

# BIRD REVIEW



By Kelly Riedell/Brookings Biology

**Give the characteristics of birds:**

**ENDOTHERMIC (warm blooded)**

**4 chamber heart**

**Feathers/wings**

**Highly efficient respiratory system**

**Lightweight/rigid skeleton**

**Oviparity (lay amniotic eggs)**

**Beak**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Grinds & mashes food gizzard

voice box syrinx

Where acid and enzymes

start to digest food proventriculus

Makes bile liver

Hold air but don't  
exchange gases

Air sacs

**Thin fan-like membrane that holds the small intestine in place.**

**mesentery**

**The upper portion of the stomach where digestive enzymes and acid chemically break down food is called the**

**proventriculus**

**Lower muscular portion of the stomach  
where food is squeezed and mashed**

## **GIZZARD**

**Thick, featherless patch of skin on the  
abdomen of a bird that helps to keep eggs  
warm when the bird sits on the nest.**

## **Brood patch**

**Scientist who studies birds**

**Ornithologist**

**Pouch on the esophagus that stores  
food waiting to be digested**

**crop**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

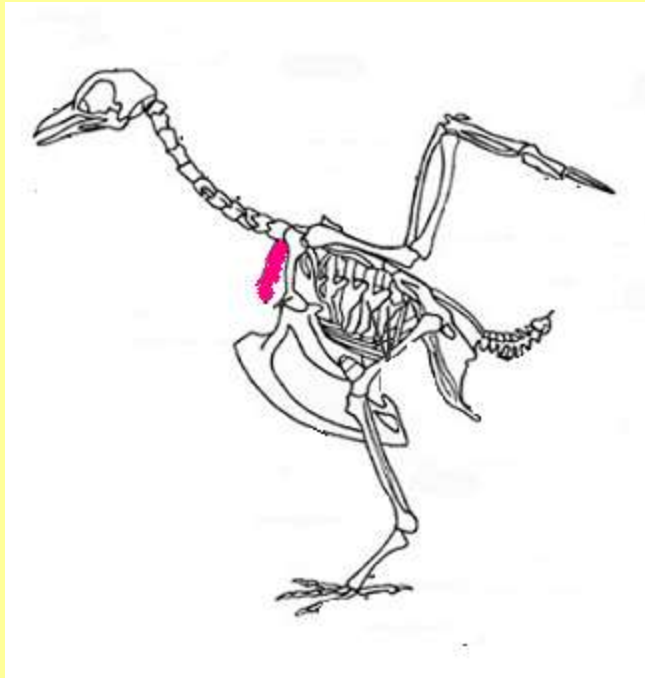
Attachment for  
flight muscles sternum

Exit opening for  
urine, feces, sperm/eggs vent

Processes nitrogen waste  
for kidneys liver

Stores glycogen liver

**Baby birds that are active when they hatch and come from nests with many eggs that have a long incubation time**  
**precocial**



