

Ameraucana Bantam Bulletin

AMERAUCANA BANTAM CLUB, 6442 CHESTNUT AVE., ORANGEVALE, CA 95662

Winter, 1984

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APA ACCEPTS AMERAUCANA LARGE FOWL

At the annual meet in Milwaukee in October, the American Poultry Association Board of Directors voted to accept the large Ameraucana into the Standard of Perfection. The Standard descriptions and varieties will be same as for Ameraucana bantams, except for weights.

There is some sentiment to include large fowl as a part of our club, but this would require some changes constitutionally and may come before the membership next Fall, in as much as 1985 is an election year. You will here more about this next year and we encourage your input.

Acceptance of the large fowl after the bantams is a reversal of the usual procedure since the large birds generally precede the bantams in development. This may well be a first, but in any case, we welcome the admission of the large fowl and congratulate those who worked so hard to achieve this goal such as Tom Lippincott, of Ohio.

APA STANDARD UPDATE

The next edition of the Standard of Perfection, due early next year, will contain the Ameraucana bantam within the body of the book, not as a supplement, as had originally been planned. Also, the omission of the wheaten and white varieties from the list announced by the APA earlier this year was an oversight and all eight varieties have indeed been accepted by the APA and will appear in the new Standard.

Diane Jacky, the artist commissioned to paint the illustrations of the pair of wheaten Ameraucana bantams for the new Standard, has indicated she has completed her work and has submitted it to the APA. Your Secretary has not seen the completed paintings, so will reserve judgment and will report to the membership when they arrive here.

If you still have not purchased an APA Standard, the upcoming edition would certainly be the one for all Ameraucana fanciers to have. While it is certainly not cheap, those of us who have worked so hard for our breed to be included would no doubt find it a bargain at twice the price and perhaps the top one or two books in our poultry library.

Membership renewals are due January 1. Please send your \$5. annual dues to the address at the top of the page. We hope that you will be with us again in 1985 and that we will have your continued support. Thank you!

Hi Mike - - the to follow.

BREEDING PROBLEMS

Three of the fundamental problems in breeding Ameraucana bantams are hatching deformities, feather pulling and a lack of quality stock for those who want to take up the breed. The last two are not breeding problems directly, but are closely related, and therefore included.

The first of course, is a genetic problem almost totally confined to the wheaten, and therefore, blue wheaten varieties. The deformity is one of the lower mandible, not always obvious at hatching, but becomes increasingly manifest as the chick develops and easily detected in most chicks by the third or fourth week. In some cases the lower mandible does not grow upward under the upper mandible, but projects straight out so that the upper mandible must be carried slightly to one side to accommodate an ill-formed lower beak. In other cases, the upper mandible grows more rapidly than its lower counterpart and begins to hook over the front of the lower mandible, not unlike the beak of a parrot. In some severely deformed specimens, the entire front of the skull and face develops into what I refer to as "Parakeet head" for obvious reasons. These chicks are culled, but remain an ongoing problem and some years account for 5% or more of all wheaten chicks hatched. All newcomers to the wheaten variety should be aware of this problem and not greatly surprised should some of these chicks suddenly appear in your hatches.

Feather picking is neither new nor confined to any one breed or variety, but seems to be common in bearded bantams. Several reasons for this habit have been offered and include dietary deficiencies and even boredom. The two most common dietary deficiencies mentioned are lack of sufficient protein in the diet and a lack of bulk or roughage. In my situation, the lack of protein seems unlikely in as much as I feed a high quality game bird ration with plenty of protein. My birds are also ranged with access to a high quality whole oats which should eliminate the second possible dietary lack, so what next? As indicated the birds are ranged and have plenty of "elbow room" so one might assume the obvious reasons are eliminated and yet I still have occasional feather pulling, especially females working over their mates. It is especially aggravating to find a cockerel standing quietly (and stupidly!) while a pullet methodically pulls out the feathers in his beard. The beard is the most commonly assaulted feathered area and whether this is simply because it is at eye height and therefore more tempting, or more tasty, or whatever, I cannot imagine, but it might be wise to pen your male show prospects separately to be safe.

Lack of quality breeding stock has been a problem from day one. In a new breed this is to be expected, but it makes it rough when you want to provide a quality start for someone new to the breed- especially a fancier you know will bring skill and enthusiasm in improving Ameraucana bantams. Occasionally I receive a letter from a person anxious to get a start who details exactly what he wants in a foundation trio down to a gnat's eyebrow. He wants the size to be so and so, the color just so, beard and muffs expressed like so, egg color such a hue, etc., etc., and I have to sit back and say to myself, "Boy, I wish I had a trio like that, too!"

