



Ameraucana Breeders Club, 33878 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018-3911
www.ameraucana.org

President's Report, John Blehm

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I guess it is time for the state of the club address. All is well. 2007 was another good year for the Ameraucana breed and this club. Each year the different varieties see some improvement and even though there is always a number of members that decide to not renew their membership we gain new members. The changes and improvements may not be radical, but they are there.

More breeders are concentrating on improving egg shell color because many of the other physical Ameraucana traits of most varieties are breeding true. For many of us breeders egg shell color was something that took a back seat to type and other characteristics as described in the APA Standard. As long as the birds possessed the gene for blue eggs we tried to get the birds to look like an Ameraucana before worrying about getting them to lay the proper shade of blue. With good hindsight some of us may agree that maybe that wasn't always the way to go. There appears to be several genes that cause the various degrees of brown tint to outer shell color which causes our blue eggs to take on various shades of that undesirable green. Large fowl silver and wheaten are the two varieties that are most lacking in type, in my opinion, yet they lay the best colored blue eggs. I believe they could be used to improve egg color and eye color in some other varieties like black. Blacks then may be useful to improve type and ear lobe color in wheaten and silver. Some of us are working on breeding projects like these.



Over the past couple years I've heard of breed clubs that have many problems. I know a gal that was kicked out of a club and some members started a second breed club, for the same breed, because of all the squabbling. I've checked out several breed club websites that haven't been updated in years and some sites have been abandoned. As a club we are very fortunate, lucky and/or blessed to not have the problems that others have. Financially our club is in good shape. We have members that go way out of their way to attend our annual National Meet. Our quarterly Bulletins are topnotch and...well, yes it is really great to be part of a well organized organization of some really nice people. Our Ameraucana.org website, along with the ABC Forum, is a storehouse of information. Years ago I received a lot of mail and later email asking questions about Ameraucana chickens. Today I receive very few, by comparison, since the info is readily available online. The ABC Forum is fantastic and I check it out daily. We have covered hundreds of topics and by using the "Search" option a so called newbie to the fancy and breed can get a good education.

The changes that we did see were all positive and plan to replicate that this year. Have a good one!



Features this Issue:

Page 2 – Meet Reports
Page 4 – District Reports
Page 5 – Upcoming ABC Meets
Page 7 – Mottled Ameraucana
Page 9 – Cage Training
Page 10 – Blast from the Past

Heartland Classic

Cape Girardeau, MO Meet Report

Special Meet, March 17-18, 2007, reported by Kirk Keene

6 bantams shown by 2 exhibitors. Judged by Pat Lacy

BB, BV blue wheaten C by Michael Muenks – out of 2 shown by 2 exhibitors, **Champion**

Ameraucana

RV blue wheaten P by Labluv Bantams

BV buff C by Michael Muenks – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

RB, BV silver H by Michael Muenks – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV wheaten P by Labluv Bantams – out of 2 shown by 2 exhibitors

RV wheaten H by Michael Muenks

3 large fowl shown by 1 exhibitors. Judged by Robert Carothers

BV buff C by Michael Muenks – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BB, BV silver H by Michael Muenks – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor, **Reserve Champion**

Ameraucana

RB, RV silver C by Michael Muenks

Oklahoma State Poultry Federation

Shawnee, OK Meet Report

State Meet, December 8-9, 2007, reported by Steve Jones

0 bantams shown

38 large fowl shown by 8 exhibitor. Judged by Harry Halbach

RB, BV black K by Paul and Angela Smith – out of 17 shown by 5 exhibitors, **Reserve**

Champion Ameraucana

RV black P by Paul and Angela Smith

BB, BV blue P by Matthew Smith – out of 6 shown by 2 exhibitors, **Champion Ameraucana,**

Champion Ameraucana Junior Show

RV blue K by Paul and Angela Smith

BV blue wheaten K by Paul and Angela Smith – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV blue wheaten P by Paul and Angela Smith

BV brown red by Jessica Kinsworthy – out of 1 shown by 1 exhibitor

BV buff P by Wesley Wyche – out of 3 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV buff P by Wesley Wyche

BV silver H by Haley Kinsworthy – out of 3 shown by 2 exhibitors

RV silver P by Wesley Wyche

BV wheaten P by Paul and Angela Smith – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV wheaten P by Paul and Angela Smith

BV white H by Wesley Wyche – out of 4 shown by 1 exhibitor

RV white K by Wesley Wyche

Washington Feather Fanciers Winter Show

Chehalis, WA Meet Report

State Meet, December 8-9, 2007, reported by Lisa Cree

The show was cancelled due to weather.

Abbreviation Guide for Meet Reports

BB=best of breed

RB=reserve of breed

BV=best of variety

RV=reserve of variety

C=cock

H=Hen

K=cockerel

P=pullet

AOV=Any Other Variety,

AOCCL=All Other

Combs Clean Legged
(bantam)

AOSB=All Other

Standard Breeds (large
fowl)



Blue Wheaten Portrait

Minnesota State Poultry Association Hutchinson, MN Meet Report

State Meet, October 27-28, 2007, reported by Mary Ann Rademacher

16 bantams were shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Art Rieber
BV blue wheaten K by Daniel Pasche – out of 4 shown by 1 exhibitor
RV blue wheaten P by Daniel Pasche
BV brown red P by Mike Gilbert – out of 2 shown by 1 exhibitor
RV brown red K by Mike Gilbert
BV wheaten P by Daniel Pasche – out of 3 shown by 1 exhibitor
RV wheaten K by Daniel Pasche
BB, BV white P by Daniel Pasche – out of 7 shown by 1 exhibitor
RB, RV white K by Daniel Pasche

Central Indiana Poultry Show Lebanon, IN Meet Report

Indiana State Meet, October 10, 2007, reported by Doug Akers

7 bantams were shown by 2 exhibitors, judged by Tim Bowles
BV black P by Curtis Beck – out of 4 shown by 1 exhibitor
RV black K by Curtis Beck
BV wheaten P by Wayne Gritter – out of 3 shown by 1 exhibitor
RV wheaten P by Wayne Gritter

No large fowl were shown

Upper Cumberland Fancy Feathers Club Cookeville, TN Meet Report

Special Meet, April 7, 2007, reported by Barbara Campbell

No Ameraucana were shown

South Central District, Paul Smith, Director

Greetings from the South-Central District! Thus far it has been more than an unusual winter. The birds have been so confused, they don't know whether to lay or rest for a few more days. It's been in the 80's, breaking records, then back to the teens. We have several consecutive nice warm days and the birds start to lay and then quit when the freezing weather comes.