**This bone that stabilizes the shoulders is called the**  
**furcula**



# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Ringed windpipe trachea

Receives sperm/eggs, urine and  
digestive waste cloaca

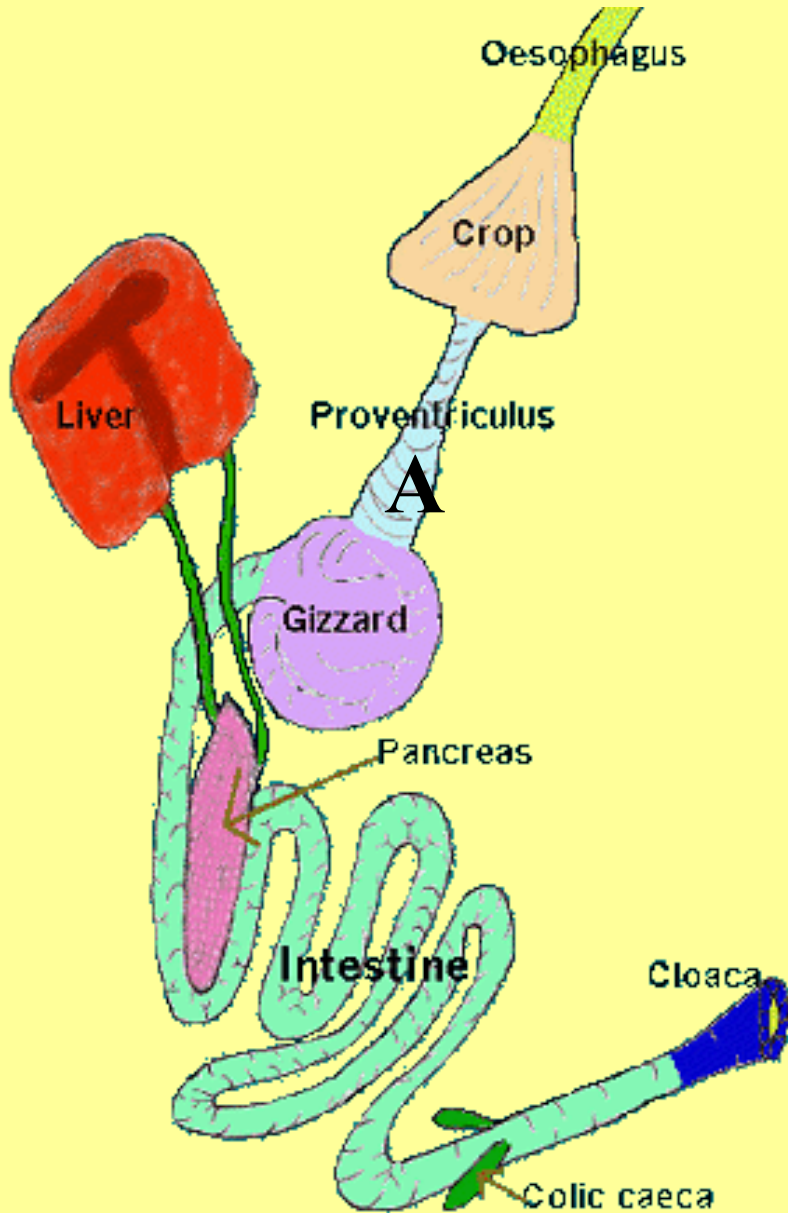
Pouches where microorganisms  
help digest plant material Colic caeca

Stores bile Gall bladder

Regulates heart rate,  
blood pressure, and metabolism Thyroid  
gland

**What is the  
function of  
structure A?**

**Place where acid and  
digestive enzymes break  
down food**



# **Tell 2 ways the DIGESTIVE system is modified to help in flight.**

- 1. FAST EFFICIENT system-**  
fuels endothermic metabolism for more energy
- 2. TWO PART STOMACH-** proventriculus & gizzard  
separates functions to move food faster
- 3. CROP-**  
stores extra food so food moves through faster
- 4. COLIC CAECA-** break down plants
- 5. LONG SMALL INTESTINE-** absorbs more nutrients
- 6. SHORT LARGE INTESTINE-** less water absorbed  
so waste is released quickly (less weight)

