



# Avian Science Notes

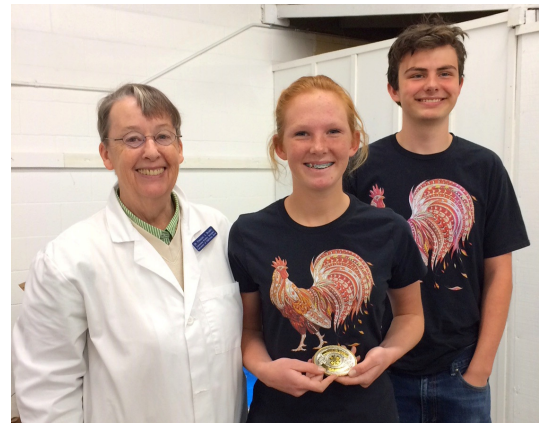
University of California - Cooperative Extension

May 2018 (On-line, full version)

## So what Happened in Fresno?

The crowd in the Gem and Mineral Building (Big Fresno Fairgrounds) during the Greater California Show was standing room only, with some 80 4-H, FFA, and independent showmen appearing for Poultry Showmanship. I was delighted to have Mr. Aaron Teagle of Santa Clara County join me, as we tackled the judging of the very large classes.

As we rolled into the afternoon and finished Senior Showmanship, Dr. Linda Teagle administered the written test to the Senior Avian Bowlers. But first up for the live-at the buzzers competition were the Juniors. The following counties sent their best: Contra Costa, Fresno, Merced, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, and Solano. Friends of a Feather (San Luis Obispo) ran the winners' bracket. Once entering the losers' bracket, Le Grand (Merced Co.) bested their competition and returned to meet the team that dealt them their only loss - Friends of a Feather. The latter team turned out to be in friendly, but conquering mood, and beat Le Grand one more time. The four competitors making up the Champion Junior team were Katelyn Rosilez, Samantha Hoffman, Elsie Earheart, and Kaiya Rosilez. The Champion Senior team (photo to the right) was made up of the duo of Katelyn Hurl and Finian Arentz.



Counties registering competitors for the Senior Bowl/State Qualifier were Fresno, Contra Costa, San Luis Obispo, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Ventura. In Game 3, the Shooting Stars of Stanislaus Co. were defeated by the Game Birds (San Luis Obispo & Ventura Co). The Stars shot back up in the losers' bracket and returned for a rematch with the Game Birds. The Game Birds knocked the Shooting Stars down and won by a 25 point margin.

Do you noticed anything unusual about our State Champions? Well, I am wondering why the "Game Birds" are sporting t-shirts with colorful cocks. No pheasants or partridge shirts were available to match their team name?! Maybe they will find the perfect shirts before they head to Louisville. It will be in the city made famous by the Kentucky Derby, that our State Champion team will compete in the Avian Bowl Nationals at the 4-H National Poultry and Egg Conference.

## To do well in Poultry Showmanship and in the Showroom.....

Over the past few years, I have noticed a steady decline in the knowledge level of some showmen, when it comes to standard bred poultry. Far too many showmen are unable to answer my basic questions about the differences between Class, Breed, and Variety. They lack knowledge about the origin of the breeds they are

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showing, disqualifying factors, etc. If you as a showman (youth or adult) are not studying The American Standard of Perfection, you are at a serious disadvantage. How can you purchase good specimens? How will you know which birds you breed to keep and show. It will also leave you stammering when a judge asks you about basic material that can be found in both The American Standard of Perfection and the Bantam Standard. If you are going to spend money buying birds, housing, and feeding them, it is a foolish mistake not to purchase the books that will give you knowledge about those birds.

## **Free copy of the 4-H Poultry Showmanship - National Standard**

For anyone who has yet to obtain a copy of the “how to do poultry showmanship the proper way,” also known as Publication 4-H 2060E, you need to visit: <http://anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/>

and click on “4-H Youth Development,” next click on “4-H Raising Animals,” and you will see the Poultry Showmanship Manual. Download it today. You cannot correctly prepare and compete in Poultry Showmanship without studying this manual.

## **Sign of a Professional**

4-H tries to teach its members many life skills. One important skill is the art and practice of saying “thank you.” During the recent open poultry show season, I have seen many a 4-H member carry an armful of useful and expensive poultry supplies from the showroom. These were donated by local stores or club members to be used as prizes for 4-H contests. Likewise, at the Club banquets, some 4-Hers received so many trophies that multiple family members had to help getting the “loot” to the car.

While every child looks excited to have the new set of waterers, belt buckle, or trophy, how many expressed that excitement and gratitude to the donors? In every premium book is a list of donors. As a 4-H parent and/or Leader it is your duty to make sure that the youth under your supervision are sending thank you notes to the individuals supplying the awards.

Once you have your 4-Her at a table with cards, pen, and stamps at the ready, have the 4-Her also send a thank you note to Poultry Club where the trophy was won. Club officers and members put in days and weeks planning for the show and soliciting awards. I can assure you a picture of the 4-H member and his/her bird and a few lines of thanks will make all that work less daunting come the next show.

**Dr. Francine A. Bradley, Editor  
Extension Poultry Specialist  
1775 East Palm Canyon Dr.  
Suite 110 - #129  
Palm Springs, California 92264**

## **CALENDAR**

**2018**

**Sat., July 14, 2018 - 5 PM** Avian Bowl, Orange County Fair, Costa Mesa

Entry deadline, June 1

<https://ocfair.com/oc-fair/competitions-contests/howtoenter/animals/>

**Questions:** Dr. Bradley 760 699-5078