

8/7/87

# AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB BULLETIN

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

Summer, 1987

Vol. IX, No.3

Here it is almost the middle of July and your Secretary hasn't gotten the bulletin out. It seems all of us all over the country are paying for the mild winter. I hear from those who write, it's hot, dry and incubator chicks aren't hatching very well. I have been in contact with Jeannette and she has gotten calls from folks about eggs not hatching. I have been so upset I just couldn't get in the mood to get this bulletin going. Mary Lou Phelps has sent me 7 dozen bantam eggs and not one chick did I get. My kerosene incubator quit with about 6 doz. eggs in it and the hova bator at friend Dale's has yielded only one survivor out of 2 batches. Plus with all that my horse died. I had her for 18 years. But the worm has turned. 'Bette', my good faithful just hatched 7 of 9 and another hen is setting and a blue hen hatched 7 of 9 few weeks back. Five are bantams, so all is not lost.

We have much to tell you. The National at Hutchinson is shaping up. Mary Lou had an exciting win at the Nixa show and Catherine Grant got a standard Ameraucana on Championship Row at the Brazos Valley Poultry Show in Texas.

## Harold Cooper

Fairly new member in New York has consented to be our Eastern director. He has some standards. I sent him some of my eggs so he has a few more. I sent him info. on several New York shows so hopefully he will attend and spread the word.

## Logo patch update

They are here finally. \$4.00. Look quite nice and I've mailed those I thought had paid. If I owe you one let me know.

Here are a great bunch of thoughts from Mike Gilbert:

### Roots

I recently had the good fortune to acquire a copy of the 1959 American Bantam Association Yearbook. It's fascinating to page through it just to see who was supporting the ABA some 28 years ago with ads, and then checking to see which of those fanciers have continued to do so down through 1986. One of the very few who can claim this high distinction is our own member and my friend, Bernard Kellogg of Readstown, Wisconsin. Congratulations, Bernie, and may your record continue for another 28 years and beyond.

On pages 42 and 44 of the year book is an interesting article entitled 'The Araucana Fowl', By the late Leonora C. Hering, a noted poultry historian. In it she describes much of the history of blue-egg fowl starting from 1914 when U.S. scientists first became aware of the existence of Chilean blue-egg laying chickens. Until that time it had been generally conceded that all domestic chickens had been descended from the wild Jungle Fowl of India, at least by those who subscribed to Darwin's theory of evolution.

The discovery of chickens that lay blue-shelled eggs punctured a hole in this theory, however as 'Araucana' chickens appear to be indigenous to the Western Hemisphere. Professor Salvador Castello of Spain presented a lengthy documented paper to support this thesis at the 1939 World Poultry Congress held in Cleveland, Ohio.

These native South American chickens, when crossed with others native to Asia, produced viable, fertile offspring, a highly improbable circumstance under the evolution theory. But it does not surprise those of us who trust in the Biblical account of creation, who know that God created fish and fowl on the fifth day, blessing them and saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let the fowl multiply on the Earth.' (We have never been puzzled by that age-old riddle, 'Which came first the chicken or the egg?').

The late Ms. Hering goes on to discuss the problems associated with early attempts to standardize blue-egg fowl, something which has only been accomplished within the past ten or twelve years. In particular, she mentions the Araucanas shown in plate XIII of that well-known April, 1927, National Geographic article, saying 'But the color of the birds in that painting is described by one person as brownish-buff, by another as pearl-white.' Now I happen to own a copy of that 1927 magazine and have my own idea of what the oriental artist was attempting to portray. It is as follows.

After much study, my belief is that the artist was to paint a matching trio but had only one female, or possibly two females of similar coloring, for models. The females of the resulting painting are, in my mind, primarily a pale, creamy coloration. So have many of you. The artist's birds are rumpless, which is unfortunate because a dark tail would have been conclusive proof.

