

AMERAUCAANA BANTAM BULLETIN

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

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Winter, 1979

Vol. 1, No. 4

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Election Results

Election Commissioner Bernard Kellogg reports the following results of our recent election of officers for 1980-81:

President: Mike Gilbert, Holmen, Wisconsin

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Cable, Orangevale, California

Eastern District Director: Ken Carpenter, Ossining, New York

Central District Director: Jerry Segler, Speer, Illinois

Western District Director: Mary Allison, Lakeside, California

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President's Message

I would take this opportunity to thank each of you who expressed your confidence in Don Cable and myself by voting us in for another term as secretary-treasurer and president, respectively, of our growing club. Congratulations to Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Segler, and Mrs. Allison, newly voted directors of the Eastern, Central, and Western districts. Thanks are in order to Mr. Keeney and Mr. Cook, who consented to run for office, and especially to my good friend Bernard Kellogg, who served as election commissioner.

With the overwhelming support we have received from you, the members and backbone of our club, we can now proceed with the business at hand. Our first priority is settling on the time and place of the ABA qualifying meet for our standard. Let's hear from anyone of you who has a preference for a particular show to host our qualifying meet. Thanks again, and may God keep you.

Mike Gilbert

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On January 1, it will be time to renew your membership in the Ameraucana Bantam Club. Annual dues are \$5. single, \$7.50 for family membership. Please send your dues directly to the address at the top of this page.

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Thank You!

## Shank Color in Ameraucana Bantams

By M. K. Gilbert

In the preceding issue of our bulletin we discussed the genetics of the muff and beard trait in our breed of bantams. In this article we will discuss the more complex subject of obtaining proper leg and toe color. You should be aware by now that our breed standard calls for only blue/slate shanks in each variety. This was decided, you will recall, by popular vote.

To review a basic principle of genetics, each offspring inherits a genetic factor or blueprint for a given characteristic from each Parent. Exceptions to this general rule are sex-linked traits, which we will touch upon later.

We also established the principles of genetic dominance and recessiveness in the previous article. Since genes are inherited from both parents, they exist in pairs for each given trait. Thus a bird may carry the genetic factors for both red eyes and brown eyes (one from each parent), but if red is dominant, the bird will have red eyes. The brown will not be evident, yet may be passed on to offspring and will manifest itself in progeny which are pure (homozygous) for brown eyes, i.e., those which have inherited brown eyes from both parents, the red factor being absent in such offspring.

Leg coloration derives from two independent factors. These are the color of the outer layer of the leg skin (including scales), which is called the epidermis, and the color of the under layer, which is called the dermis. These may both be easily observed when dressing out a bird by cutting through the joint at the junction of thigh and shank and peeling back the outer layer of skin on the upper part of the shank.

Shank color is caused by the presence of various pigments or absence of pigment in both the dermis and epidermis. The following are some common combinations:

<u>Shank Color</u>	<u>Color of Epidermis (outer layer)</u>	<u>Color of Dermis (inner layer)</u>
blue/slate	none	dark
white	none	none
yellow	yellow	none
willow (green)	yellow	dark
black	dark	dark

Since the gene for white is dominant it can mask the presence of the genetic factor for yellow or dark pigment. Hence, white-shanked birds can be (but not necessarily must be), carriers of these colors and produce a percentage of yellow, willow, and/or slate-legged offspring when mated with the right breeder bird.

## Shank Color (Con'td.)

Willow legs have the advantage of two recessive genes, yellow in the epidermis, dark in the dermis. That is why two such birds will always breed true, not producing other shank colors in their progeny.

Blue legs, which is what we are after, are made up of the recessive dark under layer and a white (actually a clear or translucent epidermis), outer layer. Hence, all offspring of two such birds will have the dark inner layer of leg skin. But if they are carriers of the recessive yellow in the epidermis, they can also produce offspring which will have willow legs. Since yellow epidermis must be pure to manifest itself, try never to breed from yellow or willow-shanked breeders. To do so is asking for trouble.

To test your good blue-shanked breeders for the yellow epidermis factor, simply mate them with a yellow or willow-shanked bird and observe the results. If any of the progeny exhibit a yellow leg epidermis, the breeder you have tested is a carrier. You know this because if it were pure for (dominant) clear, or white if you prefer, epidermis, the dominant factor would mask the yellow in all offspring.

A word of caution is in order at this point. Leg color takes time to develop in young birds. A bird which appears to have willow legs at four weeks of age may end up with blue legs at the time of sexual maturity, which is the optimum time to classify this trait. ~~Moreover, yellow pigment can and will fade in mature birds. Factors influencing the presence of yellow pigment include egg production, diet and health. As the yellow fades, a bird which has willow legs may fade to blue. Since this fading does not affect the genetic makeup of the bird, be careful when purchasing older birds.~~

Finally, we would mention that a certain gene exists in some strains of birds which inhibits the development of pigment in the under layer of shank skin. This dominant gene is sex-linked, which means that dermal pigment is prevented from developing in one sex of a generation of birds, even though it carries the genetic factor for doing so. Since this is a dominant factor, birds with a dark dermis are not carriers. Needless to say, this can throw a monkey-wrench into the whole business. Follow some sound advice; for best results breed only from blue-shanked birds whenever possible. You will be happier and much more satisfied with the results.