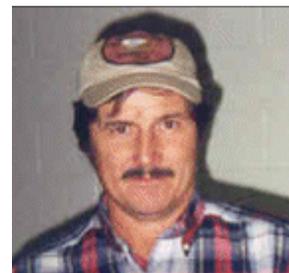
Last year I cooked our first two hatches due to failed thermometers. We purchased two digital indoor/outdoor thermometers, placed the probe inside the incubator to find it was 102°. The first hatch this year was set using the two digital thermometers purchased last year, which had been stored with batteries removed. One was reading 99.5° and the other one reading 100.2° during the entire incubation time. The few chicks that managed to hatch hatched 10 hours to two days too late. Experience managing an incubator or at least trying to, told me that the correct temp of the failed hatch wasn't 99.5°, but about 97° to 98°. Immediately, I increased the temperature inside the second incubator, as it had been set using the same two failed digital thermometers, and was one week into the incubation time. I called GQF and ask if there was a way of checking the

Bantam Hill

For Sale one pair
breeder Black Gold
Ameraucana Bantam
and a F1 brown red x
buff cock.

For 2008 we not taking
orders for hatching
eggs, chicks or started
Ameraucana. We
apologize for the
inconvenience.

Visit our website at
www.bantamhill.com for
more information.



WANTED!

2 to 6
Buff Ameraucana
bantam
pullets or hens

Mary Jo Keith
Crossville, TN
(931) 277-5553

thermometers to see which was correct if any, as five which ranged from 92° to 100.2° were in the first incubator. The technician, whom I spoke, informed me that there wasn't a way to check the thermometer other than trial and error. When the chicks hatch on time, at 21 days, then the temperature inside the incubator is correct. The GQF thermometers may be adjusted to read 99.5° from a properly heated incubator or allow the next incubator to be set according to the reading on the thermometer when it was inside a properly heated one.

I broke eggs from the first hatch to find the majority of them had a chick almost ready to hatch. A few had a chick which died early in the incubation-probably about 1 week, and a few were clear with no chick development. The closer spring gets, the more active the males become, and the clear eggs will decrease.

I hope everyone has great hatches this season, and many good Ameraucana at the shows this fall.

Happy Easter May God Bless!

North Central District, Jerry DeSmidt, Director

Greetings from the Midwest!

Hello everyone, once again as I sit here writing this article the temperatures here in the Midwest are well below zero and negative wind chills as low as -40. We have been getting lots of snow here in Wisconsin and do not have much more room to make any more snow piles. Valentines is almost here and I am hoping that the weather will be getting warm soon. With it being so cold outside not much activity is going on, we are staying in and trying to stay warm, working on remodeling our kitchen.

With the cold upon us, and the barn heated to 40 degrees, the birds have been laying good and I have stopped setting the LF Ameraucana eggs and will set some in the future for some shows later in the year. At this time most of us should have our breeding pens together and getting lots of fertile eggs and hatching lots of chicks for the Nationals in Hutchinson, Minnesota.

Our hatching has been very good with most varieties. The whites, buffs, blue, black and splash large fowl have been fertile and hatching well. I am still trying to get the bantam Ameraucana laying and fertile.

We decided to go to Denver again this January and show at the National Western Stock Show. There were about 500 birds total and we did very well with the Ameraucana. We had Champion and Res. Champion AOSB with the blacks, pullet and hen respectfully; there were about 12 blacks and 8 AOV in the large fowl. In the bantams we were the only ones that showed and had Res. AOCCL with a Black pullet. The interest in Ameraucana in Colorado is growing and selling lots of birds out there. The show was a great show and had lots of fun while I was out there. I would like to see more Ameraucana out there and increase the availability of our breed to others.

I have placed the 2008 Nationals at the MN state poultry show in Hutchinson, MN the 25th and 26th of Oct. it would be great to have at least 200 or more Ameraucana there. So hatch lots of chicks for the show. I would like to hear from the ABC members on what they would like to have for awards, and would greatly appreciate any donations that you would like to give.



Blue Ameraucana Chicks



Blue Wheaten
Ameraucana Chicks

Send suggestions to jwoodhaven@aol.com and you can mail donations to:

Jerry DeSmidt
N912 Hill Road
Pulaski, WI 54162

Southeast District, Barbara Campbell, Director

I am feeling like one lucky chicken farmer! This past fall I sold and culled all but the very best two males. I was feeling all set for the spring '08 breeding season. I had shipped what I thought was a very nice wheaten cockerel out to John Blehm and asked him for his feedback. It turned out the male had white in the earlobes. So, my husband and I immediately checked the two "best" birds I had kept for myself and lo and behold, they also had the white in the lobes. I wasn't sure what I was going to do. It was late in the season and other breeders of wheaten/blue wheaten had already sold their extra stock. Then I remembered having sold a wheaten cock in '06 to a lady that lives nearby. I had replaced him with something bigger as he was quite small. I called Christi but she said that cock had died. However, she had made a trade for a '06 wheaten cockerel I had sold as pet quality due to small size to another local customer. Christi brought him to me and we checked him over thoroughly. He has everything going for him except size and his muffs and beard are a little on the small side. I thought to myself "little is better than white in the lobes, I guess I'll have to see what happens." This bird only weighed 4 1/2 lbs at about 18 months of age. Christi has a pretty good size mixed flock that she free ranges and I hoped that by penning the cock and feeding him well, adding vitamins to his water and worming him that he'd put on maybe a pound and fill out some. In early January I weighed him before putting him in the breed pen and couldn't believe my eyes - he now weighs 7 lbs 2 ounces! The bonus to all this is that when I checked my records to see which breed pen he'd come out of I discovered he is out of my all-time best (and favorite) blue wheaten male, Champ!



I do want to extend my sincerest apology to those who got stock from me this past season. Even with checking and double checking for faults we still managed to overlook the white in the earlobes of males. I had no idea that I was having a problem with this. I had Michael remove me from the club Breeder Directory for the 2008 season, partly due to this but also due to the fact that I've downsized considerably and only have 10 hens to breed from this year. Hopefully I will have some nice quality birds to share this coming fall. Happy Hatching!!!