If this idea is correct, the properly depicted male would have been a variation of the familiar BB red (wheaten-bred) but the artist, not understanding the sexually dimorphic nature of the wheaten color pattern, simply chose to paint a male similar in appearance to the females. The painted male's physical characteristics seem rather feminine, which lends support to the theory that there was no male model at all, the result being a figment of the artist's imagination.

For the benefit of those readers who have not viewed the 1927 painting in question, the male of the trio is presented in the same general color as the females, except for red-orange wing-bows on the male. I have observed the results of perhaps hundreds of color-cross matings over the years but have never seen a male chicken with this particular coloration. The nearest would be a red pyle (as in Modern Games) or as may be produced by crossing a dominant white with a light brown (as in Leghorns). Unlike these examples, however, the male in the painting exhibits a base color of light, creamy tan.

Now we will dare to go one step more. The Araucanas in the painting exhibit eartufts and rumplessness, which were most unusual traits in that day. But if one closely observes the heads of the birds in the painting, small muffs on at least two of the three (indicating a heterozygous genetic condition) can be identified as well. Back when I was experimenting with various Araucana stocks, birds were produced with both tufts and muffs, but the lethal factor associated with eartufts resulted in their selective elimination when I began breeding wheatens-in what would come to be called Ameraucana bantams. Incidentally, the shank coloring of the birds in the painting is dark and the eyes are reddish-bay, just as our Standard requires. The earlobes are not visible, again conforming to our Standard.

We all realize that both Ameraucanas and Araucanas today are the result of standardizing to uniformity a very crossbred ancestry. What American breed of chicken isn't? Accomplishing this uniformity to a high degree is not an easy or quickly accomplished task. Nevertheless we have made great strides forward within the recent ten years. There is no reason why the Ameraucana cannot become one of the most popular breeds in the foreseeable future.

To this end the foregoing has been written to give us, as it were, a greater appreciation for our roots as Ameraucana breeders. Our present-day wheaten Ameraucana bantams, and other Ameraucanas as well, appear to have much in common with the models for that 1927 painting. It is not beyond the realm of possibility that they could even be direct descendants!

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Greetings from the Big Sky Country ---

I suppose by now you have all your chicks hatched for the season and are starting to work on the future champions.

Jeanne T. surprised me in April by shipping me a couple dozen + eggs from her champions. At the time I am composing this bit of an article I can't tell you if they all hatched or not. Any that do are definite champions!!

I don't know about you but I'm having a hard time concentrating on what's going on now....my mind keeps wandering to Hutchinson, MN in Oct. General rumor has it that there is going to be quite a few ABCer's there. Hope there are at least ten Ameraucanas entered for every member that shows up. That would be an impressive show even if only ten members are there. Get to work on those CHAMPIONS.

The Club needs your support on awards, trophies, etc. Write to Jeanne and let her know you'll do your part. I don't know what I'm contributing yet....Jeanne hasn't told me but we'll work out something special.

I know you all think I've lost my marbles -- promoting the National now when the show isn't until October but...if you don't plant the seed in your mind now it may not get planted. I just want you to know I'm working on being there. I have an okay from my boss and my husband (one and the same). This will be a first. Usually he is the one that has out-of-town or out-of-state meetings. So, get started working on your AMERAUCANAS. Get them accustomed to the idea of winning. Start them with the local shows and work up to the National.

A couple more points before I close this message. Are your dues to ABC paid? Hope you said yes. If you didn't pay them yet please do so now. All dues are payable January 1 of every year.

Final point. In case you have not read your ABC Handbook lately - please take time now to review it BEFORE you show your birds. There are definite standards to be met by your birds before they can qualify for ribbons, etc. These standards are for both Large Fowl and Bantams. Don't be slack in reaching for the best with your birds to achieve these standards. If WE, the club members, do not stand behind what has been established for our BREED then we are defeating the purpose of our CLUB.

THINK CHAMPION!!! THINK HUTCHINSON!!!

