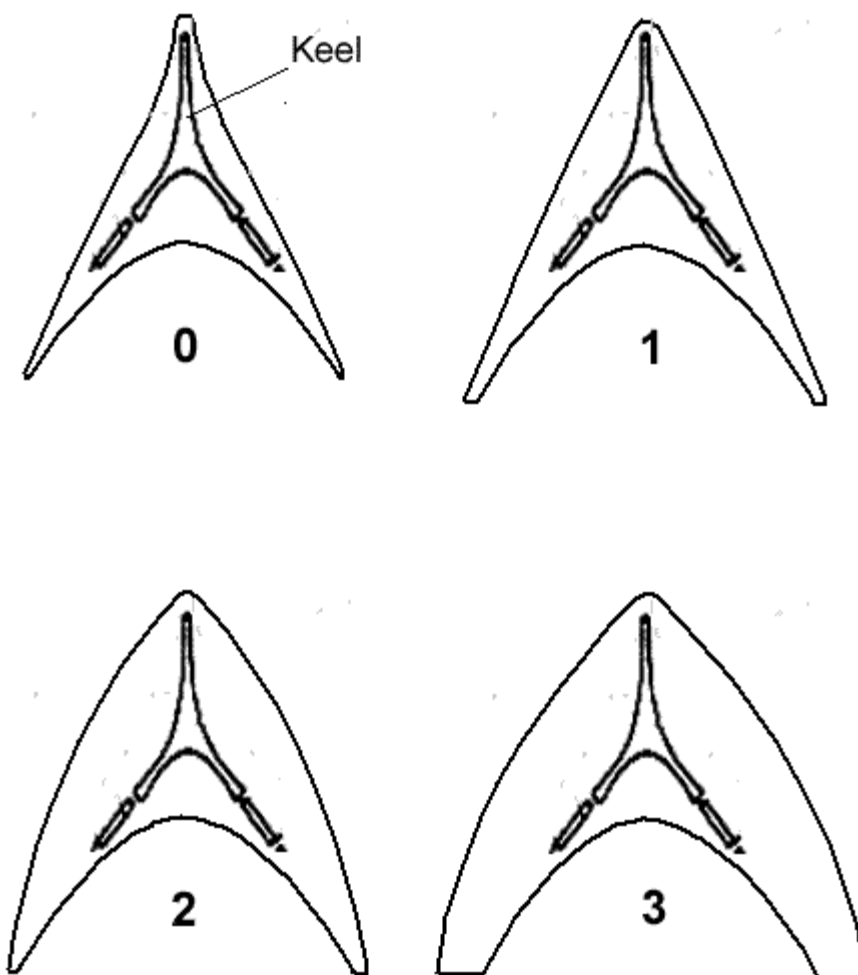


# Keel Scoring Flamingos

## Body Condition Scoring System for Layer Hens

The chicken is held by the legs in one hand, usually upside down. The palm of the other hand is then used for palpating and grading the protuberance of the keel, the development of the breast muscles immediately alongside the ventral ridge of the keel, and the convexity or concavity of the breast muscle contour. A study by [Gregory and Robins](#) has demonstrated that this system of scoring has a good relationship with the bird's fat and muscle reserves.



Score	Characteristics
0	Prominent ridge on the keel with limited overall breast muscle and a concavity of the breast muscle alongside the keel
1	Greater development of breast muscle which is not concave and feels more or less flat. Keel still prominent.
2	Moderately developed convex breast muscle. Keel less prominent.
3	Well developed relatively plump breast. Smooth over the keel.