**TRUE or FALSE**

**The heart of a bird is like that of a frog**

**False**

**Frogs have 3 chambers; birds have 4**

**Gland that regulates heart rate,  
blood pressure, and metabolism**

**THYROID**

**Eggs in birds are fertilized in**

**Ovary**

**oviduct**

**cloaca**

**vas deferentia**

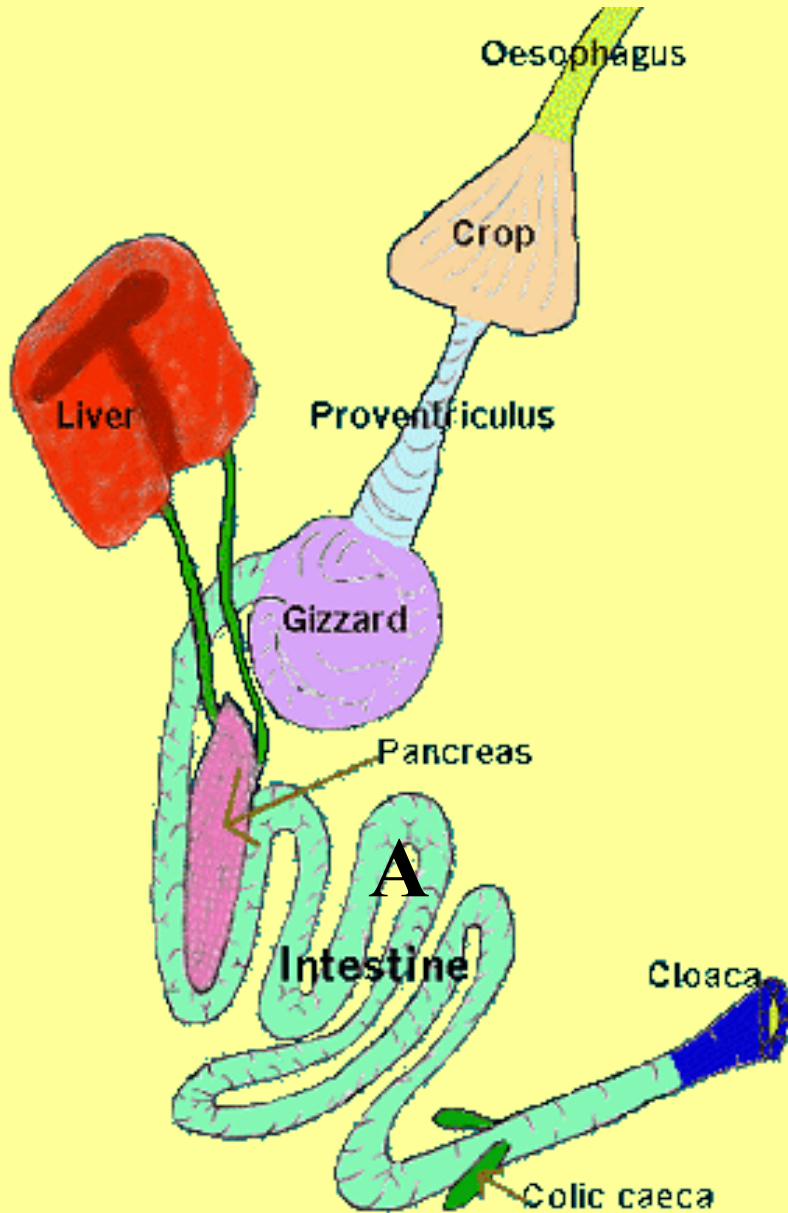
**oviduct**

**The voice box in a bird that produces its  
song**

**syrinx**

**What is the  
function of  
structure A?**

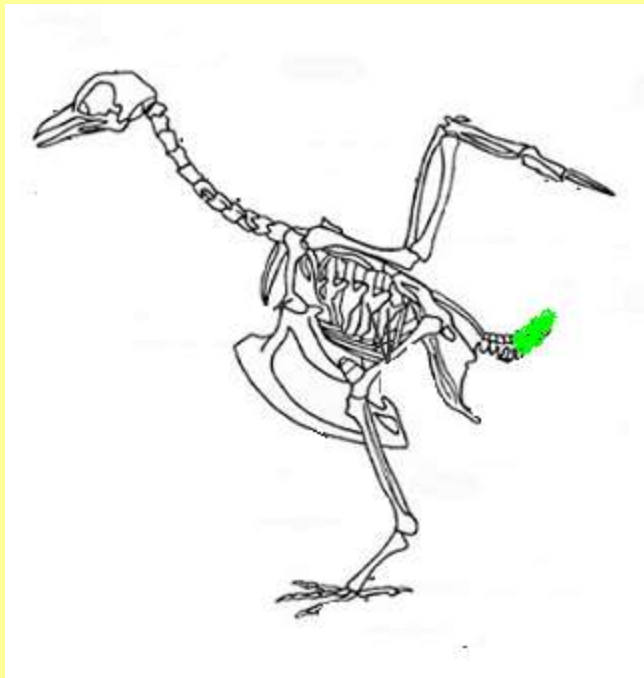
**Finishes digestion &  
absorbs nutrients**



**Tell one way the Respiratory system is modified to help in flight**

**Air sacs store extra air to provide additional oxygen when inhaling AND EXHALING**

**Air sacs extend into bones to decrease density**



**This bone that supports the tail feathers is called the**

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**pygostyle**

**Space at the end of the digestive system that collects digestive waste, uric acid from the kidneys, and eggs and sperm before they exit the body.**