Jeannette Frank,  
President

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## Sierra Slope

With our national meet coming up in October in Minnesota, some thought might be made in preparation for that event. It seems human nature would have us put off preparation indefinitely, and, as always, we find that the show date is just around the corner, and we are trying frantically to put together a group of birds that will if not be winners, at least be representative of our skills as breeders and showmen. If this is a familiar pattern for you, now is the time to start a different plan. Remember, we are looking at just four months until the show!

There have been a number of excellent articles on show preparation that have appeared in Poultry Press over the years so there is no point in going over the main ideas in great detail. Most of preparation is common sense and old fashioned elbow grease and can be summed up as follows:

1. Poor chickens are an embarrassment.
2. Wild chickens are an aggravation.
3. Dirty chickens stink!

Finally a word about awards. It has always been my feeling that awards presented by a specialty club can and often do express the values of the donors by their very nature. While it is true that a champion bird could be produced by sheer luck from a mediocre flock, the chances of such a happening is remote if competition is substantial. Never-the-less the possibility exists and for this reason, a display of seven birds might better reflect the true skill of a poultry breeder, especially if as indicated before, genuine competition presents itself. On this basis, I will offer awards for best display. Whatever your feeling, please support your national meet with an award of your choice. Don Cable

Greetings from Southern Missouri

Jeanne & Jeannette asked me to write a brief column so - here's my first attempt.

Weather down here is hot and humid - sure does make the weeds grow!

I'm thrilled with the club scheduling a National meet at Hutchinson, Minn, Oct 24-25. Its a long drive from here - 600 plus miles, but I'm sure planning to attend. I'd like to really encourage everyone else to try to do so too. What a neat chance for all of us to get together. I feel it will help the club and we all need to try to help each other. I'm really looking forward to it. I've been saving egg money, any sales, and also any prize money. It all goes in my 'Hutch-Jar'.

I'd also like to mention the APA National at Claremore, Okla, Thanksgiving weekend. I'm going to try to arrange some kind of a meet for Ameraucanas there. I also raise bantam Dominiques and they have their National meet scheduled also.

See you - all at Hutch. Mary Lou

Plans for the 1987 National Meet are beginning to come together, and all systems are go. Bob Coulter is show secretary for the Minnesota club this year, and he has your name and address for a show bulletin if you have expressed an interest in attending. If you are not sure, his address can be found in the Poultry Press classified section under silver laced Wyandottes. Bob says the MSPA will award a trophy plus \$25.00 in cash awards if we show 50 or more birds (large and bantam), cash \$50.00 if we show 100 or more. Our judge will probably be Russ Carlson. Russ judged Ameraucanas at least 3 times last year that I know of, and did a creditable job, so he knows what to look for. The host club will also provide us a club table, and I'm sure will make us feel welcome. This should be a great show, so make plans NOW to attend!

Minnesota does require a pullorum-typhoid test, and Bob would like it if you send in these health papers with your entry; he will take them at the show also. There are quite a few motels in Hutchinson, and the show bulletin will carry the listings with phone numbers. The show will host a banquet on Saturday night; There will be professional entertainment - a magician and a comedian I understand. Cost will run about \$6.50 or \$7.00 - details in the show bulletin.

We are accumulating a nice array of awards. If you haven't pledged an award and intend to do so, let us hear from you soon, because these need to be co-ordinated to avoid duplications. Thanks, and we'll see you in Minnesota October 24-25. Bring your best. Mike Gilbert.

We urge all of you to please try to attend this show. We all need a vacation and why not in October? If you simply cannot attend please send photos of some kind to Bernard or myself. He has volunteered to do a bulletin board of all of us and it will be on display at our club table. Bernard Kellogg Box 152, Readstown, WI. 54652. Rusty is going to make a nice big sign for our table.

