

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

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

Winter, 1982

Vol. IV, No. 4

President's Message

A blessed Holiday Season to each of you and best wishes for a happy and a progress filled 1983.

Our club has plans underway for a giant step forward this coming year for Ameraucana bantams and this organization. The second combined national meets of the American Bantam Association and the American Poultry Association at Columbus, Ohio, in November of 1983 will provide the setting. At this great show, the largest in the nation in terms of entries and exhibitors, the Ameraucana Bantam Club will hold a qualifying meet for additional varieties to be recognized by the A.B.A. AND will hold one of the meets necessary to have our breed recognized by the American Poultry Association and included in the A.P.A. Standard of Perfection.

The A.B.A. requires at least ten birds of all classes (cock, hen, cockerel & pullet) be shown by at least two breeders at a qualifying meet which must also be an A.B.A. National or Semi-annual Meet.

Article VI, Section 2 of the A.P.A. Bylaws set forth the criteria for admission of new breeds and varieties. Section 2(b) requires affidavits from not less than five breeders stating that they have raised the breed or variety for not less than five years. Section 2(c) requires certificates showing two or more specimens have been exhibited in each class of cocks, hens, cockerels, and pullets in each of the preceding two years at a show officiated by a licensed by an A.P.A. judge. Section 2(e) requires a qualifying meet consisting of not less than fifty specimens exhibited by at least five exhibitors showing in all classes of cock, hen, cockerel and pullet.

This will require plenty of advance planning and preparation. Your help is urgently needed if we are to gain A.P.A. recognition in 1983.

If everyone puts forth their best effort we can achieve our goals. "The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied." Proverbs 13:4 (NIV)

Membership renewals are due January 1. Please send your \$5. annual dues to the address at the top of this page. Thank you.

Ameraucana Bantam Handbook

The Ameraucana Bantam Handbook has been completed and printed and is available with membership for 1983. Those who supported the Handbook with an ad or who otherwise contributed to its completion have been sent their copies and should have them by now.

It is hoped that the Handbook will be of service to all who breed the Ameraucana bantam both now and in the future. You will be sent a copy by first class mail upon receipt of your 1983 dues.

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Progress On APA Recognition

In order to gain recognition by the American Poultry Association for the Ameraucana bantam, there are a prescribed number of steps which must be taken as spelled out in the APA By Laws. One of these is the securing of affidavits as indicated in Article VI, Section 2., part (b), and reads:

"Affidavits shall be included from not less than five breeders stating they have bred the breed or variety for not less than five years and that it produces not less than 50% of all specimens reasonably true to type, color, size, and comb."

Other than your secretary, the names Mike Gilbert, Jerry Segler, Jaime Ikeda, Bernard Kellogg and Harry Cook come to mind as breeders meeting the above criteria, and the help of each of you is needed for an affidavit. If there are others within the club who meet the criteria as indicated above, please contact your secretary and send in an affidavit, as we would like to proceed without delay. We must have this and other essential steps completed well ahead of the qualifying meet and all of these take a considerable amount of time.

We are receiving guidance on these matters from both APA Secretary-Treasurer Bertha Traver and Standard Revision Committee Chairman John Skinner, but it is up to us to produce the documentation and paperwork necessary to be considered for admission into the Standard. Please help out by getting your affidavit to your secretary right away. Thank you.

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Start planning now for our National Meet at the Ohio National next year!

Those Other Birds

By Don Cable

Our concern with predatory birds- mainly hawks and owls- sometimes causes us to overlook the more frequent visitors to our yards, the jays, magpies, starlings and sparrows, which may also pose a threat to our poultry, though less dramatic. The enormous good that raptors do in keeping a check on rodents is well documented and far outweighs the loss of an occasional purloined hen. Likewise, the pesty, raucus jays, magpies, starlings and their poor relatives, the sparrows, do have both positive and negative effects upon poultry keeping, so it is up to us to make the most of our encounters with these feathered visitors and use them to our advantage.

Wild bird visitors should be welcome in our yards, but not in our pens and poultry houses. One inch poultry netting may be more expensive than the two inch wire initially, but it will more than make up for its greater cost by excluding virtually all wild birds that not only eat your feed, but also foul the feeders and waterers. Moreover, many wild species are carriers of both parasites and disease, so the smaller one inch mesh may prove worth while if only for peace of mind. Sparrows and starlings will arrive in droves if they find ready access to your feed and prices being what they are, chicken feed is not really "chicken feed" any more. Besides, you want these wild birds out in your yard gleaning weed seeds and insect pests.

Magpies are skillful marauders, but are no competition for their smaller, more aggressive cousins, the jays. For example, I once heard the cry of a chick in distress on the far side of my chicken house and upon investigating, scared off a Scrub Jay attempting to make off with a week-old Orpington chick. The chick was a foot or so off of the ground when the jay was forced to turn loose of his prize, which indicates something of the strength and determination of these birds. However, jays are even more skilled at egg-eating and will enter your chicken house through any available opening, be it broken window, sagging wire screen or door left slightly ajar. They make a beeline for the nests to feast upon any eggs that are exposed. Do not be quick to blame your chickens for egg-eating if your chicken house is not secure and there are jays about. But even the often pestiferous jay can be an ally however, as I have seen them on many occasions ridding my summer garden of great, voracious tomato hornworms by deftly plucking them from the vines.

