



Avian Science Notes

University of California • Cooperative Extension

October 2005

WHY YOU DO NOT WANT THOSE LOVELY WILD WATERFOWL NEAR YOUR BIRDS

If you are a regular recipient of this newsletter, you are more likely than not a California 4-H Poultry family. As such, you live on one of the nation's four great migration routes - the Pacific Flyway. The other three are the Atlantic, the Central, and the Mississippi. Some birds that use the Pacific Flyway began their migration this August, leaving from islands off the coast of Siberia. They will reach the Klamath basin in November. Many spots in California are hospitable wintering grounds for these birds. In addition to the Klamath basin, other locations attracting millions (yes, MILLIONS) of migratory waterfowl are the Sacramento Valley, San Francisco Bay tidal marshes, and Salton Sea.

Birds moving through our flyway this fall may include birds that started their migration in Siberia or have mingled with birds from Siberia. The Russian Agricultural Ministry has confirmed the H5N1 Avian Influenza virus is present in several Siberian villages. The poultry world is very concerned over the speed with which Avian Influenza is moving across the globe.

Now to address why you should be doing everything possible to keep your birds away from migratory waterfowl. There are many types of Avian Influenza. We are especially concerned about the H5N1 type, which is deadly in chickens and turkeys. Ducks do not necessarily die from all the H5N1 viruses. Now while this may sound like a good break for the ducks, it can cause serious problems for other forms of poultry.

If ducks do not die from the virus, they can migrate to new areas. Migratory birds find themselves in very concentrated living situations. Humans do not typically experience large flu outbreaks in the summer, but in the winter. Why is that? In the summer we are outdoors, on vacation, and not closely packed in work spaces or classrooms. In the winter, we spend much more of our time indoors and often share small spaces with classmates and coworkers. When the migratory birds find themselves packed wing-to-wing on over-wintering ponds and lakes, there is great opportunity for disease spread.

In experimental situations, Mallards purposely infected with H5N1 have continued to shed the virus for 17 days. So it is possible for a migrating duck to pick up the virus, become a carrier, and shed the virus as it travels on its migratory route. You do not want such a bird to have access to your flock. On a long journey, what do you look for? I look for coffee, a good restaurant, and a gas station with clean bathrooms. Basically, I am after personal and auto fuel and I prefer to obtain them at an inviting location. Migratory waterfowl, need fuel, too, food and water. For them an inviting location is one with a pond, river, or lake. Many of you have such features on or near your property. While you cannot drain a lake to keep the waterfowl away, you can place your poultry feeders and waterers indoors, where they will not serve as flyway billboards for the waterfowl.



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The Champions came Two By Two



There was much excitement at the California State Fair as 4-H Poultry members garnered top honors. Of the final four contestants in Champion Challenge, 2 were from 4-H Poultry. Sisters Samantha and Spencer Downey moved through the competition all the way to the final interviews. The Supreme Champion Challenge exhibitor was named at the Junior Livestock Auction. There was much crowing and proud cackling as the MC announced Samantha's name as the top award winner. This means that the judges felt her depth of knowledge about her own market species and her breadth of knowledge about animal agriculture in general was greater than that of any other competitor. Something tells me that some serious Avian Bowl studying helped, too...

Some of the best competition in years was seen during Junior Avian Bowl. Competitors sported stylish team shirts (red,

white, and blue "spangled" poultry were on the American Ameraucana's shirts and brainy eggheads on the team tees from Orange County) and were buzzer-ready with correct answers. Emerging victorious was the 2-member team, the Plucky Poult's Greta Steinbruner and John Lee. Mrs. Peggy Gnehm of Monterey County prepared the team for competition.

The seniors were gunning for each other and attempted to create scary images for their opponents. Mycoplasma, infectious agents, and external parasites figured prominently in team names. Currently booking flights to Louisville for the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference are Scott McCalla and Marta Kroger, the External Parasites. The Champions are coached by Mrs. Cindy McCalla.

He Knows His Eggs and His Birds



Congratulations to Brandon Renwick who had two major wins this August. First this Nevada County exhibitor saw the Grand Champion ribbon placed on his dozen white

market eggs. A few days later another judge wrote "Best of Show" on one of the birds Brandon entered at the California State Fair Junior Poultry Show.



Brian Toms



Perpetual Trophy

The prestigious Brian Toms award is given to the Junior Poultry exhibitor at State Fair who has the most blue ribbons in meat pens, egg classes, and breed classes. Rules specify there must be at least two exhibitors in these classes for the blue ribbon to apply.

This year's winner was Mark Ryan of Sonoma County. 2005 marked the fourth year that the trophy has returned to the Ryan family home, older brother Dan having won in 1994 and 2001, and Mark in 2002 and 2005.

Supporters of Poultry Youth - A Poultry Presence at the State Fair Junior Livestock Auction

This long-time booster group overflowed its large assigned table on Auction Saturday. Faithful attendees Dr. Lauren and Ms. Katherine Plumer, the Tony and Lenore Ryan Family, Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Sherry Paukert, and the Renwick Family were joined by Mrs. Kay Ogasawara and daughter, Patty.

In addition to these donors, checks were received from Mrs. Linda Lynch, Mrs. Lanora & Mr. Nickolas Voegtly, Nick Voegtly Safety & Loss Control, Mrs. Jan James, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Leisgang, and Dr. Carol Beatty.