My Rex is Worried about me driving 17 hrs. alone and is willing to go. He doesn't even like chickens that much. Jeannette is flying in. Don Cable is flying in. Folks, this would be so great if you could just save that egg money and plan to be there.

Again a new look:

Our resident printer Dave got a new computer system and this bulletin I think, looks even more professional. We are still his guinea pigs so we get off almost 'Scott free' again money wise. Dave by the way just got married to one of the gals where I work, who happens to have been one of my 'first choir kids' when I taught school. Best of luck to them and thanx Dave for giving us a fine looking bulletin.

New Members:

Bonnie Jean Innes - Tampa, Florida

She happens to be my one and only Aunt. She saw several of the bulletins, saw how serious we poultry people are, and decided since she was a former parakeet owner and as a kid helped her Dad, my Grandpa, raise turkeys she had all the qualifications to be a member. She, of course, living in the city has no birds, but has great interest in what we are doing and gives us all her best wishes. I'm sure she'd love to hear from any of you about chickens and if you ever go to Tampa, she'd enjoy a visit. Her address is 3902 Fig Street, Tampa, FL. 33609

Richard Gilbert, Bloomington, IN 47401

John Niedojadlo, Carmel, ME. 04419

Now here's a guy. I had to find out what kind of name that was. It's Indian. He lives on 5 acres in the 'Maine wilderness' raises all his vegetables and has some chickens. He has a great time going to the fairs in Maine. I sent him large fowl eggs to hatch and Mary Lou sent him some bantam eggs.

Dr. Richard Stoneback DVM, Oxford, PA 19363

I was hoping to hear he would be a resident veterinarian for us. Haven't heard anything yet. We have an artist and a printer why not a vet?

John McKuhn, Amity, PA. 15311

Jeannette Dupre, Lake Charles, LA. 70605

We welcome all the new members and hope you will keep us up to date as to what you need and what kinds of birds you have.

## Bits and pieces

Mary Lou has a fine article in June's PP pg. 10. I hope to get one in myself soon.

I have shipped, I think, about 14 dozen standard eggs to various places, UPS, all arrived in fine shape and everyone reports fairly good hatches at least 50%. Curtis Yeatts, in Virginia had the best luck. I just got a letter from him and he has (am I jealous), 2 blk krls, 3 blk. pullets, 2 blue krls, and 5 blue pullets. Do you know how many years it took me to wind up with 5 blue females? Curtis is really happy and so am I, but gee-whiz! Mike Gilbert had some success, Mary Lou, Ron Bugner, and Harold Cooper. So it does work to send eggs to each other. If your incubator is working properly or you are lucky and have a setting hen or hens at the time. I called Jeannette practically in tears when the second batch of eggs in the hova bator weren't doing well. She said first it just seems to be a bad year (something in the air, crazy weather), and second she always has 2 thermometers in the incubator. Too cold or too hot will cause all the problems - sticky chicks, pipping & dying, fully developed and not even pipping.

Kind of good news. I make bed check when I get home about 8:30-9:00 and the other day "Poppy", a crazy stupid silkie was setting in the food dish. At first I didn't think too much of it, but then I thought "maybe she wants to set" had an egg in my pocket (sometimes go to work with eggs in my pocket), anyway I put the egg under her in the food dish, checked later & she was right there. I did happen to have some bantame eggs, hurriedly fixed up a cage and put Silly Poppy in with them and she is setting tight. Crazy thing I've had her a year and hasn't laid an egg of her own, but wants to be a "Mom". Well and good. Please God of chickens "let them hatch. You'll hear all about it in October.

We all mourn the passing of Bertha Travers. Hopefully the last wasn't too terrible. She spent many years and hours in the poultry fancy. Surely with all the research, fund raising things all over the country and the Grace of God this cancer thing will get stymied.

## The Shows

Take a break and get "a cuppa". I have to dig into my files so I don't leave anything or anybody out. Mary Lou seems to live in the best area for lots of shows to go.

