

President's Message-

Congratulations and thanks to each of you who have participated in making our voting process a success. The basic decisions have now been made which will enable each of us to make definite progress in our breeding programs this spring and summer. We should all be breeding for uniformity and conformance with the decisions which we have collectively made.

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 cockbirds. And we have chosen the name Ameraucana by a margin of nearly two to one.

I'm sure that most of you are disappointed in at least one or more of the results, as few ballots called for the exact combination which turned out to be the winning one. Nevertheless, let us now proceed in the same spirit of cooperation and dedication which has seen us grow from a mere idea blowing in the wind less than a year ago to where we are now on the verge of success.

We are on the brink of gaining acceptance of a new breed of bantams through the American Bantam Association. Already we have had letters requesting that we expand our efforts to include large fowl as well. How many breeders do you know who have helped to establish a new breed of anything? This is exciting to me, as I hope it is to you.

Membership, as I write this, numbers twenty-four with eleven states represented. We recently received a letter from the Secretary of the British Araucana Club who reported that since their club was founded by just eight members in 1973, it has since grown to 106 at present.

Our Ameraucanas will offer breeders a choice; ours will be the more practical bird without the reproductive problems associated with rumplessness and the lethal genes accompanying ear tufts. The tufted/rumpless fowl will afford breeders the greater challenge and perhaps a more unique variety.

So there we have it, after all the controversy over what Araucanas should and should not be of recent years, a dual system, a compromise really. Come to think of it, wasn't our federal government formed in much the same fashion- a compromise between large states and small, resulting in both a Senate and a House of Representatives? Ameraucana seems quite an appropriate name. And I know some of you are breeding them in red (lobes), white (plumage), and blue (eggs). Need I say more?

Mike Gilbert
Interim President

LOOKING AHEAD IN 1979

As Mike Gilbert has indicated, the opportunity to have the Ameraucana breed recognized by the American Bantam Association is at hand. Which varieties are accepted for the proposed breed standard may well depend upon how quickly the membership responds to the requirements of the A.B.A. Standard Committee. If you would like your favorite variety or varieties considered by this committee, please fill out the variety request form on the following page, include the photos as indicated, and send this material off to Mike as soon as possible. Notice that this has a deadline of April 1.

Finalization of the breed standard must certainly be the most pressing need and number one goal, but there are club goals as well and these must be dealt with in the months ahead. At no time was this organization considered a two-person enterprise, and with this in mind, the following club business must be acted upon:

1. Election of officers. The next regular bulletin will contain a form for your use for nomination of candidates for all offices. In order to facilitate this, I will include a club roster with names and addresses of all members as of the day prior to sending out the club bulletin. We will accept nominations until a deadline set in the next bulletin, and ballots will be sent out with the fall issue of the bulletin. Winners of the election will be announced in the winter edition of the bulletin and they shall assume the duties of their respective offices on January 1.
2. Adoption of a constitution and by-laws. Some preliminary work has already been done on this, but it must be concluded and ratified by your new board of directors.
3. Establishment of a Meet and awards policy. National, District and State meets and their respective awards need to be ironed out so that all members have an opportunity to exhibit birds at club sponsored meets and compete for club specials.
4. Division of the club into national districts for the purpose of administration, recruitment, and establishment of club meets. This will depend largely upon the distribution of the membership. At the present, the membership lies in three general areas: Eastern, with the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Central, which a large area from Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and stretching down to Kansas and Texas, and Western, consisting of the states of Oregon and California. Districts may be established at the discretion of the board of directors.

Your thoughts or comments on any or all of these items are welcome. In any case, think about which direction the club should take in 1979.

Don Cable
Interim Secretary

VARIETY REQUEST

For inclusion in the initial Ameraucana Bantam Standard

If your variety or varieties meet the following requirements, list them below and attach at least one color photo of each variety showing close-up views of a mature male and a mature female, or one picture of each sex. Please hurry, as the American Bantam Association will act on our final proposal in mid-April, and we must have it by April 1. Mail this request to M.K. Gilbert, Route 1, Holmen, Wisconsin 54636.

THE REQUIREMENTS

1. Weights reasonably close to the 30 oz. cock category chosen by the vote on our first ballot.
2. Shanks and toes slate, dark slate, or slate blue (specify).
3. Ear lobes red as approved by our second ballot. A possible exception might be for multi-color, depending upon how the A.B.A. Standard Committee feels about this.
4. No disqualifying features such as crest, rumplessness, feathered toes or shanks, squirrel tail, etc.
5. Remember- pea comb only.
6. Even though your photo won't show it, do not submit requests for birds ~~Do Not~~ which lay eggs of blue or shades of blue.
7. You should have bred the variety at least two or three years to be sure it breeds true to type and color. It is possible to add varieties at a later date.

