

AMERAUCAANA BANTAM BULLETIN

Ameraucana Bantam Club - 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA. 95662

Summer, 1979

Vol. 1, No. 2

President's Message

Hopefully, all of you have come through a successful breeding season by now and are busy selecting the best birds which will be saved to produce the next generation of Ameraucana bantams. You will find a copy of our new Ameraucana Bantam Standard on the following pages of the bulletin. Study it carefully.

As you are probably aware, our standard request was tabled by the American Bantam Association until such time as we can exhibit Ameraucana bantams at an A.B.A. national meet. Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Malone of the A.B.A. have both expressed positive remarks about our standard and its chances of acceptance. We are making plans to meet the challenge.

Let's all work hard in the added time we now have to develop worthwhile, quality strains and varieties. Ameraucana bantams offer much to the breeder and fancier, and can only gain in popularity as we move forward. Let's hear from more of you through this bulletin. Write to Mr. Cable with any questions or comments you may have. We will help in any way we can. ~~It is through communication and mutual support that our club will thrive.~~

Mike Gilbert
Interim President

Nomination of Officers

The last two pages of the bulletin contain a current club roster and a form for nomination of officers for your convenience. Please use this form for those you wish to nominate, sign and date it, and return it to me on or before Wednesday, August 1. This will provide sufficient time to contact nominees and gain permission from them to include their names on the forthcoming ballot.

In addition to President and Secretary-Treasurer, we now have adequate numbers and geographical distribution to elect three District Directors. The Eastern District shall include the states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Tennessee; Central District contains the states of South Dakota, Kansas, Texas, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois, and the Western District includes the states of Oregon and California.

Please take time to nominate someone you feel will take an active role in establishing a club second to none. This could well be the most important club-related decision you will make this year.

Don Cable
Interim Secretary

AMERAUCA NA BANTAM STANDARD

Blue egg laying fowl, subsequent to importation to the U.S. from South America in the 1920's, were freely crossbred with various types of domestic chickens. Since the characteristic for blue egg shell is dominant to white and brown, there soon appeared birds of nearly every shape and description which were commonly called Araucanas. With each fancier reluctant to compromise his particular type or strain, a generally acceptable standard of perfection seemed high unattainable.

Standards were developed eventually, however, which recognized ear tufts and rumplessness as desirable attributes for the Araucana breed. Due to the popularity and practicality of tailed and muffed & bearded blue egg fowl, they continued to be bred and exhibited by many fanciers across the U.S.A. Today we recognize these latter birds as Ameraucanas. Following American tradition, this breed was formed through compromise to combine the most useful and desirable traits available to a blue egg laying fowl.

SHAPE OF MALE

Comb: Pea- small, set firmly and evenly on head, lower and narrower in front and rear than at center, each row evenly serrated.

Beak: Strong, stout, well curved.

Face: Nearly hidden by muffs and beard.

Eyes: Large, bold, expressive.

Wattles: Very small or absent, concealed by beard.

Ear Lobes: Small, oval, fine in texture.

~~**Muffs & Beard:** Composed of fine feathers turned horizontally backwards~~
from both sides of the beak and vertically downwards from the center. The whole should form three ovals in a triangular group, giving a muffed effect.

Head: Medium length, well filled in front of eyes. Broad, somewhat flat on top.

Neck: Medium length, well arched.

Hackle: Abundantly furnished with moderately long feathers.

Back: Medium length, sloping gently to tail. Broad, muscular.

Saddle: Abundant, matching hackle.

Tail: Medium length, well spread, carried at an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal. Main tail-feathers broad, well spread, and of medium length. Sickles- broad, well curved, extending beyond main tail feathers. Lesser sickles and coverts- medium length, well curved.

Wings: Moderately large, carried above the lower thighs.

Shoulders and fronts- concealed by hackle and breast feathers.

Bows- smooth, well rounded.

Coverts- feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings.

Primaries- Moderately long, broad; strong, concealed by secondaries.

Secondaries- moderately long, broad; strong.

Breast: Full, round, and deep.

Body and Stern: Body- moderately long, broad and deep. Free from heaviness. Stern- well tucked up, fluff moderately short.

Legs and Toes: Legs- set well apart, medium length, straight when viewed from front.

Lower thighs- medium length, muscular, well feathered.

Shanks- medium bone, medium length, nicely scaled.

Spurs- hard, curved, stout at base.

Toes- four, straight, evenly and well spaced.

