lower breast

**UNDERCOLOR:** Slate

#### **Defects**

Failure of single broad penciling on lower breast and back of males. Excessive black on upper breast of males and females. Excessive black striping in hackles of either sex.



"Casey", Teresia Renwick's winning Ameraucana bantam pullet

South Central District  
Robbie Lindsey, Director

Don asked me to write something about myself, so here goes: I was born August 27, 1940, so I'm old enough to know everything and have plenty of time to tell you about it. Just kidding - anyone who raises exhibition chickens knows I can't possibly have plenty of time. My husband Bob is retired from the Navy, having served active duty for 33 years and 6 months. I didn't "serve" all those years with him, only the final two. Bob's only interest in our chickens and pigeons is that I want to go to the shows, and he wants to be with me. Pretty sweet, huh? 12 years ago we bought 10 Acres in Burnet, Texas (near Austin), and I immediately started acquiring game birds and poultry. When I heard about poultry shows I started showing geese. After a while the Texas waterfowl people kind of petered out due to lack of competition, and I grew tired of hauling around a trailer load of geese, anyway. When we went to a show in Minnesota and saw how big the Toulouse were, I came home and sold every goose on the property. I have been told that geese mature faster in the South, so they stop growing sooner than Northern geese. Another time, we went to a show in Tucson, Arizona, where I saw Shamos for the first time. I fell in love with them, and decided to specialize in the Oriental Game breeds. In Feb., 1998, my husband had a major stroke, which left him unable to read, write, or speak. Due to the 150 mile round trip to the V.A. hospital, I gave up most of my birds and shows in order to get him through physical therapy, speech therapy, pacemaker surgery, coumadin monitoring, etc.. Now he doesn't need to be taken back as often, so I'm trying to get back into serious showing. Sam Brush judges and also shows in the A.O.S.B. group, and he told me about Paul Smith's beautiful Ameraucanas. Well, I love pea combs, beards and muffs, and dark colored clean legs, and big blue eggs for a bonus, so I decided to give the breed a try. Well, so far I love them.

I am sending my district members (all three of them) disposable cameras in hopes of receiving some photos of people, chickens, facilities, etc. As there are only four of us in the six state district, you will obviously be hearing the same names a lot. I will recruit new members by giving my buyers a complimentary club membership if they will promise to show their Ameraucanas at least once. I know this sounds radical to people who are in it for the money, but, I promise, you won't miss the few dollars a hundred years from now! I will attend as many shows as possible, but we can't be away long enough to go to shows on the East or West Coast. We have sheep, goats, dogs, cats, game birds, and pigeons, and no one to care for them in our absence. Another problem is that I'm not used to driving in ice and snow, but I'll try my best to get to some of those shows in the "Great Frozen North" (that's any place north of Waco).

I will be sending a helpful hint with every report, too, and here is the first one: I don't know why bearded birds get lice, but the egg cases the lice create are impossible to remove without pulling feathers. In desperation I tried Farnam's Rabbit Ear Miticide, containing .05% Pyrethrins and .50% Piperonyl Butoxide in an oily base. I massaged it into their beards and muffs, being careful not to get it in their eyes, and around their vents, and it worked great. Of course you wash it out before a show.

Everyone please put my phone and e-mail in your directories.  
Robbie Lindsey - (512)756-2002    robilind@thegateway.net  
or robbilind@hotmail.com.

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**Western District - Koralyn Kibbee, Director**

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you for having confidence in me and giving me a chance to be the Western District Director - don't I have two extra states? That's OK, cause I don't know if Wyoming even has any chickens! Ha Ha!