**cloaca**

**Place in the respiratory system where gases are exchanged**

**Lungs**

**air sacs**

**syrinx**

**trachea**

**Lungs**

**(Air sacs only store air until it moves into the lungs)**

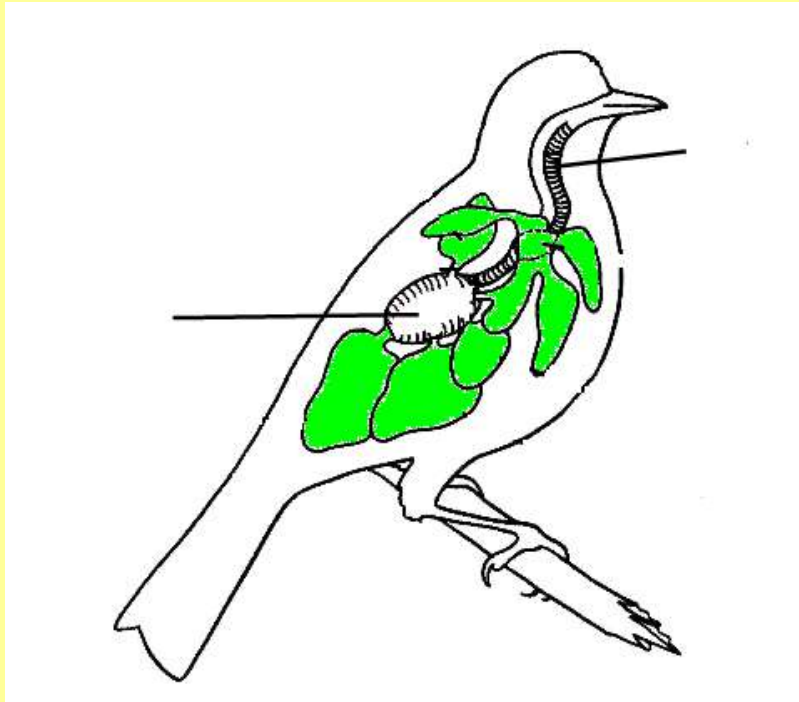


**Birds belong to this CLASS:**

**AVES**

**Birds that are naked, blind, and helpless  
when they hatch and come from nests  
with few eggs that have a shorter  
incubation time.**