While you're getting "a cuppa" and I'm looking I can tell you about the Centerville show in Michigan on Mother's Day. I had the only LF and Clell Agler didn't seem to like any of them so we didn't do anything great. Georgous George still looked great but they just got placed as they were - meaning - none of them caught the eye of the judge as in Bay City for AOC. We had 17 bantams, 4 exhibitors. Kellogg and Tuckwood got BB on a nice white pullet (which I got to take home), Lois Bouck got Reserve on a BW cockerel. The best thing was talking to Bill Holland who did the judging. He is a club member and was the judge for the qualifying show when AM's became recognized. It didn't dawn on me until after the judging who he was. He's the APA VP and was a real help getting the AM's in the standard. There was time so I got him to go to the AM section and asked questions. He picked Jim & Bernard's white pullet for best because she is small, round, and the perfect head. Flat skull and nice beard. He liked Lois's cockerel because of shape and the rounded tail carriage rather than almost squirrel type that seems to happen around here.

He liked my "Sara" Wheaten a lot, but not much dark in the tail. Sara got BV wheaten.

Tips from Bill: Keep them small, round, males lower tail carriage, flat heads, big beards and good luck. The white pullet Bernard and Jim showed has the best head of any Ameraucana I've seen. Now if we can get that head on all others. Some of my L.F. have a head like that. Anyway it was real enlightening for me to talk to Mr. Holland. We just ran out of time so he never got to see my large fowl. Had I thought of it before I could have asked for him to judge both bantam & LF.

I have found out if an Ameruaacana meet of any sort is being held at a show you are attending you may request who judges them. That way we can get some one fairly knowledgable out of the group of judges to do the AM's. Don't hesitate. If a state, district, or special meet is called in your area, just let the secretary of the show know who the AM people want. I don't care what anyone says, no one judge could possibly know all the breeds and I agree with an article I read in the new PP. If the judges know ahead of time exactly what breeds they are going to be judging they then can do a little homework. That would surely make everyone happier.

MICHIGAN POULTRY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION Show - May 9-10, 1987  
Centreville, Michigan

AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB - State meet

Best Bantam - White Hen - Tuckwood & Kellogg  
Best Standard - Blue Hen - Jeanne Trent  
Reserve Bantam - Blue Wheaten Cock - Bob Bouck

LARGE: (5) - Blue (2) - Jeanne Trent  
Brown Red (1) - Jeanne Trent  
Black (2) - Jeanne Trent  
Bantam: (17) - White (4) - Tuckwood & Kellogg BB, BV pullet  
John Blehm 2-3h;  
Black (2) - Tuckwood & Kellogg  
Blue Wheaten (6) - Bob Bouck 1 bv-rb-c,1k; Marshall Moran  
3c; J. Trent 2c;  
Blue (1) - Tuckwood & Kellogg  
Silver (1) - Tuckwood & Kellogg  
Wheaten (3) - Jeanne Trent

Exhibitors: Tuckwood & Kellogg, P.O. Box 152, Readstown, Wisc. 54652  
John Blehm, 4599 Lange Rd., Birch Run, Mi. 48415  
Bob Bouck, 9519 Ridge Rd., Goodrich, Mi. 48438  
Marshall Moran, 5010 School Rd., Rhodes, Mi. 48652

Thank you for placing a meet with our show.

B. Webb

NORTHERN OHIO POULTRY Show  
Findlay Ohio

AMERAUCANAS BREEDERS CLUB

(continued on next page)

Champion Large Fowl Ameraucana - White Hen	#33	T. Lippincott
Best " " " " Blue Hen		T. Lippincott
" " " " Black (2)		T. Lippincott
" " " " Baired (4)		T. Lippincott
" " " " Splash (3)		T. Lippincott
" " " " Black Breasted (2)		T. Lippincott
" " " " White (4)		T. Lippincott

17 total all by Tom Lippincott

Champion Bantam Ameraucana - Blue Wheaten Hen	#97	Rusty Hart
Best " " " " Splash Hen	#31	One fowl place

4 Ameraucanas shown

WISCONSIN STATE MEET  
AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB  
At the 23rd annual dairyland classic, June 27-28, 1987  
Richland County Fairgrounds, Richland Center, Wis.