If a reader has a specific problem or question in this area of Ameraucana bantam genetics, the writer will be happy to offer whatever assistance he can.

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### Classified

Ameraucana bantams in white, light brown, and limited amount in silver, black, blue and brown-red. Availability a matter of correspondence.

Jerry A. Segler, Box 14, Speer, Illinois 61479

Welcome New Members!

Bill Holland 421 W. 5th Ave., Jerome, Idaho 83338  
Marie Rayher 19822 W. Grant Line Rd., Tracy, CA 95376

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Report of First ABA Qualifying Meet

Our first ABA Qualifying Meet was hosted by the Golden Gate Bantam Club at Pleasanton, California on November 17-18. The Ameraucana bantams were judged by Bill Holland and his report to Frank Gary appears below. It was a pleasure to meet personally with member Ken Huffstutter, of Castro Valley, Ca and sign up our two new members.

Though the Ameraucana class was small, the Golden Gate Bantam Club officials made certain that they were displayed prominently and we owe them our thanks. We received many favorable comments, particularly for the uniformity of the class and praise for our efforts to standardize the Ameraucana bantam. A big thanks to Bill Holland. Hopefully, this meet will be a springboard for our ABA Qualifying Meet in 1980.

Mr. Frank L. Gary  
~~Chairman, Standard Committee ABA~~  
5 Barbara Drive  
Crosswicks, N.J. 08515

~~November 17, 1979~~

Dear Mr. Gary:

It was my pleasure to judge the Ameraucana qualifying meet at the recent Golden Gate Bantam Club show in Pleasanton, Calif. The birds were of consistent color and type. The first wheaten hen was picked Best of Breed. She had excellent type, showed well, and was reasonably close to the proposed standard. The second wheaten hen was Reserve of Breed and was nearly the equal of the first hen. The pullets did not have the type of the hens, but were fairly consistent on color. The first wheaten cockerel was Opposite of Breed. The males combs were not as consistently good as the females, but were acceptable as pea combs as specified by the Standard. Muffs and Beards were consistent. One of the hens laid a pale blue egg just prior to the judging. There were three (3) exhibitors and ten (10) birds, all wheaten in color.

I strongly recommend that this breed be accepted into the Standard.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Bill Holland  
ABA-APA Licensed Judge  
421 W. 5th Ave.  
Jerome, Idaho 83338

## Financial Report

Income: (11/1/78 - 12/5/79)

Dues - - - - -	\$164.00	
Donations - - - - -	\$ 5.00	
		<u>\$169.00</u>

Expenses (11/1/78 - 12/5/79)

Membership cards - - -	\$24.33	
Poultry Press ad - - -	\$16.00	
Refunds - - -	\$ 7.00	
Postage - - -	\$41.30	
		<u>\$ 88.63</u>

<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$ 80.37</u>
12/5/79	

As you can see from the financial report, we will end our first year well in the black. What this report does not indicate however, is the amount of material donated by members such as stamps, paper and other materials donated for the Bulletin. Your secretary is also able to duplicate bulletin materials at no cost to the club, and while the finished product is NOT professional in appearance, the savings to the club is considerable, so I hope that you will bear with me in this respect until our income justifies professional printing.

As we move into our second year as a club, the Board of Directors will determine meet and awards policy. It is my intention to purchase awards for distribution at forthcoming meets, so our present bank balance may begin to evaporate as this occurs. In a real sense, you the charter members, have financed these awards, so it is my hope that you will be with us next year to take part in our meets and compete for them. We, the new Board of Directors will endeavor to spend club money wisely and welcome your suggestions in this respect.

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### Breeders Directory

As you will recall, the Summer issue of the Bulletin contained a membership list of the Ameraucana Bantam Club. For 1980 I would like to include as a service to the members of our club, a listing of both the entire membership and the varieties of Ameraucanas that are bred by each person. This will provide an opportunity for dispersal of breeding stock for those interested.

On the following page you will find a slip for your convenience for the proposed Breeders Directory. Please include this with your dues for 1980 and mark it as you so choose. Many thanks.

6442 Chestnut Ave.  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
December 10, 1979

Dear Mike,

Your article is outstanding and we're on schedule with the Bulletin. I'll get a copy off to Brent Knipper and will try to get some eggs off to Stanley Book this week. Let me hear from you.

Best wishes for the Holidays!

— Don.

Ameraucana Bantam Club

Breeders Directory - 1980

Name \_\_\_\_\_

St./Rt./Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I breed the following varieties of Ameraucana bantams:

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