

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

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

SUMMER, 1982

Vol. IV, No. 2

President's Message

Work on the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook is progressing under the capable direction of secretary Don Cable. If any of you have not sent in your ad, please do so very soon as any venture of this magnitude takes a great deal of coordination early on.

Some of you may not realize Don has just undergone major surgery; at times like this we need to pause from our various endeavors to realize what a tremendous amount of time and energy Mr. Cable has expended on behalf of the club and we members. Join me in wishing Don a hearty thanks for his faithful performance.

We should be planning now to petition the ABA for admittance to the standard of additional varieties. This request should begin with you members. Please let your wishes be known. If possible, send photos and details desired for the standard such as muff and beard coloration (of each sex), eye color, shank color, etc. Plans are now being made to have blue wheaten and black admitted. Other possibilities in the not-too-distant future include blue and buff. Any new variety should be owned and raised by a minimum of two members, preferably more.

As the Book says, "For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly (live honorably)." Psalms 84:11

Mike Gilbert

Ameraucana Handbook

As president Mike Gilbert has indicated in his message, the Handbook is progressing nicely and with the help of the membership, should be in the printer's hands this fall. As of now, we are \$165.00 short of our financial goal of \$500. Your board of directors have been very generous with their pledges, but they cannot and should not have to assume the entire financial burden for an important club project that will benefit every member. A quarter page ad is \$15. and could well be the most important fifteen dollars that you spend to support your favorite pastime for this and several years to come.

Once again, the ads are \$50. for a full page, \$30. for a half page, and \$15. for a quarter page. The Ameraucana Bantam Handbook will be by and for Ameraucana bantam breeders- please do your part, we need your help. Send your pledge or check made out to the Ameraucana Bantam Club along with your copy to the address at the top of the page.

Thank You!

Ameraucana Bantam Club
Breeder's Directory
-1982-

Askew, Marc 1850 Kubel Circle, Sacramento, CA 95825 WHEATEN
Blair, Scott Rt. 1, Box 1634, Rineyville, KY 40162
Blehm, John 4599 Lange Rd., Birch Run, MI 48415
Brooksher, Jane 25333 S. Lammers Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN
Cable, Don 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662 WHEATEN, BLUE WHEATEN,
SILVER and WHITE
Carpenter, Ken Star's Haven Ranch, 50 Hoag Cross Rd., Ossining, NY 10562
Clifton, Larry 17217 Van Ogles Ford Elhi Rd., Sumner, WA 98390
Cook, Harry Water St., RD#1, Box 130, Eatontown, NJ 07724 BLUE
Dancer, David 5757 Olive Ranch Rd., Roseville, CA 95678 WHEATEN
Donaho, C.L. 4401 Wilson Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76133 WHEATEN
Edwards, William 1437 Lakeside Dr., Garland, TX 75042
Fugate, John 304 W. Washington, Athens, TN 37303 WHEATEN
Gard, Jack L. 8787 Oroville Hwy., Marysville, CA 95901 WHEATEN
Gary, Frank L. 5 Barbara Drive, Crosswicks, NJ 08515
Gilbert, Mike Rt. 1, Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636 WHEATEN, BLUE WHEATEN
and WHITE
Grinnell, Dr. L.J. Box 385, Salome, AZ 85348
Holland, Bill 421 W. 5th Ave., Jerome, ID 83338
Huffstutter, Ken 2239 Lobert St., Castro Valley, CA 94546 WHEATEN
Ikeda, Jaime 811 So. Knott Ave. #C, Anaheim, CA 92804
Keeney, D.L., Jr., 2211 Commerce St., Dallas, TX 75201
Kellogg, Bernard P.O. Box 62, Viroqua, WI 54665 WHEATEN and WHITE
Klemmedson, Ron Rt. 1, Box 325, Blair, WI 54616 WHEATEN
McAbee, Norbert Rt. 4, Box 37, Crivitz, WI 54114 WHITE
Meredith, Wayne 1319 N. Jackson #107, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Purcell, Carole Riverview Route, Box 2127-Z-4, Riverton, WY 82501 BLACK
Rayher, Marie 19822 W. Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376 WHEATEN
Reuter, Dr. F. Turner Glenstone, Aldie, VA 22 001
Reuter, F. Turner, Jr. Box 1182, Middleburg, VA 22117
Roxburgh, Dorian Greystone Cottage, Colemore Lane, Kingwood Common,
Henley on Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 5NA England
Segler, Jerry A., Sr. Box 23, Sparland, IL 61565 BLACK, BROWN, BROWN RED,
SILVER, WHEATEN and WHITE
Tuckwood, James Rt. 3, Box 21, Boscobel, WI 53805
Tutaj, Duane 17 W. 661 Lorraine Ave., Addison, IL 60101