Upcoming Club Sanctioned Meets

March 1, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Patty Pickard
Muskingum Valley Poultry Association, Zanesville, OH
Contact: Carl Baker, carl_n_leezlee@hotmail.com, (740)453-1583

March 15-16, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Michael Muenks
Heartland Classic Poultry Association, Cape Girardeau, MO
Contact: Kirk Keene, whtrock@hotmail.com, (618)827-4800

March 29, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Patty Pickard
Southeast Ohio Poultry Breeders Association Show, Marietta, OH
Contact: Tom Fagen, (740)585-2719
PO Box 54
Lower Salem, OH 45745

March 29-30, 2008

Delaware State Meet, requested by Larry Clionsky
Delmarva Poultry Fanciers Club, Delaware State Fairgrounds,
Harrington, DE
Contact: Rich Barczewski, rbarczew@desu.edu, (740)585-2719

April 12-13, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Wayne Gritter
Gateway Poultry Association, Inc., Bloomington, IN
Contact: Rick Bond, Rrckyr@aol.com, (812)988-8815

April 19, 2008

Missouri State Meet, requested by Michael Muenks
Missouri State Poultry Association Double Show
Show #1, Sedalia, MO
Contact: Bernita Miller, bmiller@iland.net, (660)647-2474

April 19, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Michael Muenks
Missouri State Poultry Association Double Show
Show #2, Sedalia, MO
Contact:
Bernita Miller, bmiller@iland.net, (660)647-2474

April 19, 2008

Special Meet, requested by requested by Larry Clionsky
York County Poultry Fanciers Club, York Fairgrounds/Expo Center, PA
Contact:
Susan Boose, cecil3@gte.net, (717)852-0149

April 26-27, 2008

Northeast District Meet, placed by Rob Sando
Dayton Fancy Feather Show, Greenville, OH
Contact:
Gary Overton, gandaoverton@core.com, (937)839-5626

April 27, 2008

New Jersey State Meet, requested by Janet Little
Sussex County Poultry Fanciers Spring Show, Augusta, NJ
Contact:
Arlene Sliker, chickens1234@hotmail.com, (973)948-6451

May 2-4, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Jeannette Frank
Rocky Mountain Poultry Association, Hamilton, MT Fairgrounds
Contact:
Jamie Rensmon, (406)443-4347
3785 Traufer Ave
Helena, MT 59602

May 10-11, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Alnice Nichols
Combined show of the United Poultry Fanciers
and Cornhusker Poultry Club, Avoca, IA
Contact:
Diana Dahir, jddahir@earthlink.net, (712)485-2412
32537 Whippoorwill Road
Miden, IA 51553

June 7, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Mike Gilbert
Badger Poultry Show, Richland Center, WI
Contact:
Ruth Lefeber, dottestuff@yahoo.com, (608)725-2179
8648 Irish Ridge Road
Cassville, WI 53806

June 14, 2008

Special Meet, requested by Patty Pickard
Buckeye Fancy Feathers, Canfield, OH
Contact:
Rhonda Simmons, rjos@comcast.net, (330)426-6870

August, 2008

Montana State Meet, requested by Koralyne Kibbee
Montana State Fair, Great Falls, MT
Contact:
Bert Thompson
Box 99
Sunriver, MT 59443

August 9, 2008

Iowa State Meet, requested by Al Nichols
Iowa State Fair, Des Moines, IA
Contact:
Al Nichols, coyotecornerqh1@aol.com

September 27-28, 2008

Wisconsin State Meet, placed by Jerry De Smidt
Wisconsin International Poultry Club Show, Portage, WI
Contact:
Elizabeth Breuer, birdbrainfam@aol.com, (608)877-9901
3402 Rutland-Dunn Rd.
Stoughton, WI 53589

October 11-12, 2008

North Central District Meet, placed by Jerry DeSmidt
Michigan Poultry Fanciers – Frankenmuth Fowl Fest, Frankenmuth, MI
Contact:
John W. Blehm, John@FowlFest.org, (989)777-1234

October 11, 2008

South Central District Meet, placed by Paul Smith
Southern Missouri Poultry Club, Sedalia, MO
Contact:
Pat Johnson, (417)993-0099
Brad Buttram, bradtiff122306@yahoo.com, (417)462-7792
400 Luthy Road
Niangua, MO 65713

October 24-26, 2008

ABC National Meet, placed by the Jerry DeSmidt
Minnesota State Poultry Association Show, Hutchinson, MI
Contact:
Mary Ann Rademacher, ajmrademacher@embarqmail.com,
(952)442-4031
9185 County Road 10E
Waconia, MN 55387

November 8-9, 2008

Ohio State Meet, requested by Patty Pickard
Ohio Poultry Breeders Association, Columbus, OH
Contact:
Eric Markley, markley@ohionational.org, (419)568-7402



Mottled/Exchequer Ameraucana, by Rose Konold

Mottle is a recessive gene that inhibits black on the tip of feathers. It also inhibits dermal melanin and seems to have a somewhat diluting effect on eye color. Exchequer is another form of mottling, yet to be understood, where feathers can have white throughout rather than restricted to just the tip.

The mottle pattern: no more than 50% of the feathers are to be tipped with white, more or less distributed evenly over the entire body. The shape of the white tip is a "V" and under color is black.

The exchequer pattern: more than 50% of the color can be white, with the white tip in any shape, with an even and gay distribution of color throughout the body, even the fluff round the thighs and vent should be chequered black and white. The under color is white for exchequer. *a special note here that I could not find a standard in the APA and have seen 3 slightly different descriptions from other sources.

Down type seems to vary from breed to breed, but the most common is black or blue down with white/cream belly, throat and head and sometimes with a black spot on the head. Shank color begins to



develop after several weeks. In fact, the amount of white present will decrease when moving to juvenile plumage and again when first adult feathers arrive.