**altricial**

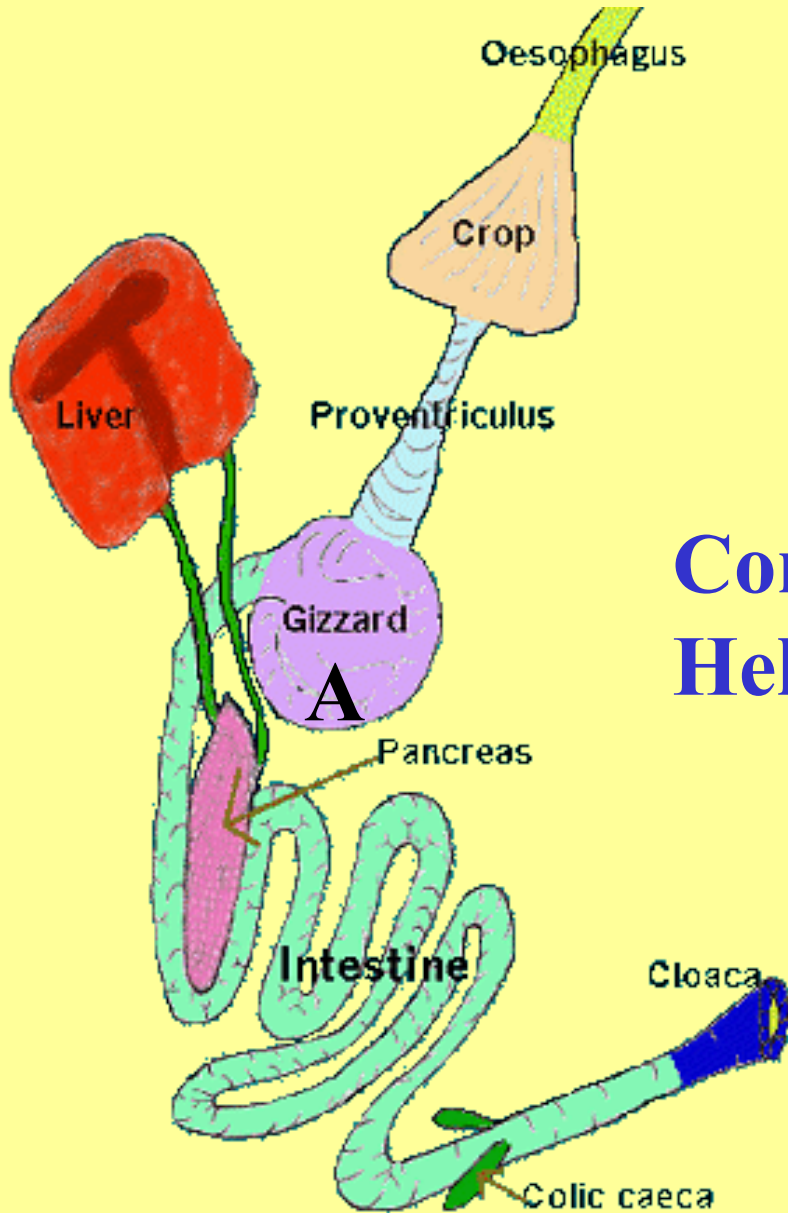


**These structures  
attached to the  
lungs are**

**Air sacs**

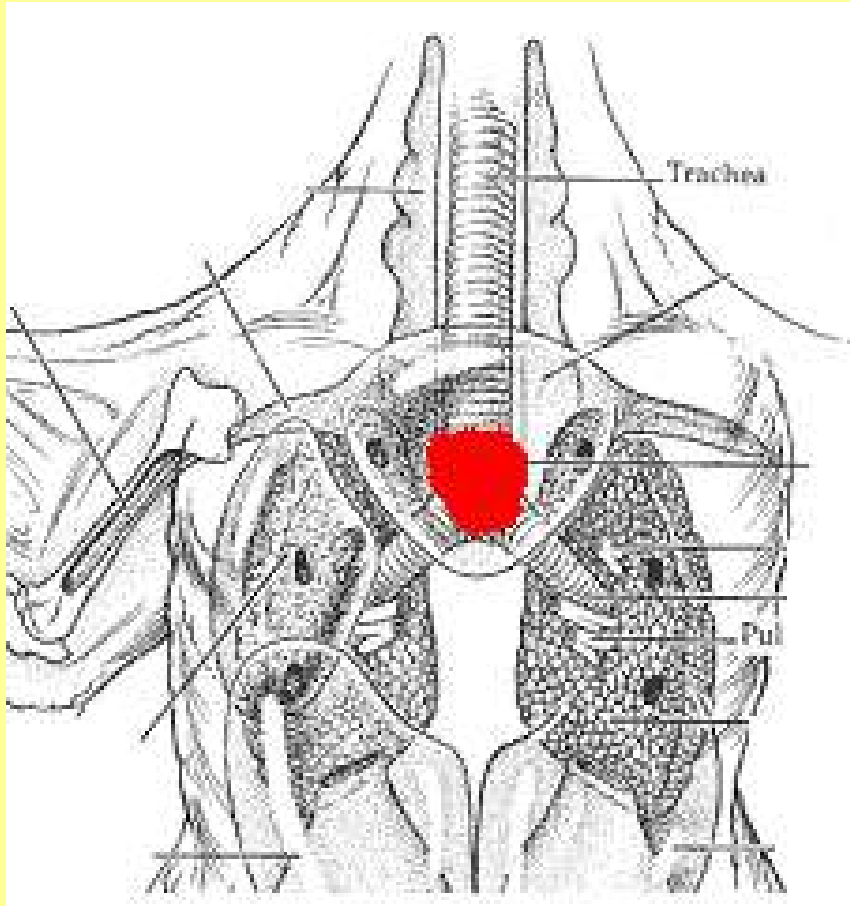
**What is the  
function of  
structure A?**

**Contains small rocks to  
Help squeeze and mash food**



**Tell one way the SKELETAL system is modified to help with flight.**

- 1. BONES ARE HOLLOW = less dense**
- 2. BONES ARE FUSED = sturdy**
- 3. AIR SACS extend into bones to make them less dense**
- 4. FURCULA –stabilizes shoulder**
- 5. PYGOSTYLE- supports tail for steering/braking**
- 6. BIG STERNUM- attaches flight muscles**