Appearance: Bold, proud, and graceful.

SHAPE OF FEMALE

- Comb:** Pea- small, low, set firmly and evenly on head, lower and narrower in front and rear than at center, each row evenly serrated.
- Beak:** Medium length, strong, well curved.
- Face:** Nearly hidden by muffs and beard.
- Eyes:** Large, bold, expressive.
- Wattles:** Very small or absent, concealed by beard.
- Ear Lobes:** Small, oval, fine in texture. Often quite pale.
- Muffs and Beard:** Composed of fine feathers turned horizontally backwards from both sides of the beak and vertically downwards from the center. The whole should form three ovals in a triangular group, giving a muffed effect.
- Head:** Medium length, well filled in front of eyes. Somewhat flat on top.
- Neck:** Medium length, arched slightly.
- Hackle:** Abundant, thick, moderately long.
- Back:** Medium length, sloping gently to tail. Somewhat flat.
- Cushion:** Moderately full, feathers broad.
- Tail:** Main tail- medium length, top two feathers slightly convexed, carried at an angle of 40 degrees above the horizontal.
Coverts- quite long, flowing well up the tail.
- Wings:** Moderately large, well folded, carried well above the lower thighs. Shoulders and fronts- nearly concealed by hackle and breast feather.
Bows- smooth, well rounded.
~~Coverts- feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across the wings.~~
Primaries- Moderately long and broad, concealed by secondaries.
Secondaries- Moderately long, broad; strong.
- Breast:** Full, round, deep.
- Body and Stern:** Body- moderately long, broad, deep. Free from heaviness.
Stern- well tucked up, fluff moderately short.
- Legs and Toes:** Legs- set well apart, medium length, straight when viewed from front.
Lower thighs- medium length, smooth, well feathered.
Shanks- medium bone and length, nicely scaled.
Toes- four, straight, evenly and well spaced.
- Appearance:** Bold, alert, active.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Presence of ear tufts in muffs. Lack of muffs and beard. Other than pea comb. Eggs other than blue or shades of blue. Presence of tassel or crest. Rumplessness.

DEFECTS

Oversized and/or lopped comb. Low wing carriage. Extreme gaminess in type. Small muffs, indicating heterozygous condition. Underdeveloped or thin breast, thighs, or body.

WEIGHTS

Cock: 30 ounces, Hen: 26 ounces, Cockerel: 26 ounces, Pullet: 24 ounces

COLOR OF MALE AND FEMALE BY VARIETY

WHEATEN AMERAUCANA BANTAM

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red. BEAK: Horn. EYES: Reddish bay.
SHANKS AND TOES: Slaty blue; bottom of feet pinkish white.
PLUMAGE: Refer to wheaten color description, except light creamy females which
provide the greatest contrast between male and female are to be preferred.
MUFFS & BEARD: Male - black. Female - creamy wheaten.

WHITE AMERAUCANA BANTAM

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Red. BEAK: light horn EYES: Reddish bay.
SHANKS AND TOES: Slaty blue; bottoms of feet; pinkish white.
PLUMAGE: Refer to white color description.
MUFFS & BEARD: Male and Female - white.



Wheaten Ameraucana Bantam

Breeding White and Silver Ameraucana Bantams

By Jerry Segler

This time I am going to tell how I got my white and silver colors. The whites are the foundation of my flock, and I couldn't have come so far with my other colors without them. Both colors were purchased from J. Ralph Brazelton, of Axtel, Kansas. I got 14 started chicks from Mr. Brazelton first. They were mixed colors- hopefully with some browns in them. He had sold all the browns except for a couple of hens and put these in with some silver hens and I believe, a white cock. Most of the chicks were a silver X white cross. Some had a trace of brown in them and I selected for this, but in future generations I couldn't get the color, but I did get silver. These first chicks were remarkably uniform in size and egg color and the most uniform birds I had yet seen. You could see the work Mr. Brazelton had put into them. The first chicks I raised from these were silvers, mixed silvers with white and a couple of white hens. I then purchased a white cock bird with a good comb (as I needed to improve the comb on what I had), and a white hen from Mr. Brazelton. I liked the cock so well that I line bred him and started getting some willow legs in the hens. The original birds had yellow legs.

