

2026 CONSERVATION PRIORITY POULTRY BREEDS

Critical (C) Fewer than 500 breeding birds in the United States, with five or fewer primary breeding flocks (50 birds or more), and an estimated global population less than 1,000.

Threatened (T) Fewer than 1,000 breeding birds in the U.S., with seven or fewer primary breeding flocks, and an estimated global population less than 5,000.

Watch (W) Fewer than 5,000 breeding birds in the U.S., with ten or fewer primary breeding flocks, and an estimated global population less than 10,000.

Also included are breeds that present genetic or numerical concerns or have a limited geographic distribution.

Recovering (R) Breeds once listed in another category, but have exceeded Watch category numbers, and still need monitoring.



THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY™

NORTH AMERICAN BREEDS

CHICKENS



Cubalaya (C)
Holland (C)
Java (C)
New Hampshire (T)
Buckeye (W)
Chantecler (W)
Dominique (W)
Rhode Island White (W)
Delaware (R)
Jersey Giant (R)



DUCKS

Australian Spotted (C)
Ancona (W)
Cayuga (W)



GEESE

Cotton Patch (T)
Pilgrim (T)
American Buff (W)



TURKEYS

Beltsville Small White (T)
White Holland (T)
Black (W)
Bourbon Red (W)
Bronze (W)
Narragansett (W)
Royal Palm (W)
Slate (W)
All Other Varieties* (W)

*Varieties that are distinct, but not APA recognized include Chocolate, Jersey Buff, Lavender, Midget White, and other distinct color varieties. Does not include broad-breasted varieties because they are not endangered.

Breed identity in poultry is challenging. Breeders of all kinds, including exhibition, production, and hatchery, are diligent in breeding standard-bred birds. Other breeders sometimes resort to crossbreeding to achieve their goals and promote their birds as standard-bred. The Livestock Conservancy is unable to validate each breeding program, but buyers are encouraged to ask if birds are purebred and meet breed standards.

BREEDS IMPORTED BEFORE 1900

CHICKENS



Booted Bantam (C)
La Flèche (C)
Malay (C)
Redcap (C)
White-Faced
Black Spanish (C)
Campine (T)
Dorking (T)
Hamburg (T)
Houdan (T)

Langshan (T)
Modern Game (T)
Sultan (T)
Sumatra (T)
Ancona (W)
Andalusian (W)
Belgian Bearded d'Uccle (W)
Cornish (W)
Crèvecoeur (W)
Minorca (W)
Sebright (W)

Cochin (R)
Leghorn -
Non-Industrial (R)
Polish (R)



DUCKS

Aylesbury (C)
Buff or Orpington (W)
Rouen - Non-Industrial (W)



GEESE

Pomeranian (C)
Sebastopol (T)
African (W)
Chinese (W)
Toulouse - Dewlap (W)

BREEDS IMPORTED AFTER 1900

CHICKENS



Araucana (C)
Aseel (C)
Catalana (C)
Shamo (C)
Buttercup (T)
Icelandic (T)
Japanese Bantam (T)
Lakenvelder (T)
Nankin (T)

Russian Orloff (T)
Yokohama (T)
Faverolles (W)
Old English Game (W)
Phoenix (W)
Spitzhauben (W)
Sussex (R)



DUCKS

Dutch Hookbill (C)
Shetland (C)
Magpie (T)
Saxony (T)
Campbell (W)
Silver Appleyard (W)
Swedish (W)
Welsh Harlequin (W)
Runner or Indian Runner (R)



GEESE

Roman (C)
Shetland (C)
Steinbacher (C)