**What is the function  
of this colored  
structure located  
between the  
trachea and  
bronchi?**

**= *syrinx***

**Voice box for singing**

**Fused lower portion of the spine that supports the tail feathers**

**pygostyle**

**Nutritious milk-like fluid produced in the crop of some birds like pigeons to feed their young**

**Crop milk**

**Gland located at the base of the tail that the bird uses to coat its feathers to make them waterproof.**

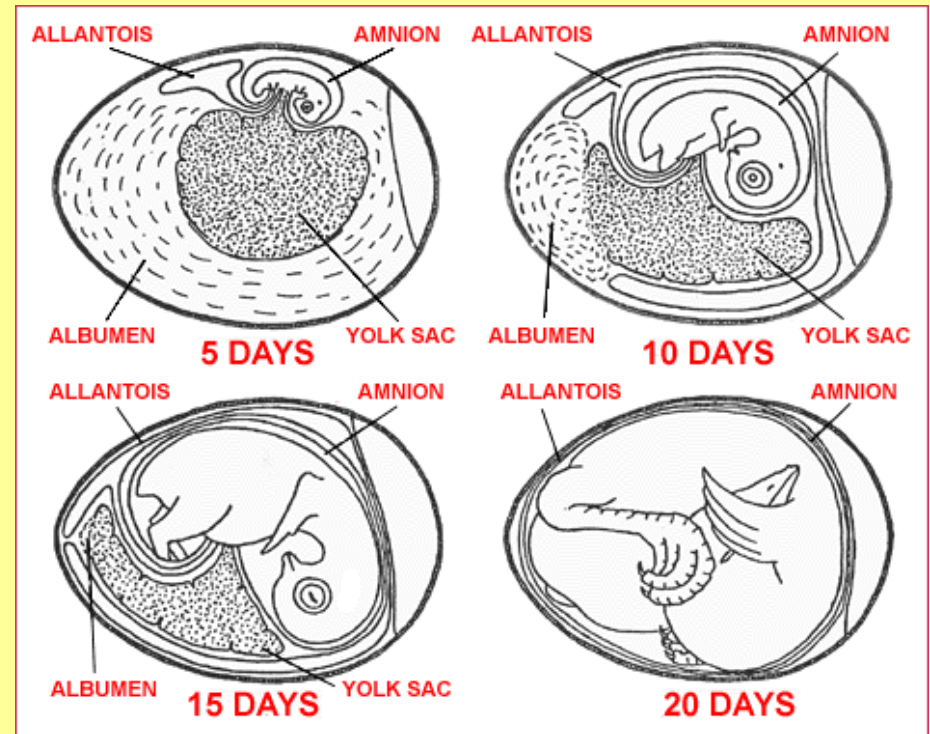
**Preen gland**

**Fused collarbone commonly called a “wishbone” which helps to stabilize the shoulders during flight**

**furcula**

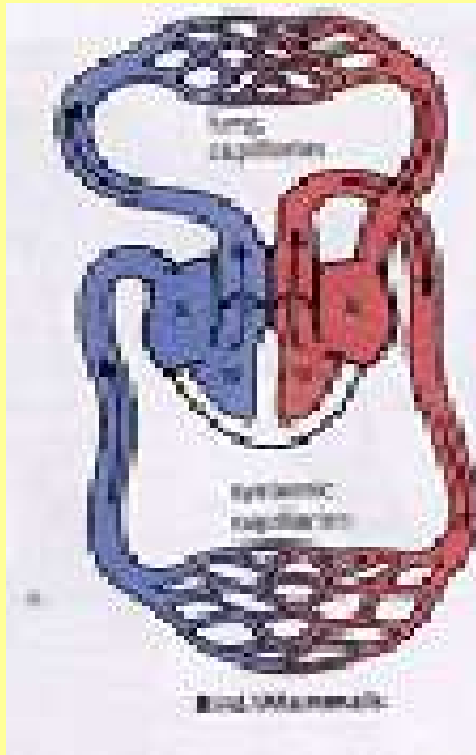
# Type of egg laid by birds

**amniotic**



This type of reproduction in which a shell is put around the egg and it hatched outside of the mother's body is called **oviparity**