Most years I hatch and raise 50-60 birds, but seldom keep more than half a dozen or so and another like amount to get new club members started. I suspect that I am like most club members- just a back yard operation for my own pleasure. Unfortunately, I seldom have many birds to spare and can provide hatching eggs on a very limited basis, but be patient, as I will be glad to share with you and help you if I can. I think most members feel the same and this is why we have such a quality club.

Don Cable

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Harold Garrison Rt. 1, Box 3160 Elizabethton, TN 37643
Susan Getyina 4202 Thomas St. Oceanside, CA 92056
William Gladhill 3728 Petersville Rd. Knoxville, MD 21758
Wayne Meredith Rt. 1, Box 122A Pable Rd. Mukwonago, WI 53149
Mr.&Mrs. L.S. Smith 7715 Homer Dr. Beaumont, TX 77708
Joe Stahlkuppe 3199 Wilkinson Rd. Mt. Olive, AL 35117

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income: (12/6/83 - 12/5/84)

Balance brought forward ---	\$ 41.45	
Annual dues -----	\$ 245.00	
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		\$286.45

Expenditures: (12/6/83 - 12/5/84)

Bulletin printing -----	\$ 92.00	
Advertising -----	\$ 25.00	
Postage -----	\$ 124.67	
		<hr/>
		\$241.67

Ending balance (12/5/84)		<hr/> <hr/>
		\$ 44.78

As can be seen from our financial report for 1984 we held our own coming in with an ending balance just above last year. Postage and printing costs for the bulletin remain our chief expenditures and are up from last year over \$40.00. However, it has been the opinion of your board of directors that the quarterly contact with the membership via the bulletin is a must, so we will continue to fund this important item and seek cuts elsewhere. As you will notice, our advertising outlay is down somewhat this year, but we must make a substantial outlay for awards this year, as our supply of rosettes for ABC meets is gone.

In order to make our advertising dollars go as far as possible, I would ask that when you renew your membership for 1985, those members that have become members within the last three or four years please answer the simple questionnaire on the last page and include it when you send in your dues. This will help get a handle on where best to place our club ads and spend our hard-earned bucks where they will do us the most good. Any comments you would care to make would be appreciated and a space is provided, but please do not feel confined to this space only, as your input in making for a better club is both encouraged and appreciated.

NATIONAL MEET TO THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Our National Meet for 1985 will go to the Southern District. This will be our first National Meet in a Southern state and Southern Director Jack Fugate, with input from our Southern members, will be making a decision on a site early on, so Southerners, contact Jack before too long!

UNDER THE MULBERRY TREE

The response by the membership for supporting a full page ad in the APA Yearbook was less than enthusiastic and I am sorry to report that it did not get off the ground. There were only a couple of us interested it seems and I regret that we could not support the APA in this endeavor. I received one letter indicating that supporting both the ABA and APA Yearbooks was getting to be too much and they should combine and have one big yearbook, etc. making it easier on the advertisers since the two yearbooks were so alike anyway and just duplicating services, etc.... I received a nice letter and photo of my pal, C.L. Donaho, down Texas way. C.L. has some nice wheatears and is willing to share eggs with new members. The great "Chain-saw" Horman, in addition to being an Ameraucana bantam breeder is also a Racing Homer enthusiast and auditor for the Trenton Breeders. He ought to write an article on "Eye sign" in bantams for us. Another nice letter and card from Jeanette Frank up in Montana indicates she has had problems with cold weather and her little Dutch bantams. Hang in there Jeanette and thank you for your dues so early this year! I also received an extremely fine letter from new member Joe Stahlkuppe and am delighted Joe has thrown in with us as he can help the breed in that growing Southern District. Will cut the Mulberry tree short this time in order to make room for the questionair To each of you my sincere best wishes for the Holidays!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I became aware of the Ameraucana Bantam Club by means of an ad in:

POULTRY PRESS _____ HEN HOUSE HERALD _____ ABA YEARBOOK _____

APA YEARBOOK _____ OTHER _____ (Please specify) _____

If other than an ad or article in a poultry periodical or yearbook: _____

SUGGESTIONS: _____