My personal favorites are the Mocking birds who provide not only pest control, but also near constant song through the pleasant months of Spring and Summer. They are also past masters of mimic, as their name implies. I once spent the better part of a Spring morning looking for what I thought was a lost chick. The plaintive cry seemed to come from first one part of the yard and then another as I searched in vain. Finally, the cry came from directly overhead in an almond tree, where I observed the mocker flitting about and repeating the cry that had made a fool of me. The accuracy of the imitation was incredible and I have enjoyed the company of these birds for many years.

We must learn to co-exist with our wild birds even if it means trading off a bit of feed now and then for the services of nature's songsters and insect eradicators par excellence. After all, they were here first!

Welcome New Members

Bob Dutton 25 Northgate Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
David Hansen 429 E. Elizabeth, Ft. Collins, CO 80524
Dr. John Reber Box 328, Apple Creek, OH 44606
T.M. Savory P.O. Box 105, Randwick, N.S.W. 2031 Australia

Mr. Savory writes:

"I have been breeding for muffed, tailed Araucanas for four years. It has been quite difficult, as our quarantine laws mean that we are unable to import eggs or birds into Australia. The Araucana is almost extinct in Australia, and several years of inquiries have meant that I have been able to collect several large birds of mixed Araucana-game background. These have all been large birds of very poor type, frequently with five toes, rose combs, and white in earlobes. I have now managed to breed out the five toed problem, also white earlobes, but still don't have very good crests...I had to use a Rosecomb cross to reduce size nearer bantam size, and am only just now getting birds that are more satisfactory as regards size and type. Any information on the breed would be most gratefully received."

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Financial Report

Income: (12/7/81 - 12/9/82)

Balance brought forward ---	\$ 72.93	
Annual dues -----	\$ 175.00	
		<hr/> \$247.93

Expenditures: (12/7/81 - 12/9/82)

Bulletin -----	\$ 79.00	
Poultry Press ads -----	\$ 32.00	
Hen House Herald ad -----	\$ 4.00	
Postage -----	\$ 80.50	
		<hr/> \$195.50

<hr/> <hr/> Ending balance (12/9/82)	\$ 52.43
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Although we again end the year in the black, you can see that our ending balance for the year is down somewhat from the previous year. Your Board of Directors will continue to try to give you the most for your money and welcome your suggestions in this regard.

Under The Mulberry Tree

As we start in a new club year I would like to make a special appeal to the membership for help in sending in items for the bulletin. In the five years that we have existed as an organization, we have had no more than that number contribute articles or share their experiences by way of our bulletin. I am sure that you must get tired of the same names, perspectives and points of view issue after issue. It is difficult to bring you the type of bulletin you want if we do not hear from you. How about it, folks?

Our Central District Meet was held with the Wisconsin State Poultry Breeders Show and four of our members exhibited. Champion Ameraucana bantam went to Mike Gilbert on a black pullet, which shows how our new varieties are progressing. Mike also had the top birds in wheaten and white, while Jerry Segler picked up the reserve awards and had the best silver. Wayne Meredith had the best blue wheaten. There were seven varieties of Ameraucana bantams shown which is a good sign for our upcoming National Meet in 1983 and a qualifying meet for some of the newer varieties shown here in Wisconsin.

Those of you who subscribe to Backyard Poultry will have no doubt noticed the article by Central District Director Jerry Segler, that was taken from our Fall bulletin and dealt with the preparation of chicken a la Segler. Show the best and eat the rest.

There is a small, informal group forming for the collectors of poultry on stamps and/or coins. This is a spinoff from the American Topical Association, which caters to stamp collectors, but you do not have to be an A.T.A. member to join. Only an interest in collecting, sharing information and perhaps swapping stamps and coins relating to poultry is necessary. The first newsletter and organizational information will be out shortly after the first of the year. If interested, drop your secretary a note and you will be put on the mailing list.

We are in need of someone with an artistic flair to work up a suitable and representative drawing of a pair of Ameraucana bantams to go with our breed description in Bantam Standard. The drawing illustrating the breed in the current fifth edition lacks in both style and accuracy, but was the only illustration available at the time. Walt Leonard, of Santa Rosa, California, who printed the Ameraucana Bantam Handbook, suggested that we use the photo illustration on the cover of the Handbook as the basis for a club logo. Your secretary will be glad to hear from any person that would like to take on either or both of these tasks. It would be preferable to stay within the club so as to have some person reasonably familiar with the breed.

At the recent Fall Show of the Golden Gate Bantam Club, Jaime Ikeda had best display of Ameraucana bantams, Jane Brooksher had reserve champion and Western District Director Marie Rayher, who was also show secretary, spent a great deal of time in search of the White Tailed Tuff. Marie was as busy as the proverbial one-armed paper hanger, but she was really hanging tough (White tailed).

Finally, my best wishes to each of you as the New Year approaches. We have a full agenda ahead of us and I hope that we will have your continued support, as it will be a crucial year for the breed and the club.