Van Kampen, Mary Holliman Rt. 1, Box 370, Long Beach, MS 39560
Ziegler, Mr.&Mrs. W.C. 10411 Byrne Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014

Membership as of 6/15/82
Underlined names are ABC charter members

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Part II

Non-specific Enteritis

By Jerry Segler

In my case I believe that the ducks caused enough fouling of the water in the form of mud, feed, and fecal matter to cause the chickens to ingest much larger than normal amounts of bacteria. The birds system could not control this number of bacteria. Inflammation of the intestines resulted which interfered with the absorption of nutrients (even though the birds still ate well), and loss of weight followed. Soon the bird suffered from lack of nourishment and began to display the symptoms of the disease. If nothing is done, the bird becomes severely emaciated and becomes a host to secondary invaders such as are listed in the lab report mentioned earlier, and finally, dies. I can now call to mind chicks that were not thrifty and died and also adult birds that liked to seek out mudholes, looking for choice morsels. The chicks were probably eating from the litter and getting E. Coli from their own droppings. The mud puddle diners were eating around and from a good breeding source of bacteria and became ill.

E. Coli causes no harm in small numbers and possibly an occasional feast from a contaminated mudhole does no harm. It is the bird addicted to eating from the litter or mudholes that will get ill. Since it is not contagious (transmitted from one bird to another by contact) and individual resistance and eating habits vary, losses are small. Also it is quite slow to kill, occasionally taking up to three months. I borrowed an idea from a Poultry Press article on putting medication in gelatin capsules. I could only find the large capsules at the drug store, so I filled them half full of Gallimycin and gave one capsule each day for three or four days, and the birds recovered. For large fowl, use one capsule full of the medication. I feel this to be a much better method than medicating the whole flock. Birds that are ill will not be producing, so you can avoid throwing eggs away. If the whole flock is being medicated, you cannot use the eggs for human consumption.

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Forthcoming Meets

<u>California State Meet</u>	Golden Gate Bantam Club Fall Show, November 13-14, Pleasanton, CA. Contact Marie Rayher, Show Secretary, 19822 W. Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376.
<u>Western District Meet</u>	Arizona State Poultry Association Winter Show, Feb. 12-13. Phoenix, AZ. ABA National. Contact Evelyn Oltersdorf, 9615-B Brown St., Peoria, AZ 85345.

That Marginal Bird

by Don Cable

An ancient cocker, whose advice-like his birds-was often found wanting, once said to me in a moment of rare insight, "A poultryman's best friend is his axe!" Now knowing and doing are often strangers, yet even the least aware must cull his flock occasionally to eliminate the obvious misfits. However, it is not the bird with the glaring defects that tend to undo our well-laid plans, but rather the bird that we feel is too good to cull, yet just not good enough to sell, either. It is the bird that for various reasons- in retrospect, often the flimsiest- that we keep, and in doing so, often do ourselves and our flock a disservice. In short, this is that marginal bird.

More often than not, the marginal bird is a pullet. Typically, breeders are much tougher in selecting cockerels since the majority of breeding units seem to be trios or small pens of four or five birds. Those breeders who pair mate are one leg up on the rest, assuming of course, that they are equally selective with both sexes.

Breed only from your best! How many times have you read or heard this? It is probably the best advice in the world, yet somehow that marginal bird seems to find her way into your third or fourth best mating, and guess who's eggs wind up in the incubator when the hens of your better matings are in a laying slump and you find all of that extra room in the incubator egg tray? After all, she's with a good cockerel and long shots do occasionally pay off, right? Well, in three weeks you have marginal chicks to brood, which not only compete with your better chicks for space, heat, and that expensive starter feed, but do their part to help inflate those ever increasing electric bills.