**A**



**B**



**C**

**Which diagram shows the type of circulation found in birds?**

**A 4 chambers; 2 loops**

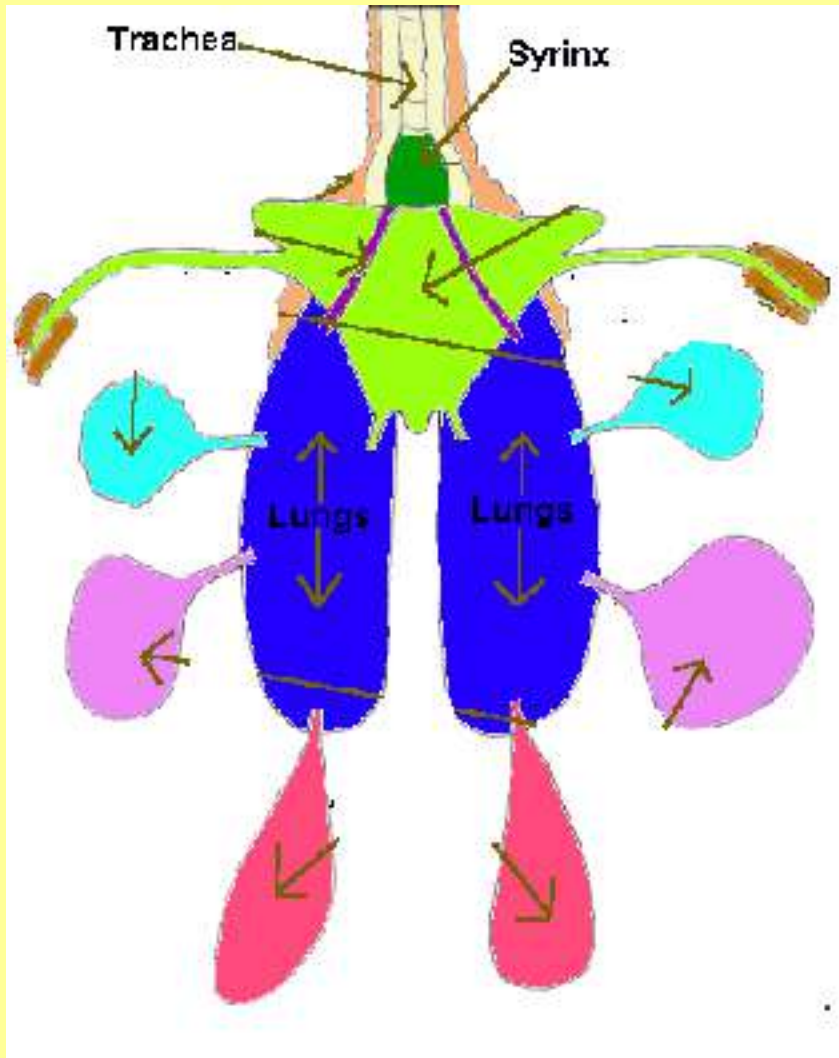
**Name the two functions of feathers**

**Lift for flight**

**Insulation (help hold body heat)**

**This part of the brain that controls muscle coordination is larger in birds to help with flying.**

**cerebellum**



**What is the function of these colored structures attached to the lungs?**

**Store air to allow oxygenated air in lungs during exhalation**

**Organ that stores bile**

**Gall bladder**

**Makes, stores, and recycles Red blood cells (RBC's)**

**spleen**

**Organ that contains small rocks to  
helps smash up food**

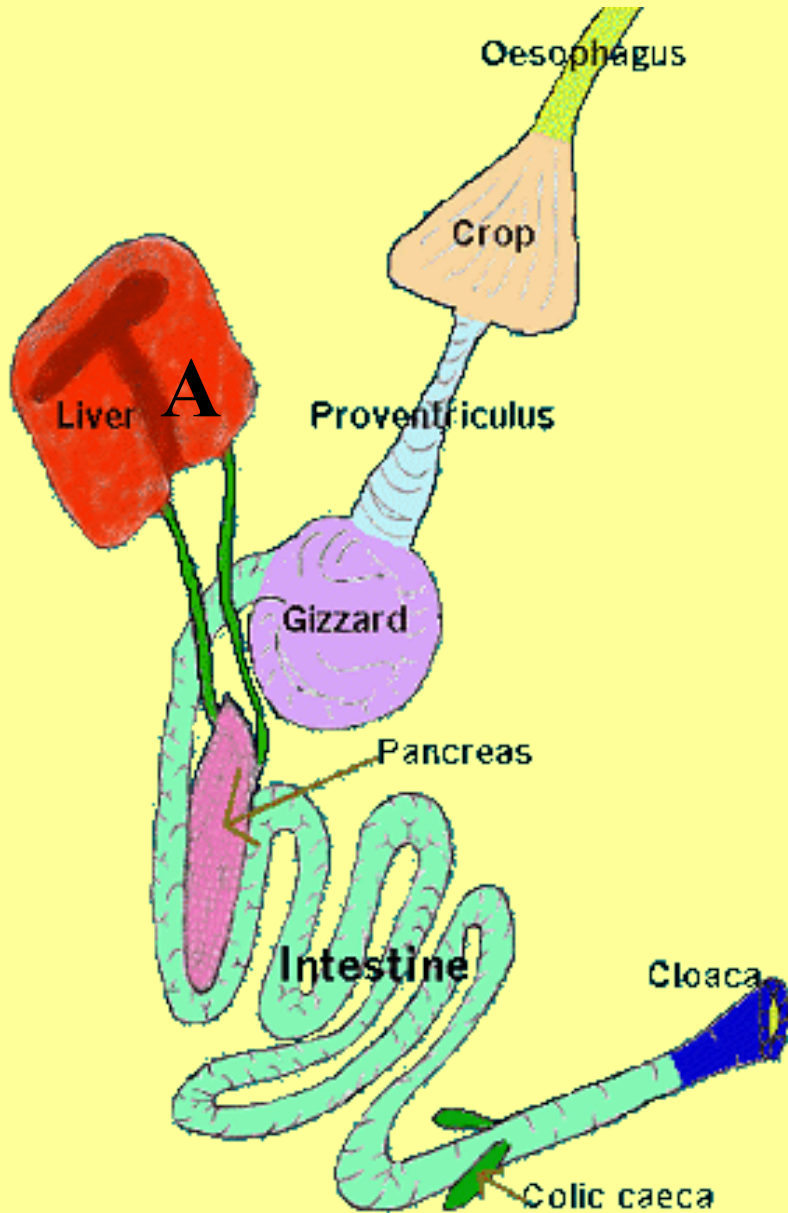
**gizzard**

**Excretory organ seen in frogs and  
turtles that is missing in birds**

**Urinary bladder**

**What is the  
function of  
structure A?**

**Makes bile**



**Organ that makes digestive enzymes used in the small intestine**

**Pancreas make trypsin**

**Liver makes bile**

**Fertilization in birds is**

**INTERNAL**

**EXTERNAL**

**internal**

**Organ that makes bile to digest fats**

**liver**

**Name one of the parts of the brain that are bigger  
in birds than in reptiles**

**Cerebrum**

**Optic lobes**

**Cerebellum**



**Like turtles, birds make nitrogen waste  
in the form of \_\_\_\_\_**