**I have some really good news. Montana now has an ABA/APA Youth Rep. and she's writing this letter! I have finalized three youth shows for 2001, that's besides the 4-H Shows. I am very happy about this, as I've helped the youth with poultry in this area for about 12 years. When our 5 kids were in 4-H, I was a leader for many years.**

**The poultry club in Montana has re-organized and it's known again as Montana Poultry Fanciers and based in the Great Falls area with the support of the State Fair with two APA Shows. I am placing a District Meet at show #1 Jim Adkins, Judge, and a State Meet at show #2, Scott Adams Judge..**

**The dates are August 3-4 and also draw from Idaho, Washington and Utah as well as Montana. For information, call Vickie at (406) 866-3548 or**

**Jeannette at (406) 761-5853.**

**It's been a long, cold winter and I must say there's some cabin fever around here and not just with the chickens! These Wheaten males are so ready to get out and run around! We are hoping to make the Utah Show on March 9, 10 and 11th.  
More next time!**

**Koralyn Kibbee**

## Eastern District Director - Neil Townsend

The 106.2 inches of snow so far this season has left only my muffs and beard sticking out of it. The temperature here in NW PA has been very hard on the birds. One day 35 degrees and the next day 10 degrees plus the wind chill factor.

I received the ABC Board letter yesterday and was surprised to find that Ohio had been added to my district. This gives a lot more options as to placement of meets. I will try my best to have a really large meet in our district in the near future. Let's have some member input as to an excellent location.

I hope to have my E-mail number in the next bulletin. Until then call me at (814) 425-3313 or Snail Mail me at 22769 Steen Hill Rd., Cochranton, PA 16314-9803.

I plan on going to the show in Wapakeneta, Ohio for the APA-ABA semi-annual meet on the March 17th weekend.

We are saving eggs now and as of yet don't have the show birds tested. I don't think I will show in Wapakeneta but look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. I would like to meet any youth interested in the Ameraucana, be it large fowl or bantam.

In this area the first show will be in Westmoreland County, PA on the 21st of April. (See ad in PP) I am in charge of the youth show with another 4-H leader. This show has over 70 trophies for large fowl and bantams. It is quite easy to get to as it is close to the PA Turnpike. This show is very family oriented and the youth are looked on as the major exhibitors.

I am making plans to be at the ABC National Meet in the Southeastern District in Galax, VA at the Blue Ridge Poultry Club Show. Kay and Scott Eutsler the Southeastern Director will be our hosts. I know we all will have a great time. Scott could use some help with the specials so anything you send him would be appreciated. Don't forget it's not the amount you send but the thought. (Think deep)

Support your Ameraucana Breeders Club. When you renew your membership include an extra \$7. for the nicest patch I ever saw. Patch is suitable for either hat or showcoat.

Now a little about myself, my wife and family. We have raised numerous breeds of rabbits for over 36 years. The family developed an interest in poultry after attending local shows and the Ohio Poultry Breeders Show in 1996. While at the Ohio Show the youngsters got hooked. Then on the drive home they convinced Mom and myself to just try a few. The rest is history.

Today in large fowl we raise White and Silver. In bantams we raise Wheaten, Buff, Brown Red and Golden Quail. Golden Quail is a big challenge, but in the end they will really compete.

If anyone in the United States or Canada needs any help, just call I will try my best.

From the world according to Andy Rooney:

On ads in bills: Have you ever noticed that they put advertisements in your bills now? Like bills aren't distasteful enough they have to stuff junk mail in there with them. I get back at them. I put garbage in with my check when I mail it in. Coffee grinds, banana peels... I write Could you throw this away for me? thank you.

On prisons: Did you know it costs forty thousand dollars a year to house each prisoner? I don't think they should have free room and board. I think they should have to run on a treadmill and generate electricity or if they refuse, sit in a chair that's hooked up to the generator.



# The Mail Box

Letters and E-mail from our Members



Dear Mr. Cable,

Thank you very much for your support of Jr. (4-H) poultry fanciers. I have three white Ameraucana chicks!

Sara Leisgang, San Jose, California

You are certainly welcome, Sara. We aim to please. See you at the shows.

Dear Don Cable,

Congratulations on your recent post of Secretary/Treasurer of the Ameraucana Breeders Club. I have been a member for only a few months, but I think it's been great so far. The Handbook that I received was really informative, and the quarterly newsletters are helpful with assorted articles of "how-to" and the reader's letters are fun to read, too.