WHITE AMERAUCANA (6)

3H	1. Horman (BV) (BB)	2P	1. Kellogg
	2. Horman		2. Tuckwood
	3. Tuckwood		

1C	1. Horman (BOSV) (BOB)
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BLACK AMERAUCANA (3)

1P	1. Kellogg	1K	1. Tuckwood (BOV)
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1H	1. Tuckwood (BV)
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WHEATEN AMERAUCANA (1)

1C	1. Gilbert (BV)
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SILVER AMERAUCANA (3)

2P	1. Tuckwood	1H	1. Tuckwood (BV)
	2. Tuckwood		

BLUE WHEATEN (5)

4H	1. Gilbert (BOV)	1C	1. Bashaw (BV)
	2. Grankey		
	3. Bashaw		
	4. Grankey		

BLUE AMERAUCANA (1)

1H	1. Tuckwood (BV)
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B.B. RED AMERAUCANA (2)

1P	1. Kellogg (BOV)	1H	1. Tuckwood (BV)
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21 birds exhibited by 6 exhibitors.

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Please forgive me if I have left anyone out. I've been getting a little flak. Where's our bulletin? Well it's mostly done but the show reports which I have, thank you all, but I just haven't had time to get them together. Here is what I have at hand. If I left anyone out please forgive. I've been working hard. Great year for Michigan tourists. We are hot hot and lots of people. I've been working lots of hours so I'm just making a speedy end of this just so you can get the bulletin and all the news.

Catherine Grant got on championship row with a standard AM. Lawrence & Mary Bea tell me. Mary Lou is still going around so proud. She got AOCCL at the Nixa show. Her picture is on pg. 11 of the FP. Hang in there everyone. The AM's are coming out.

Latest Hutchinson update:

Jeannette called me today. I was actually sitting down & having my dinner at work. Point of conversation. Jeannette has called the Americ INN folks & reserved 15 rooms for us in a block. They will do whatever we want. We can have a meeting, Hospitality get together whatever. We thought since this was a National meet we should be together. We urge any and all of you to attend.

Send your reservation to the Americ INN. and say you are part of the Ameraucana Breeders Club.

We hope as many of you that can, will attend. This dosen't happen very often. We all need a vacation. Rex is coming with me mainly because we've never been through Wisconsin & into Minnesota.

Ameraucana HQ: Americ INN. 1200 Hwy 15 SO  
Box 394 Hutchinson, MN. 55350  
(612) 587-9299  
ATTN: Bob Mlynar, Mgr.

#### CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Things are hot and dry here. Not much rain. Rex has been hauling a lot of water for all the animals. Lots of tourists so I've been working long and lots. I plan on writing a nice article in the FP about the Hutchinson show. Told my boss, work me to death this summer, I need the end of October off.

Jeannette had new membership cards made for us and I will put them with your bulletin. We still have unpaid members. red check here means you haven't paid.

I've got 4 hens setting one on one of the 2 dozen eggs Mary Lou just sent me today. She is bound and determined I'm going to get some chicks.

Send those pictures to Bernard and see you at Hutchinson.

#### WE SUPPORT:

American Bantam Association  
Eleanor Vinhage, Sec.  
Box 127  
Augusta, N.J. 07822

American Poultry Association  
Nona Shearer, Sec.  
26363 South Tucker Rd.  
Estacada, Oregon, 97023

Poultry Press  
Box 542  
Connersville, IN. 47331-0542

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

Countryside  
312 Portland Rd.  
Waterloo, WI. 53594

#### 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 approaching".

(Hebrews 10:25 NIV)