Mottled Ameraucana Hen

Exchequer Leghorn based on the British Standard

In my experience, heterozygote's express mottle in down, what I call "party head". In one recent breeding to an outside hen, I have a new down type that would be hard to distinguish from a lovely extended black down with no mottle. It will be interesting to follow these individuals through a cross back to a



Hen



homozygous mottle and see what resultant down types & mottle patterns emerge. It is important to note at this point that most heterozygous mottle chicks will lose white feathering, except perhaps in the primary feathers, with their first juvenile plumage. Some, however, will keep a little on the breast and head. The pattern of homozygous mottling & exchequer continues to change and generally white increases with each molt of adult feathers. An exhibition quality pattern on a young bird will become "over-colored" with age. Thus, it becomes imperative to maintain "under-colored" birds for breeding purposes, or showing at older ages.



Cock

The bird to head the breeding pen should be a first class exhibition cock or cockerel, or one as near to the Standard as possible. In selecting the mates for such a bird, one can use hens or pullets that are up to exhibition form and so have the appearance of being standard birds, and some that are on the dark side. One should avoid the use of hens or pullets that carry too much white, especially on the wings and tail, because the tendency is for the birds to throw progeny lighter than themselves. Characteristics to be avoided are solid white feathers and inhibited shanks and eyes.

Used with the permission of the British Leghorn Club



"Springfield"



"The Eagle" Juvenile Plumage



"The Eagle" Adult Plumage



"Domino" Juvenile Plumage



"Domino" Adult Plumage

It will be necessary to go outside of the breed to acquire this pattern. As for me, I have the mottle gene isolated and I am working to improve type and separate, based on down type, the 2 patterns. It may be that other Ameraucana breeders working on mille fleur, which has the mottle gene as part of that lovely pattern, have isolated the genes as well. Bantam breeders can go the Belgian d'Anvers, an excellent breed. In large fowl, we have the Java and the Orpington. There is also the mottled Ancona, but this breed carries a specific dermal melanin inhibitor, id^a , which creates spots on the shank and is notoriously hard to eliminate as it is recessive.

I believe we will want to develop the mottle pattern on the extended black e-locus as this will give more strength to dermal melanin. I have seen a few pictures of mottled individuals with a solidly pigmented shank, but more often they have only epidermal pigmentation similar to mine. At this time, I believe the exchequer pattern could be based on the birchen locus, which allows for removal of black more easily. I have not been able to find much information regarding this pattern, but reviewing what can be easily found on the internet, it appears to me that the addition of the modifier gene Db, dark brown, creates the areas of white on the body of the feather and under color, as in a Silver Spangled Sussex, ER/Pg/MI/S/Db.

My flock has mixed and unknown heritage, thus I cannot say surely where my mottle or exchequer genes come from, but my guess is that 12 years ago a speckled Sussex rooster I had for simply a few months must have sired a black daughter! Being a recessive gene, it has taken this long to combine for expression, and living in a predator rich environment it has taken this long to express in enough individuals to be worth exploiting! The observance of red in hackle and saddle in roosters with a "proper" mottle pattern, as opposed to the exchequer pattern, would match other results from a breeding project I have read of which introduced the mottle gene with a spangled OEG pattern (the same pattern as Speckled Sussex).



Pen One 2008:

F2 Exchequer Blue Rooster with inhibited shank color X Black Ameraucana hen which I believe to have Fm, Fibromelanosis. Their first batch of chicks (heterozygous mottle), all have good shank color but have 2 distinct down types. I will follow the two down types through another breeding in hopes that this could be an indication of two mottle patterns and in hopes of solid shank coloration.

F2 Exchequer Blue Rooster X Heterozygous Mottle Black Hen. This hen is an outcross to a Paul Smith Black and has produced many good homozygotes; she has very good egg color.

F2 Exchequer Blue Rooster X 3 Homozygous Mottle Black Hens. These are from last years breeding and all have mottle pattern, dark under color, and shank color.

Pen Two 2008:

F2 Mottled Birchen Rooster "Eagle": light mottling on the excellent type rooster. Dark base color with red in hackles & saddle.

F2 Mottle/Exchequer Black Rooster "Domino": excellent gay pattern but no beard on otherwise good type. Pattern could be exchequer due to amount of white.

3 Possible-Heterozygous Mottle Ameraucana Hens: 2 black & 1 blue

1 Heterozygous Mottle Blue Ameraucana Hen: this young hen has possible Pg and good egg color.

1 Heterozygous Mottle Black Ameraucana Hen

1 Black Ameraucana Hen: good eye color on this very "typey" hen from outside breeding.

The Art of Cage Training, By Patty Pickard

I thought I would touch on this subject a bit- as I have been asked by several folks as to how I actually work with the birds when cage training.

Step one - Acquire a cage similar to the ones that the bird will be shown in at the shows. You can purchase show cages from several poultry supply places. You will need to set your cage in a location that is at waist level or higher as that is how the cages will be set up at the shows. You also need to select an area that will receive high traffic from your family or friends that you can convince to come and visit your birds. It is important to get the birds comfortable with strangers walking past their cage and talking. It would be good to have some younger children walk past the cages and chatter as kids do. You will also need to set up a radio by the cage, preferable tuned to a station that has talking and not so much music. The goal here is to replicate the show floor as much as possible.

Step two - Cage training isn't an overnight thing, it takes time. When I work with the birds, they may only spend an hour a day in the cage at first, gradually working up to where they are comfortable in the cage setting for a full day. When I start a new bird on the show schedule, I only take them to one day shows at first- two day shows can be a long time for a new bird. The idea is to make the bird as comfortable and relaxed in the cage as they can be. A relaxed bird will show better than a spastic one.



White Call Duck in training!

Step three - Now that the bird is comfortable in the cage, you can start to train him. I take the bird out of the cage, head first of course, and examine him like a judge would, and then put him back head first. I do this several times each day so that he is used to being caught and looked over. The bird will realize that he is not going to get hurt and will learn to just stand

there to be caught. Judges appreciate a bird that is easily caught verses one that they have to struggle to catch. If it comes down to a tie between two birds, that judge will select the cage trained bird over the wild one. Then I introduce other people into the catch and handle routine. The bird needs to be comfortable with others handling them too.