Sandy Kavanaugh, Richmond, Kentucky

Thank you for your kind words and your donation. We'll try to keep the bulletin informative and fun.

Hi Don,

I don't know if you remember me but I remember you as the Secretary Treasurer years ago. Like you I am back working on the Ameraucana, for me there is no other breed of chicken. Last year I mated a Rhode Island Red hen to my buff Ameraucana and the results are great. Good even color that is almost as dark as the original red hen.

Enclosed is my membership for another year in the ABC. I am sure you will do a great job again, just like you did before.

Jim Tuckwood, Boscobel, Wisconsin

Yes, I do remember you, Jim. As I recall, you were also into canaries. Thanks for your vote of confidence, I will try not to let you down. Please keep us informed on your progress with the red color..

Dear Mike,

I have a question about sickle length. I've seen all kinds of lengths on the tail. In reading the standard, I can only see how it says the sickles should go past the main tailfeathers. But it doesn't seem to qualify it. One inch past, three inches past, ...I don't know. At the shows I've been to I've seen both.

What is it supposed to be? The Brown-red you sent me has them on the shorter side but still past the mains. Other birds such as the Wheaten and Blue Wheaten I purchased, the sickles are much longer. What is the proper length? Is it simply a matter of preference? Or should the judges be looking for something in particular? Thanks for responding. Robin Guerra, Grass Valley, California.

Hello Robin,

Glad you asked about tail length. We see some variation here in the midwest as well, and that is because different folks have different ideas about how they should look. Perhaps some day we will need to make the standard more specific, but for now it may be best to not discourage anyone if they have enthusiasm for the breed. With Ameraucanas, the byword is always medium, and that includes tail length. I am only able to give you an opinion, for whatever that is worth, but I don't believe the lesser sickles should extend much beyond the main tail feathers. The two main sickles, however, should extend well past the others and display a nice curvature, similar to the painting in the ABA Standard. Here is a word of caution. I think it can be dangerous to focus too much on one aspect of type or one trait. The danger is too close inbreeding; we need to maintain a gene pool large enough to sustain the breed for the long term. There will be some differences of opinion as to type, just as in other breeds. Hope this helps a little, and I'd really appreciate a progress report on your endeavors with the Brown-reds. Thanks!

Dear Mike,

I have six pullets that I have put in mating pens and have two males that I kept. I am in need of some advice regarding breeding the wheaten color. It is my understanding that the females should have gray fluff. Over the years I have had females with gray on much of the lower half of the feather. They seemed to me to be darker color than I liked. However when I get the creamy wheaten color, which is the color I like, the feather tends to be light colored, even to the point of no gray, being light all the way to the base of the feather. Now my question is two fold. First, what is the result of not having some gray in the fluff and in mating, what does one look for in the male to counter balance the too light too dark female? I note that the males tend to be mottled at the base of the feather. Also I observe that I may have selected for lack of gray fluff by trying to lower the amount of black stippling in the hackle of the males. Carleton Yoder, Goshen, Indiana

Dear Carleton,

I realize Bantam Standard calls for undercolor in male wheatens to be "light slate" and in female wheatens to be "very light slate." The standard also mentions that undue emphasis should not be given to producing very light, creamy females. That description is well suited for Old English wheatens, but not so well suited for Ameraucana wheatens. We are to prefer the lighter, even colored females over the darker ones. In my experience, these light, creamy Ameraucana females seldom if ever show slate in the undercolor. I do believe, however, that those females that do in fact have slate undercolor will tend to have more and better quality color in the flight feathers and tail. You are quite correct in saying the females with slate undercolor will often throw male offspring with excess black in the hackle (there should be very little if any). I don't mind keeping pullets that are darker than the Ameraucana standard calls for, as long as they have really good wing and tail coloration, because they will almost always molt out to an improved, more even color in their second year. These females usually do have slate in their undercolor during the pullet stage, but may lose it when they go through their first adult molt. With regard to undercolor in the male birds, I don't worry about it. If I am fortunate enough to produce males with good orange top color, clean hackles and nice dispositions, I don't really care what their undercolor is like.