Last year I purchased a white shanked white cock from Art Galloway, who had gotten it from Mr. Brazelton. Most of Art's birds had white or yellow legs. I had thought willow to be a combination of yellow and slate. I ~~reasoned that white would lighten the yellow pigment and allow the slate to show through.~~ It worked, and that is how I got slate legs on the white birds. This was a big plus for me because the whites have good combs and beards and are a recessive and not a dominant white as in Leghorns. I can now use the whites on my colors to improve comb and beard without getting yellow legs into these bloodlines.

Now, back to the silvers. They were coming along well and improving. About this time I joined the American Araucana Breeders Association, and they did not have silver in their standard. I was ready to back them all the way, so I destroyed all my silvers except for one of the original hens from Brazelton that laid such large eggs for a bantam that I wanted to keep her. The next fall, the members voted to add silver to the colors, so I started all over with this hen and my white cock. I kept a couple of good pullets and mated them back to the white cock. I got a lot of faded colors, but kept the best colored pullets and a well colored cockerel. He has slate legs and the hens willow, so I should get chicks with slate legs.

I would also like to touch on getting good combs. I have found that tall, floppy combs usually carry some single comb genes, but can be bred back to good type with proper selection. Whatever the reason for floppy combs, if you select for low combs with a good base at the skull, it will help. Look at the combs where they attach to the skull. You need a broad base from the skull to comb. If this area between comb and skull is thin or narrow, the comb on cockerels will flop over as they reach maturity. Also remember to check hens and pullets for this defect, as they are half of your bloodlines. That is all for this time, and I hope your breeding season proved to be a success.

AMERUCANA BANTAM CLUB
Membership Roster as of June 28, 1979

- Allison, Mary 9236 Los Coches Rd., Lakeside, CA. 92040
Cable, Don 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA. 95662
Carpenter, Ken Star's Haven Ranch, 50 Hoag Cross Rd., Ossining, N.Y. 10562
Conde, Geraldine 20378 Stanton Ave., Castro Valley, Ca. 94546
Cook, Harry Tara Hill Farm, Water St., RD#1, Box 130, Eatontown, N.J. 07724
Gary, Frank 5 Barbara Drive, Crosswicks, N.J. 08515
Gilbert, Chad Rt. 1, Holmen, WI. 54636
Gilbert, Mike Rt. 1, Holmen, WI. 54636
Hale, Mazree 11746 Topo Lane, Lakeside, CA. 92040
Hanson, Alfred 415 4th St. N.W., Watertown, S.D. 57201
Heath, Harold 1800 Memorial Dr. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Heath, Nan 1800 Memorial Dr. S.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Hickman, Mickey 3221 Seminole Rd., Silverton, OR. 97381
Hines, Charles Rt. 1, Box 300, Arpin, WI. 54410
Huggins, Terry Rt. 5, Dover Rd., Box 347, Clarksville, TN. 37040
Ikeda, Jaime 3629 West Ball Rd., #17, Anaheim, CA. 92804
Kellogg, Bernard P.O. Box 62, Viroqua, WI. 54665
Keeney, D.L., Jr. 2211 Commerce St., Dallas, TX. 75201
Klemmedson, Dinah Rt. 1, Box 325, Blair, WI. 54616
Klemmedson, Ron Rt. 1, Box 325, Blair, WI. 54616
Pavlik, Frank Rt. 1, Box 71A, Minooka, ILL. 60447
Ploeg, W. Groene, Dyk 8, 9621 TL, Slochteren, NETHERLANDS
Roxbrugh, Donian Greystone Cottage, Colemore Lane, Kingwood Common,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 5NA, ENGLAND
Segler, Jerry, Sr. Box 14, Speer, Ill. 61479
Susko, John 400 Coal St., Nesquehoning, PA. 18240
Thompson, Ruth Rt. 2, Box 221, Burlingame, KS. 66413
Van Allen, Katherine 2259 El Paso St., Ramona, CA. 92065
Word, Millard 18021 S. Anderson Rd., Oregon City, OR. 97045

CLASSIFIED

Ameraucana bantams in white, light brown, and limited amount in silver, black, blue and brown red. No stock until fall. Hatching eggs. Contact:

Jerry A. Segler, Sr., Box 14, Speer, Ill. 61479

AMERICAN BANTAM CLUB

Nomination Form

I hereby nominate the following member(s) for the office(s) indicated:

For President: _____

For Secretary-Treasurer: _____

For Eastern District Directors: _____

For Central District Director: _____

For Western District Director: _____

Signature

Date

Deadline for nominations

August 1.

Mail to:

American Bantam Club
5442 Chestnut Ave.
Orangevale, CA. 95662