

Demystifying the Changes to ALBC's 2010 Conservation Priority List for Chickens

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There are many changes to the 2010 ALBC Conservation Priority List (CPL); the most significant changes are to the listings of chickens. The poultry CPL is relatively new compared to the mammal list and has been difficult to develop due to the lack of poultry registries or other agencies that document breed populations. Past poultry statuses on the CPL were established using U.S. numbers acquired through census work conducted by ALBC; however, there was no clear way to assess global populations, especially for international breeds. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) now provides a report that, though not exhaustive, gives a representation of global populations. A first glimpse of these global populations was reported in the September/October 2009 issue of the *ALBC News*, and a modified CPL for chickens was proposed. The chicken CPL was further refined during the staff's annual review of population information and conservation priorities.

ALBC has established criteria for inclusion of breeds on the CPL (see <http://www.albc-usa.org/cpl/parameters-poultry.html> for poultry criteria). In the 2010 revision to the poultry CPL, population numbers were central to the decisions. Here are numeric guidelines that were used in determining breed status for poultry:

Critical: Fewer than 500 breeding birds in the United States and an estimated global population of fewer than 1,000.

Threatened: Fewer than 1,000 breeding birds in the United States and an estimated global population of fewer than 5,000.

Watch: Fewer than 5,000 breeding birds in the United States and an estimated global population of fewer than 10,000. Also included are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

Recovering: Breeds that were once listed in another category and have exceeded Watch category numbers but are still in need of monitoring.

Study: Breeds that are of genetic interest but either lack definition or lack genetic or historical documentation.

ALBC used two rules to determine a breed's status on the Conservation Priority List. In general, U.S. population numbers determined the status for breeds of American origin. International breeds were placed in the "least endangered" category, as suggested by both global and U.S. data.

The table below provides U.S. and global population data, 2009 CPL status as a point of reference, and 2010 CPL status. Exceptions to the rule(s) have been noted. Based on this data, the following changes have been made:

Breed	US Breeding Population *	Global Population	2009 Status	2010 Status	Notes
Buckeye	72	72	Critical	Critical	
Campine	436	543	Critical	Critical	
Chantecler	48	48	Critical	Critical	
Crevecoeur	191	264	Critical	Critical	
Holland	38	593	Critical	Critical	
Modern Game	183	263	Critical	Critical	
Nankin	80	80	Critical	Critical	
Redcap	115	848	Critical	Critical	
Russian Orloff	35	410	Critical	Critical	
Spanish	143	425	Critical	Critical	
Sultan	238	538	Study	Critical	
Sumatra	352	855	Critical	Critical	
Yokohama	101	449	Study	Critical	
Andalusian	46	1458	Critical	Threatened	
Buttercup	436	2080	Critical	Threatened	
Cubalaya	150	4300	Threatened	Threatened	4000 of these are in Cuba.
Delaware	601	601	Critical	Threatened	
Dorking	400	1241	Threatened	Threatened	
Faverolle	456	1176	Critical	Threatened	
Java	835	835	Threatened	Threatened	
Lakenvelder	567	1627	Threatened	Threatened	
Langshan	514	700	Threatened	Threatened	
Malay	34	1619	Critical	Threatened	
Phoenix	406	1099	Study	Threatened	
Ancona	893	6768	Threatened	Watch	
Aseel	94	6742	Critical	Watch	
Brahma	3164	5801	Watch	Watch	
Catalana	38	6538	Critical	Watch	
Cochin	3195	4330	Watch	Watch	
Cornish	1330	151580	Watch	Watch	"Non-industrial" dropped from name as companies keep few, if any, purebred Cornish birds, and these would be unavailable to public. Kyrgyzstan reports 150,000. Seeking additional international information.
Dominique	1931	1981	Watch	Watch	
Hamburg	1274	7459	Watch	Watch	
Houdan	98	5852	Critical	Watch	
Jersey Giant	2811	2861	Watch	Watch	

La Fleche	69	6642	Critical	Watch	
Minorca	1328	1958	Watch	Watch	
New Hampshire	3933	33567	Watch	Watch	Russia reports 19,000. Seeking additional international information.
Old English Game	213	6713	Study	Watch	
Polish	2017	2717	Watch	Watch	
Rhode Island White	2635	2635	Watch	Watch	
Sebright	55	6625	Watch	Watch	
Shamo	600	9966	Study	Watch	
Australorp	5032	13482	Recovering	Recovering	
Leghorn - Non-Industrial	8180	?	Recovering	Recovering	Industrial Leghorns represent a very small portion of the genome of the breed. Non-industrial strains may be very different from industrial strains and it may not be possible to regenerate non-industrial strains from industrial strains.
Orpington	9966	18891	Recovering	Recovering	
Plymouth Rock	22050	?	Recovering	Recovering	Similar issues for Plymouth Rock as for Cornish. "Non-industrial" dropped from name.
Rhode Island Red - Non-industrial	20780	332866	Recovering	Recovering	The genetic status of both U.S. and international populations is unclear. Seeking additional information.
Sussex	850	15228	Threatened	Recovering	Seeking additional international information
Wyandotte	8476	17194	Recovering	Recovering	
Araucana	4988	8309	Study	Study	Confusion of Araucana and Ameraucanas by some hatcheries and producers remains unresolved. Numbers are suspect.
Iowa Blue	Presumed Extinct		Study	Study	
Lamona	Presumed Extinct		Study	Study	
Manx Rumpy or Persian Rumpless	11	Listed at Extinct	Study	Study	
Naked Neck or	725	2044	Study	Study	

Turken					
Egyptian Fayoumis	300	100400	Study	Dropped	
*Data gathered in the 2002 ALBC Chicken Census and subsequent studies. Breed names in bold are of American origin.					

ALBC will continue to gather information and monitor both U.S. and global population data, and will revise the CPL based on reliable information. If you have data that might inform our decision-making we would appreciate hearing from you. Contact us at albc@albc-usa.org, 919-542-5704, or by U.S. post at ALBC, PO Box 477, Pittsboro, NC 27312.