Step four - Impress the judge. After the bird is comfortable with this routine, you add the final touch on- the pose. Take the bird out of the cage, do your examination of the bird and then stand the bird on the palm of your hand in front of the open cage- he should hop in. As soon as he hops in- toss in a treat, he will turn to get the treat. The goal is to get him to hop in and immediately turn to the door, puff up, and pose for his treat. Now it is very important to use a treat with a crinkly wrapper as you will be able to get him alert and to pose just from the sound of the treat wrapper. I use Old Roy soft dog food treats. They come in little individual packets with a nice crinkly wrapper. Tender Vittles would work if they are wrapped in plastic and not a paper type wrapper. Just shop around, you will find a suitable wrapped treat. It is wise to work on the return to cage and pose when the bird is hungry as then it will mean more. When you are on the show floor, have the wrapper of the treat in your pocket. As the judge walks by your pens, you can crunch your wrapper around in your pocket and the bird will turn and pose for the judge.

Step five - Practice. Keep it fun for the bird and he will work for you. In poultry shows, sometimes it is just the little things that make the difference in the judge's mind. Your goal in cage training is to make that judge take a second look at your bird. If you can get a second look, then you have a shot at taking that class. The birds that are just sitting or wild, aren't showing at their best. If you can get yours to pose and show for the judge, he will be impressed with you and your bird.

Pips & Peeps

Large Fowl Ameraucanas
Black, Blue, Blue Wheaten,
Buff, Silver,
Wheaten & White



Jean Ribbeck
PO Box 461
Newman Lake, WA 99025
509-226-3833

ribbeck@sprynet.com
home.sprynet.com/~ribbeck/



Black Large Fowl
By the Pickard Family



Wheaten Bantam
By the Pickard Family

Blast from the Past: A History of the Ameraucana Breed and the Ameraucana Breeders Club, Compiled by Richard A. Orr, Eastern District Director, Monroe, CT – 1998

As I was looking for a Blast from the Past for this bulletin I thought it would be appropriate to reprint Richard Orr's compilation of the history of the Ameraucana Breeders Club for our large numbers of new members and to remind us all of how far the breed has come in a short time.



Black Ameraucana Chick



Very blue large fowl hatching eggs in any variety.

Dianne Diehl
Currie, NC
(910)283-4604



Brown Red Ameraucana Chicks

It is very difficult to describe the history of the "AMERAUCANA" breed to everyone's satisfaction. Some would say that it is "America's NEWEST breed", emphasizing its most recent developments; but that description overlooks and would deny the long history of the bearded muffed tailed blue egg layers that existed long before adoption of the ABA and APA Standards for "AMERAUCANAS", when such birds were being raised and shown as one type of "ARAUCANA", going back to imports from southern Chile in the 1930's. But in spite of its long history, it is correct and accurate to say that the "AMERAUCANA" is "America's most newly recognized APA/ABA Standard Breed."

As you may know, a breed is NOT a BREED until the APA or ABA say it's a "BREED". For those who may not know the breed characteristics, "Ameraucanas" are first and foremost BLUE EGG layers. They MUST have "pea combs", and be bearded and muffed and tailed, and CANNOT have any tufts. They also MUST have slate blue legs, and red ear lobes (females pale). There has been a definite relationship established between the "Pea Comb" gene and the "Blue Egg" gene. Both these genes have been shown to be carried on the same chromosome, and thus closely related.

No history of the "Ameraucana" could be complete without understanding some of the history of the "Araucana" breed. But one should first understand that the "Araucana" as we know it, was never a "pure" breed, even in Chile.

To generalize the situation as briefly as possible; going back Prior to the arrival of the Spaniards, the Mapuche Indians in Chile had TWO breeds of chickens raised in different areas of the country: One they called the "Collonca", which was small, laid BLUE eggs, rumpless, and had a small single comb; the other they called the "Quetro" or "Quetero", derived from their word "kerto" meaning stammering, referring to its peculiar crow. The "Quetro" was TUFTED, had a flowing tail, pea comb, and laid brown eggs --- "Tufted rumpless" occurred when a rumpless bird crossed with a tufted tailed bird, but these offspring were rare. The latter were later called "Collonca de Arêtes" by the Spanish, meaning "Collonca with EARRINGS". These "Collonca de Arêtes" were blue egg layers, since the blue egg gene is dominant.

In 1556, the Mapuche Indians were attacked again by the Spanish, and an epic poem named "La Araucana", was written by Alonso de Ercilla about their bravery. This name later stuck with the Indians, and subsequently with their chickens. The name derives from the Gulf of Arauco, near Concepcion, Chile.

Dr. Rueben Bustos, a chicken expert in Chile, had himself developed a strain of the so-called "Collonca de Arêtes", and wrote about the Araucana in his country, in 1914. But these breeds remained quite unknown to the world until Professor Salvador Castello, a Spanish poultry expert, who had observed and photographed some "Collonca de Arêtes" at an exhibition in Santiago in 1914, later reported on these birds in 1921 in a paper to the First World's Poultry Congress in the Hague (Holland), causing a flurry of excitement throughout the poultry world.

Prof. Castello did not realize at that time that the “breed” that he had seen and described was NOT native fowl, as he had been told by Dr. Bustos, but rather were the product of Dr. Bustos’ many years of selective breeding. Professor Castello later corrected himself in 1924 – but by then the wave of interest in these birds had already begun, and many erroneous ideas had already developed, based upon the original 1921 paper, which was erroneous. [Many of these erroneous ideas are still in circulation today.]

Many persons since then have devoted an enormous amount of time investigating the origin of these Pre-Colombian chickens and the blue egg gene. Their papers are available and are VERY interesting. They generally illustrate that many of the characteristics of these chickens are apparently of ASIAN (Trans-Pacific) origin.

The first description of the Araucana to be published in this country was done by John Robinson in the Reliable Poultry Journal of 1923, with photos showing tufted rumpless birds. Later, in 1925, Mr. Keller of the Pratt Experimental Farm in Pennsylvania wrote about his small flock – the first Araucana imported to the USA. The earliest imports were mostly of selected rumpless and tufted varieties. Later imports were made up of “Araucana” of all types, among which were bearded muffed tailed varieties, all of which then were bred here in the USA. All of these were at that time labeled “Araucana”.

Of special importance to the Ameraucana history is that a shipwreck of a Chilean freighter many decades ago, in the Western Isles of Scotland, established there a type of blue egg layer from Chile, which were tailed, bearded and muffed, and these birds became the forbearer for the birds now recognized as the Standard “ARAUCANA” in Britain and Australia. These vary only little from our present “AMERAUCANA” Standard. Some of these birds at times reportedly produce tufts, and also rumplessness, showing the possibility of the presence of regressive traits with some of these genes.