List variety(s) below. Enclose photos. State if you want photos returned.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Comments:

Name _____

Street/Box/Route _____

City/State/Zip _____

ELECTION RESULTS #1

From ballot #1 the following results on weight classes were tallied:

Cock: 32 oz.	Hen: 28 oz.	Cockerel: 28 oz.	Pullet: 26 oz.	2 votes
30 oz.	26 oz.	26 oz.	24 oz.	8 votes
28 oz.	24 oz.	24 oz.	22 oz.	2 votes

ELECTION RESULTS #2

From ballot #2 the following results were obtained:

1. Name of breed

Ameraucana 9 votes
American Araucana 5 votes

2. Ear Lobe Color

Red lobe 9 votes
White lobe 5 votes

3. Shank and toe color

Slate 11 votes
White 1 vote
Willow 1 vote
Yellow 0 votes (one abstention)

4. Color variety nominations

Black 11	Blue-Wheaten 2	White 7
Black-Red 8	Brown-Red 6	Multi-color 3
Blue 9	Silver 6	Buff 2
Blue-Red 6	Wheaten 8	Other(lea.) 6

LAST CALL FOR BREEDER'S LIST

The response to the proposed breeder's list has been less than might have been expected. For one dollar you will be listed with your varieties that you have for sale. Let's spread that stock around now that you have voted on the standard.

We also have a classified ad section on the last page of the Bulletin. Each entry is one dollar per issue, which helps defray postage costs. Send your copy and one dollar by May 15 for the next Bulletin.

DWARFING THE AMERICAN ARAUCANA

by Jerry A. Segler, Sr.

This is my first article on breeding the American Araucana and hope it proves helpful or interesting to someone. My first Araucana bantam was a brown-red hen with white ear lobes, white legs, and a single comb that laid flat on her head. This hen was purchased among some mixed breed bantams about six years ago. I might also mention that this hen was non-bearded and weighed about 1 3/4 lbs.

When I found out what I had, I tried to locate a bantam Araucana cock without any luck and after two breeding seasons had passed, I decided to get a standard Araucana cock. I had standards before, but that blood-line was very wild and I finally sold them. I found a very nice silver cock at a swap meet that was well bearded with a single comb with the trace of an extra row on each side of the comb. This cock weighed about 5 lbs. I mated this cock to my brown-red hen and got two brown-red hens, 2 brown, 1 birchen hen, and a very rich colored brown-red cock. None of these birds were over about 2 lbs.; some were bearded, some were not. The next season I hatched almost every egg I could get from this mating and the results were encouraging. None were over 2 1/4 lbs. and most were brown-red. I saved a pea-combed well bearded cock with a heavily laced breast. At this point most of these birds had a mottled red and white lobe, I was trying for red. I saved the best colored, combed, bearded, and sized 2 hens that I had raised.

I mated these together the next spring and had several chicks started when I had my first experience with coccidiosis and lost several chicks before I found out what it was and got it stopped. I saved a cock with pea-comb, beard, yellow legs, and a very rich and deep red markings instead of the lighter red that the brown-red cocks usually had. I saved 2 of my best colored and sized hens. The one that survived was semi-pea combed, non-bearded, white lobes, black legs, not my best choice, but that is what was left. The cock had mostly red lobes. I did not hatch any of the brown-red this past season because of my efforts on my other colors but intend to mate the hen to a white cock with slate legs and red lobes to improve comb, beard, lobe color, and leg color. I intend to mate these back to the brown-red cock.

I found through all of this that none of these birds ever got over 2 1/4 lbs. and are almost 2 lbs. now. I decided there must be something to crossing a large cock onto a small hen that keeps the offspring small. I have seen the offspring from large hens and bantam cocks before. These offspring are usually about midway in size between the two parents. I believe it must be the small egg of the bantam hen that stunts the chicks a little on the bantam hen X large cock cross.

I used this idea when making the blacks that I have. I crossed a black game bantam hen with a white American Araucana cock and saved 2 blue hens and 1 black hen. These all had beards and laid blue eggs. I mated these to a 3 1/2 lb. standard black Araucana cock that was out of a fairly well established line of blacks. This gave me black on both sides of my cross and bantam size on one side. All the offspring were about 1 3/4 lbs. with a couple running larger. I got blacks, blues, barred and splashes. I saved only bearded hens of black or blue color. The best cock I had has some white in neck and saddle, but should produce some blacks and blues this year.

Dwarfing the American Araucana (Con'td.)

From these breeding experiences I believe bantam hen X standard cock is the best way to keep bantam size if you need to use standard blood. I have never had any birds over about 2 1/4 lbs. or a little more using this method. Maybe this will help someone who wants to start a new color in American Araucana bantams.

I hope some of you other members will write about how you started your colors or give some tips on breeding, as we can all use a little help sometimes.

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A.B.A. YEARBOOK AD

The American Bantam Association has announced that it is now accepting copy for ads in their 1979 Yearbook. If there are enough members interested in a yearbook ad to advertise their Ameraucana bantams, we can get coverage for our club on a page ad basis. This consists of six individual ads of one-eighth page plus a club ad of one-fourth page.

These individual ads purchased on an individual basis would be \$12. each, but if purchased on the club page ad basis will be \$10. each, or a savings of \$2., plus providing our club with a quarter page. If you decide to take part in this club project, I will accept your ad copy and check made out to the American Bantam Association on a first come, first served basis. I will take one ad myself, so the first five members that I receive the copy and check made out to the A.B.A. will be included. This is a worthwhile activity and will help our club. Don't delay! My address is at the top of page 1.

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CLASSIFIED

Ameraucana bantams in white, light brown, and very limited amount in silver, black, blue, and brown-red. No stock for sale until fall, 1979. Possibly some hatching eggs this spring. Availability a matter of correspondence.

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

Wheaten Ameraucana bantams. Like having two varieties, males dark, females light. Started birds available this spring.

Mike Gilbert, Rt. 1, Holmen, Wisconsin 54636

This space available for \$1.00 per issue. Deadline 5/14