4-H poultry alumni making donations included Katherine Plumer, Sara Leisgang, Bob James, Rachel Teagle, and Vanessa Voegtly. Current 4-H poultry members

joining the booster group were Brandon Renwick, Chrissy Renwick, Mark Ryan, and Aaron Teagle.

Special thanks are due to Association for the Preservation of Gamefowl and Mrs. Kay Ogasawara for very generous donations.

Due to the gifts from all the boosters, it was possible to support all the 4-H poultry exhibitors at this year's auction.

*****If you would like to contribute toward the fund for 2006, make checks payable to "Supporters of Poultry Youth, and mail to Dr. Francine Bradley, Animal Science Dept., UC Davis, Davis, California 95616.*****



Dutch Temporarily Ditch Free-Range

Recently The Netherlands banned keeping poultry outdoors. The country's 5 million free-range birds were carefully moved indoors. This was in response to the threat of infection from migratory birds. As with so many things in life, this action became political. The other European Union countries were not willing to follow suit and told the Dutch government that farmers temporarily bringing their free range flocks indoors would not be allowed to sell the meat or eggs from those birds with a "free-range" label.

The Dutch government has removed its ban. However, individual farmers are working with the government to reduce the risk of infection. Farms on migratory routes are getting temporary roofing to cover free-range pens.

- Dr. Francine A. Bradley

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A Bit of History and a Current Reminder from our Extension Poultry Veterinarian

In decades past, turkeys were raised out of doors in the upper Midwest exposing them to large numbers of migrating waterfowl in the Mississippi flyway. Every year, some turkey flocks would become infected with avian influenza viruses. Turkey producers learned that if they kept the waterers and feeders for their flocks covered and away from wild birds that they could reduce the numbers of infections that occurred. They then found that if they kept their turkey flocks indoors rather than out of doors, they could eliminate nearly all of the infections that occurred. Based on these experiences, the University of California, Davis Cooperative Extension advises that food and water intended for domestic poultry be kept out of areas where wild birds might be and preferably, that domestic poultry be kept under cover to avoid their contact with free flying birds and their fecal matter.

- Dr. Carol Cardona

Distribution of **Avian Science Notes** is made to 4-H Poultry Leaders and Youth Advisors. Anyone wishing to be placed on the mailing list may send a request to Jeri Hansen, Animal Science Department, University of California, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616-8521.

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Visit our website at:
<http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/avian>

Calendar

2005

October 15-16

Central Coast Feather Fanciers' Twentieth Annual Show
California Mid-State Fairgrounds, Commercial Building #2, Paso Robles, CA
Information: Sarah Spotten (805) 434-1169, www.centralcoastfeatherfanciers.com

October 29-30

Seaside Feather Fanciers Second Annual Bash at the Beach
Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ventura, CA
Information: Dave Anderson (805) 524-4046

November 5 (Premium books will be mailed at the end of September) – one day show
Inland Empire Poultry Club's Show
Perris High School, Perris, CA
Information: Don Cowdray
arebantams@earthlink.net, for premium books: (951) 443-4342, cmad@linkline.com

November 12-13 (Pending)

Golden Gate Bantam Club's Show
Calaveras County Fairgrounds, Angels Camp, CA
Information: Eric Kutch (209) 984-4773

November 26-27

Bakersfield Fancy Feathers' Show
Kern County Fairgrounds, Bakersfield, CA
Information: Nathan Branum (661) 589-8179, n_branumsbantams@yahoo.com

December 2-3

Pacific Coast Bantam Club's Show
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, Victorville, CA
Information: Juanita Hall (818) 353-6749, jelh123@earthlink.net
10170 Sunland Blvd., Sunland, CA 91040

Calendar compiled by Avian Sciences Student, Katie Sanui

2006

January 14-15

California Classic Poultry Show
San Benito County Fairgrounds, Hollister, CA
Information: John Monaco (408) 779-2383, john@poultryshow.com

January 28-29

Pacific Poultry Breeders' Mid-Winter Show (National Meet of the American Bantam Association and American Poultry Association)
San Joaquin County Fairgrounds, Stockton, CA
Showmanship classes; Lead Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley
Information: Bonnie Sallee (209) 296-8084, jbsallee@volcano.net

February 4

Avian Science Day, UC Davis, details in the next newsletter

February 11-12

Humboldt Poultry Fanciers' Show
Redwood Acres Fairgrounds, Eureka, CA
Showmanship and Avian Bowl; Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley
Information: Agnes Wilson - TBA

February 26 – one day show

Greater California Society of Poultry Fanciers' Show. Fresno County Fairgrounds, Fresno, CA. Hosting the California 4-H Poultry Judging Qualifier. Showmanship and Avian Bowl; Judge: Dr. Francine Bradley
Information: David Tune (553) 673-5444, www.gcspf.com

March 11-12

Monterey Bay Bantam Club's Show
Monterey County Fairgrounds, Salinas Room, Monterey, CA
Information: Chris Waddell (209) 772-9876

April 1 (Premium books will be mailed in February) – one day show
Inland Empire Poultry Club's Show
Ingles Park, Norco, CA
Information: TBD