Responding to a general “Araucana fever”, due to their promotions for “Easter Egg” chickens, and false and wildly exaggerated claims about the extra healthfulness of Araucana eggs, commercial hatcheries expanded a frantic effort to outcross blue egg laying “Araucana” with everything else, and sell them as “Araucana”, when they were nothing more than mongrels (which sales are still continuing today). However, there were a number of dedicated breeders who attempted to keep what they each viewed as the “original Araucana” from becoming extinct, and various groups formed, but each had their own idea of what a “Standard Araucana” should be. AMONG THEM WERE BEARDED MUFFED TAILED TYPES, but these were far from being standardized.

Prior to 1976, there were breeders specializing and developing BOTH the tufted rumpless type of “Araucana” and the bearded muffed and tailed type (and everything in between), but efforts were made by a few dedicated breeders to standardize their own preferred varieties of “Araucana”, and each sought adoption of their OWN version of a Standard for an “Araucana” breed. This proved to be VERY contentious, and set the stage for much misunderstanding and ill-feelings, which unfortunately is continuing today in some areas. Leading up to that recent period, bearded muffed and tailed blue egg layers were being advertised in the Poultry Press some thirty-eight years ago, as “Araucana”, and being shown and awarded as “Araucana”. ABC Charter Member Harry Cook, of New Jersey, had been working with what later came to be “Ameraucanas: since prior to 1960, and Harry generated letters between the ABC and Clarence Begler who bred bearded and muffed “Araucana” even prior to that, more than 44 years ago. Mike Gilbert also had written, “Back when I was experimenting with various Araucana stocks, birds were produced with BOTH tufts and muffs, but the lethal factor associated with the ear tufts resulted in their selective elimination...” Regardless of other characteristics, the Araucana and the Ameraucana are BOTH distinguished from other poultry by being layers of BLUE EGGS, unique among chickens, and sought after primarily for that reason.

Club Notes

The deadline to submit pictures, articles, ads, reports, etc. for the next bulletin is May 15, 2008 and need to be sent to the club secretary.



Bulletin advertisements are free to all members!



Check out the ABC Forum, www.ameraucana.org/abcforum, to keep up with current topics in the Ameraucana world.



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Responding to such breeding efforts with the "Araucana", and the very widespread contention, and in order to attempt to define just what was an "Araucana" (as it was being developed in this country), the APA in 1974, under the direction of Pres. John Freeman, entered the fray. For the 1975 APA Convention in Pomona, CA, the Araucana breeders were invited to present their case, and a "Qualifying Meet" was set up. They were represented by a group called "Action for Araucana", and this group presented FOUR different proposed Standards to the APA, but NOT ONE could be accepted because NONE of the "Standards" conformed to even ONE of the types present there to be "qualified", which birds also were ALL DIFFERENT. The Judges then followed the only guide they had, Mr. Robinson's 1924 description. The APA Standards Revision Committee was then directed to proceed to develop a Standard for "Araucana".

Two years later in 1976, the APA accepted the description recommended by the Standard Revision Committee, which required "ARAUCANAS" to be tufted and rumpless, similar to Dr. Bustos' developed strain of "Collonca de Arêtes", thereafter formally DISQUALIFYING all birds formerly shown as "Araucana" which were bearded, muffed, and tailed. This action was not greeted with universal acclaim and was denounced by those breeders who had favored the bearded muffed tailed types. Even after adoption of that Standard, the "American Araucana Breeder's Association" was still attempting in 1977 to get acceptance of an APA Standard that would include BOTH tufted and bearded, rumpless and tailed. But that organization soon folded, without success. As should be clear by now, all the arguments about what was the "original" Araucana were just so much nonsense and misunderstanding, and continues much so today, as there never was any such "pure" breed. The new "Araucana Standard" clearly was adopted as a "GOAL" to be achieved in future breeding; as no such proven "type" had yet been "qualified".

After the adoption of the APA "Araucana" Standard in 1976, those breeders who had been carefully breeding and improving the bearded muffed types of "Araucana", were out in the cold, ruled "out" for exhibit as no longer "Araucana". Nevertheless those bearded types were continuing to be shown, as "Araucana" – sometimes as "American Araucana". Events leading to the development of the "AMERAUCANA" Standard, and the Ameraucana Bantam Club (Now Ameraucana Breeder's Club) had commenced well prior to that 1976 action when the late Jack Bulette, an ABA Director, suggested to Don Cable of Orangevale, California, a suburb of Sacramento, that he do something about that mixed up state of the "Araucana" breed. Don was at that time a seventh-grade science teacher in Orangevale, a baseball coach and manager, a breeder and exhibitor of various breeds of poultry, including pigeons and cage birds, and a member of various poultry clubs. Don saw that development of the tufted rumpless type of "Araucana" was preceding well in the hands of several individuals, including our mutual friend, Ralph Strane (now Secretary of the Araucana Club of America). Ralph had succeeded in developing a strain of white tufted rumpless large fowl Araucana that were (and ARE) outstanding, and Don Cable then turned his attention to those bearded muffed tailed blue egg layer bantams, also being shown then as "Araucana".

Don got a trio of bearded tailed bantams from a nearby large flock of "Araucana", and began a program to try to achieve a measure of standardization from those bearded blue egg layers. Don struggled hard to achieve the desired shank and plumage color with limited success, and passed several years with great frustration, when in 1977 he happened to see a photo in the Poultry Press of Mike Gilbert, then living in Iowa, holding a wheaten bantam pullet with the characteristics that Don had been seeking. Mike had shown the bird as an "American Araucana" at the Eastern Iowa Poultry Association Show of which group he was President in 1978. Mike had been "tinkering" with some bearded blue egg layer bantams in multi-colors, that he had originally obtained from Marti Hatcheries in Missouri, and had bred them up to standard varieties, but especially fell in love with the "wheaten" (shown in Poultry Press). Somehow, Don

got his number and called him and asked about Mike's stock. Don sent for a trio, and Mike sent him two pair. Don says, "I was so delighted with the birds that I began hatching, though late in the season, and was delighted again to find that they bred true to color."