Thus, the marginal bird- or birds, depending on how well we deceive ourselves- are kept, "just in case" and increase our feed bill, our workload and compete for space with worthier specimens. Just how much feed will a hen put away in a year's time? Large birds will eat about a hundred pounds while a bantam of average size will consume a good portion of this- even the tiny Coturnix quail will eat more than twenty pounds in a year! If, like most breeders, you are buying and feeding a commercially prepared mix, then you may now have an idea of just what that marginal bird is beginning to cost you. Multiply that figure times the number of marginal birds that you are keeping and you may really have something to mull over.

Could the marginal bird be the best looking specimen in your flock? Certainly, if she does not produce viable chicks or is generally unproductive. Each breeder must make this decision based upon his knowledge and understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of his family of birds and what he perceives to be the basic worth of each individual.

So what is the bottom line? What is that marginal bird actually costing you- in time, money and mediocrity? Think it over. You may find that for a variety of reasons, that marginal bird is definitely a great deal more than you can afford.

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For Sale: A few choice pairs and trios of 1982 hatch Ameraucana bantams in white and wheaten/ blue wheaten. Sorry, no shipping. Contact Mike Gilbert, Rt. 1, Baker Rd., Holmen, WI 54636. (608) 857-3386.

Under the Mulberry Tree

After the wettest winter of this century and a brief, rather cool spring, summer has arrived here in the Sacramento Valley with temperatures of over one hundred degrees. As usual, laying slows down and the bantam hens begin to go broody. I have one setting, one clucking, and a couple more getting very casual about laying, yet spending more time on the nest. It is a season I enjoy and I pretty much let the hens have their way so that I can appreciate the little families they hatch out and scuttle about in back on summer evenings. It's nice to just relax under the mulberry tree at dusk when the chicks are gathered under their mother and make the peep-peep-peep sleepy time call, a cow is mooing down the road, a warm, gentle breeze stirs the leaves overhead and there is the sweet smell of newly mown alfalfa in the summer air. That's living!

I would like to thank those members who have made pledges of support for the upcoming Ameraucana Bantam Handbook. So far, we have the support of president Mike Gilbert, Eastern Director Ken Carpenter, Southern Director Jack Fugate, Central Director Jerry Segler, Western Director Marie Rayher, Election Commissioner Bernard Kellogg and members C.L. Donaho of Texas, and Jane Brooksher and Ken Huffstutter of California. I would like to extend a special thanks to Dorian Roxburgh, our British member, for her generosity and support of this club project as well. It is very gratifying to have someone so very far away support the club in this endeavor and I hope that this will serve as a source of inspiration to others within the club who have as yet to make a pledge.

Western District Director Marie Rayher has placed the Western District Meet at the ABA National Meet in Phoenix next February. Both Marie and your secretary plan to attend. This will be the first time Ameraucana bantams will have been shown in Arizona and if I am not mistaken, the first time at an ABA National Meet. We did manage to have a few at the ABA Semi-Annual Meet last year in San Jose, but we would like to have exposure for the breed at a show attended by people from all across the nation. It is my understanding that next year the ABA and APA will again hold a combined show at the Ohio National in Columbus. This would be an excellent opportunity to show Ameraucana bantams and help bring them into the mainstream by taking part in a show of this magnitude. We have both quality and sufficient numbers of birds to make the placing of a club meet at such a show worth while. I would be glad to hear from any club members willing to work toward that goal and will be happy to coordinate such a meet.

This spring I had the opportunity to exchange hatching eggs with three of our club members in three different states (all east of the Mississippi) and must say that although the process was often difficult and indeed, disappointing, the end result I believe, will be beneficial to all concerned. In exchange for wheaten, I received blue wheaten, silver and white and am looking forward to working with these varieties which are the first on the West Coast. I also received eggs and hatched six chicks of the Marans breed, which is popular in both France and Britain. The eggs of this rare (in the U.S.) French breed are very large and an unbelievably rich, cocoa brown. In Britain, there are classes at poultry shows for eggs, and the Marans eggs are frequent winners. There is a move afoot to establish a club for American Marans fanciers and club member Jack Fugate is in the vanguard of this effort. Much luck to them.

I will be spending the summer working on the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook and hope to have the main body of the work completed by September 1. We need your ad to make it go. Please let me hear from you. Thanks.