Thereafter, Don and Mike began exchanging letters in which they discussed forming a club for the purpose of seeking ABA recognition of this "new breed". Don offered to serve as interim Secretary/Treasurer, if Mike would serve as interim President of the proposed Club, to gather interested breeders together, and hold an election. Mike was aware of several potential club members, and together with Jerry Segler, of Illinois, and Don Cable, they scoured the membership lists of "Araucana" clubs that they had belonged to, all of which had folded! In the meantime, Mike moved with his family from Iowa to rural Holmen, in western Wisconsin, to live on some 40 acres, mostly woodland, which gave him loads of room – 22 miles north of LaCrosse to which he commuted daily to his accounting business, until 1982 when he became a fulltime farmer until 1986 (Mike currently works for the Farm Credit System). Mike sent out the first copy of the newsletter to prospective members, but insists that "It was really Don's persistence that got us off the ground." UPS and the Postal Service were really kept in business during that time by the correspondence going back and forth between California and Wisconsin!!

The club was formed in the summer of 1978 (so far without a name), with eleven Charter members, from all points of the country – few, if any, of which knew each other personally – and even Dorian Roxburgh, Secretary of the British Araucana Club. Included among these original members was the late Frank L. Gary, Chairman of the ABA Standard Revision Committee. All these members had been working independently of each other on the improvement of the bearded type, but now came together in a common cause – ABA recognition of their bearded muffed tailed type blue egg layer. The situation in 1978 was a mixed bag at best. Commercial hatcheries had continued selling anything that laid an egg other than white as "Araucana" or "Easter Egg" chickens – and were making outrageous claims about the superiority of the "Araucana" eggs for higher protein and lower cholesterol, which were totally FALSE. With the "Araucana fever" that had developed, everyone wanted to try their hand at this new promotion. But two former "Araucana" clubs had recently folded due to internal squabbles, and one had been carrying on a running public feud with the leadership of the APA in both newsletters and through the Poultry Press. This atmosphere caused many a serious breeder to bristle at the mention of the "Araucana", but the new Club began to organize in the middle of this somewhat hostile environment.

From the beginning, the new Club operated on a democratic basis – by majority vote – and decided to propose at first only the colors wheaten and white. Some breeders in Oregon quit when the Club refused to accept mixed colors; the other members feeling that would be counter-productive. The question of breed name, weights, shank color, etc. were all put to a VOTE, and those points that gained the majority of votes were compiled by Mike Gilbert into a proposed Standard. There was some support for the name "American Araucana", but the name "Ameraucana" won out. A proposed Standard was developed in early 1979, and put to a vote. Mike commented on the results of the vote as follows: "Thanks to each of you who have participated in making our voting process a success ... We have decided on slate colored shanks by an overwhelming margin. We have voted for red earlobes by a nearly two to one margin, we have decided on the weight category calling for 30 oz. mature cock birds, and we have chosen the name "AMERAUCANA" by a margin of nearly two to one." The first election of officers took place soon thereafter, in the fall of 1979, with Don and Mike being elected to the offices that they had held on an interim basis. The Club then had some 28 members, from eleven states, and two foreign countries, and was growing!

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White Ameraucana Chick



Wheaten
Ameraucana Chick

Although there had been resistance and hostility by some Club members in Oregon, after they dropped out the organization proceeded smoothly on track. But there was continued great hostility from outside the Club, and a regular campaign was conducted by letters in the Poultry Press accusing the Club of all kinds of skull-duggery – of trying to undermine the fancy, and make a huge profit by selling stock to unsuspecting newcomers to the fancy. The correspondence became so heated, that the Poultry Press refused to print any more letters on the subject until things cooled down. In particular, Don Cable took a great deal of personal abuse from the opposition, persons aligned for their own special reasons against the bearded muffed tailed type of blue egg layers.

By 1979, there were enough wheaten bantams “Ameraucana” in California to hold an ABA “qualifying meet” for breed recognition. (Don Cable had continued with his breeding program, and had shared his stock, now happy with the results.)

In November 1979, an ABA Qualifying Meet was held with the Golden Gate Club in Pleasanton, California. ABA Judge Bill Holland of Idaho (later to become President of the APA) judged the meet, and reported among other things that, “The birds were of consistent color and type.” Bill Holland, along with Jack Bulette, the ABA Director, strongly recommended acceptance of the “Ameraucana” breed as a Standard. The following May 1980, The Board of Directors of the ABA voted unanimously to accept the “Ameraucana” bantam. The proposed Standard written by Mike Gilbert, based on the members’ voting, and with editing assistance from Don Cable and others, was accepted by the ABA, without change. Afterward, Mike wrote, “Our birds now can be shown for the first time without fear of disqualification as a non-standard type or breed. We all owe Don Cable a debt of gratitude for the tremendous amount of energy, dedication, and work which he has selflessly given to our cause.”

Along with the summer 1980 newsletter, copies of the Club Constitution, as ratified by the Board of Directors, were distributed to all members, and the Club took on a formal existence. The fifth edition of the ABA Bantam Standard in 1981 carried the complete Standard for the “Ameraucana” bantam, including the variety descriptions for wheaten and white.

In 1980, “Ameraucanas” were entered under that name officially in various meets, as reported for the Oct. 4-5, 1980 Show in Viroqua, WI, in which Mike Gilbert, Bernard Kellogg and Jerry Segler were the “Ameraucana” winners.

The first ABC NATIONAL MEET was held November 28-30, 1980 in Bluegrass, Iowa, sponsored by the Eastern Iowa Poultry Association, with Jerry Segler and Ron Klemmedson winning all. (Mike Gilbert was suddenly unable to attend). Jerry’s whites had been outstanding. The “Ameraucana Bantam Club” continued to grow and by 1982, when the Club handbook was published, it listed 36 members from all areas of the country, but somewhat concentrated in Wisconsin and California. Included as a member, was Bill Holland, later President of the APA. Also in 1982, Jeanette Frank, later to become our President, Secretary/Treasurer and Editor, joined the ABC, with Don Cable noting, “Jeanette received her start in Ameraucanas from Jack Fugate of Tennessee, and she has wheaten. She is our first member from the State of Montana, and the third from the Rocky Mountain States.” John Blehm, from Birch Run, Michigan, had also joined by that time. The Breeders’ Directory listed 20 active BREEDERS.

The 2nd ABC NATIONAL MEET was held on January 30-31, 1982 in Santa Rosa, CA at the Pacific Poultry Breeders Association “California National”. Twenty Ameraucanas were shown by three members, all in wheaten bantams, and Don Cable carried the day. Five members were present. In the summer of 1982, the Poultry Press carried an article written by Cathy Brunson, President of the Araucana Club of America, in which she called for more cooperation

and mutual understanding among ALL breeders of blue egg fowl. Don Cable wrote her a congratulatory letter, and received a warm reply.

Don Cable and the Ameraucanas had taken quite a lot of brickbats in the poultry journals over the years as mentioned previously – Jeanette Frank once wrote that she had been told by an APA/ABA judge that “he would NEVER place an AMERAUCANA, as they are nothing but out-crossed Araucana.” I, myself, have had similar experiences, when six years ago I pointed out to an APA/ABA judge at a Connecticut show that the bird that he had just awarded a “blue” to as an “Araucana” was bearded and muffed and tailed, and thus disqualified as an “Araucana”. His reply was that “the term ‘Araucana’ doesn’t mean anything more than a blue egg layer”. Then in Columbus, Ohio, at the 1994 APA National, when I observed that the judge had awarded a “blue” to a large fowl black “Ameraucana”, with yellow legs, I pointed out to the judges that yellow legs are a disqualification – and that prompted a loud general discussion among them and others – I overheard a comment that “These Ameraucanas shouldn’t even be allowed in the Show – they’re nothing but bastardized Araucana.” This is stated here just to illustrate how ignorance and ill-feeling persists still today!

The Ameraucana Bantam Club published its fine “Handbook” for members at the end of 1982, with details about the breed and the Club, and listing 36 members. Additional varieties were then being developed, largely by breeders in the upper Midwest. Enough progress had been made by 1983 to attempt to qualify six additional varieties with the ABA and to try to qualify the breed (bantams only) in all eight varieties with the APA. The site chosen was the first-ever APA/ABA joint meet in Columbus, Ohio in November, 1983.

Going into that meet, the Club had 38 members on record. For that Qualifying Meet, Affidavits had to be submitted from not less than five (5) breeders “stating that they had bred the breed for not less than five (5) years, producing not less than 50% of all specimens true to type, color, size, and comb.” Don Cable, Mike Gilbert, Jerry Segler, Jaime Ikeda, Bernard Kellogg, John Wunderlich, Bill Wenger, and Harry Cook all supplied the required documentation. This demonstrated a great record of success and consistency in “Ameraucana” breeding. But they knew that they were facing a rather hostile reception in some circles. As Don Cable has written, “Where opposition to acceptance by the ABA had been vocal and obvious, we were to find our opposition in the APA more subtle, among a very few key officials.”

That 1983 APA/ABA Nation Meet turned out to be the LARGEST poultry show EVER held in the USA, up to then, with some 10,400 entries by 717 exhibitors. Six Club members attended and exhibited 75 Ameraucana bantams. Those members were Don Cable, who flew in from California with his birds in a converted steamer trunk; Jerry Segler, Illinois; John Wunderlich, Missouri; Bernard Kellogg, Dave Horman, and Mike Gilbert from Wisconsin; John Fugate, Tennessee; Ray Gwynes, Georgia; Frank Gary, New Jersey; and Bill Holland, Idaho. Jerry Segler had the largest entry.

The 1983 Show was the first time that Don Cable had met Mike Gilbert and Frank Gary personally, as well as the others there, after all those years working together! The Ameraucanas made quite a hit at the show, and all the present varieties, except buff, were shown. Later Don Cable would write, “When we began to put the Ameraucana breed together and standardize the various points such as lobe and shank color, overall size and type, etc., it seemed as though it was an almost impossible task, particularly since we as breeders were scattered across the continent, and cooperation, much less coordination, was hit and miss at best. In spite of those obstacles, when we met in Ohio for our qualifying meet, the uniformity of the breed, gathered from all parts of the nation for the first time, was absolutely uncanny! The ABA almost immediately informed the Club of the acceptance of the additional varieties, including “buff” (which hadn’t even been shown). Those varieties being: White, Wheaten,



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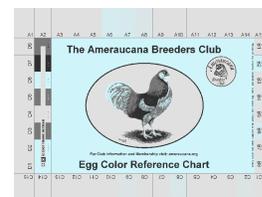
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Features in the**June Issue:**

Blast from the Past
 National Meet Information

Black, Blue, Blue Wheaten, Brown red, Buff and Silver.

Fred Jeffery, Secretary/Treasurer of the ABA, and Frank Gary, Chairman of the Standard Revision Committee were extremely cooperative at every step of the qualifying process. By vote of the Club Board of Directors, Frank L. Gary was named our first Honorary Vice-President, and was presented with a plaque of appreciation.

Unfortunately, the APA was not as responsive as the ABA. Although Don Cable and Mike Gilbert waited throughout the APA general meeting for news of the qualification results, no mention was made of the "Ameraucanas", and when they inquired where they could find the Standard Committee Chairman, it turned out that he had already flown home, with the records. Many letters followed, some of which were far less than cordial, and more telephone calls! Finally, at the termination of the next APA National the following year in Wisconsin, Mike Gilbert was present to hear the great news, and Don received a letter from the APA President that the APA Board of Directors had voted unanimously to accept the 'AMERAUCANA' Standard, approving the acceptance of all eight varieties of the bantams, AND THE SAME VARIETIES IN THE LARGE FOWL AS WELL. As Don wrote later, "the officers of the APA had acted in a fair and responsible way, and they have my thanks and support as a member."

After the numbness wore off, the Club was astounded, as they had done nothing to promote the large fowl acceptance, though Mike Gilbert had been working since 1981 with the APA on the possibility of accepting our "Ameraucana Standard" (for bantams only). However, Tom Lippencott, from Ohio who headed the "Araucana Boosters Club" had promoted a similar breed to the APA for acceptance in Large Fowl, but under a different proposed Standard and under a different name. The APA acted on this initiative, but accepted the name and standards of our Ameraucana Bantam Club.

This action completed the efforts to gain acceptance of the AMERAUCANA breed officially, and the breed and the Ameraucana Bantam Club were off and running! Shortly thereafter, our Board of Directors voted to change the name of the Club to the "AMERAUCANA BREEDERS CLUB", to recognize the inclusion of Large Fowl to the breed. And thus concludes the early history of the breed and the Club.

Ameraucana Breeders Club Board of Directors

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