**Uric acid**

**Protein found in reptile scales and bird  
feathers**

**keratin**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Controls autonomic  
internal organs Medulla oblongata

Opening for air entering  
respiratory system glottis

Add albumen & shell to eggs oviduct

Carry urine from kidneys  
to cloaca ureters

**Number of chambers in a bird heart**

**4 (2 atria; 2 ventricles)**

**Large breastbone to which flight muscles attach**

**sternum**

**Pigeons belong to the**

**Kingdom** **Animalia**

**Phylum** **Chordata**

**Subphylum** **Vertebrata**

**Class** **Aves**

**Order** **Columbiformes**

# Type of body cavity found in birds

No coelom

pseudocoelom

eucoelom

**eucoelom**

**Birds are Endothermic (warm-blooded)**

**EctothermicEndothermic**

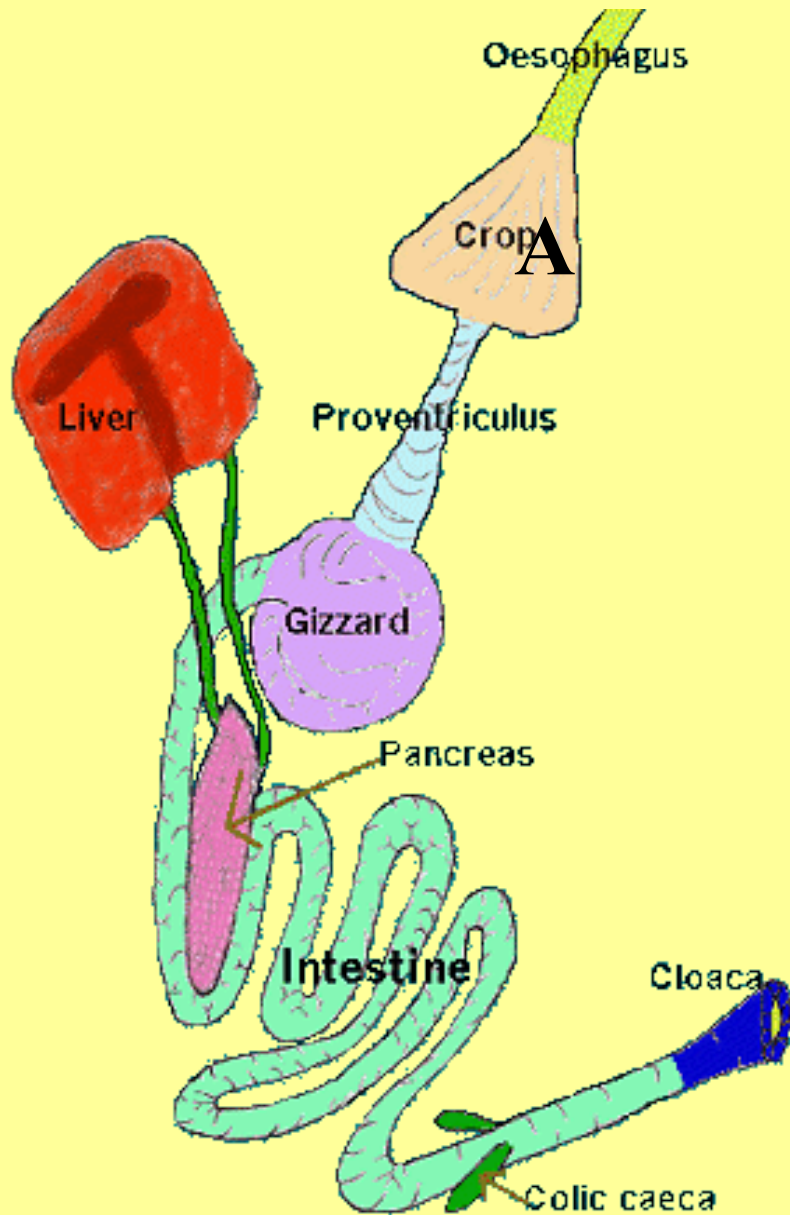
**Match the BIRD body part with its function**

**Connect trachea to lungs** bronchi

**eardrum** tympanic membrane

**Part of small intestine where  
bile & trypsin are added  
to finish digestion** duodenum

**Removes uric acid  
from blood** kidneys



**What is the  
function of  
structure A?**

**Stores and moistens  
food waiting  
to be digested**

**This is found in the shells of bird eggs to  
make them hard**

**Calcium carbonate**

**TRUE or FALSE**

**Birds have nictitating membranes  
like reptiles**

**True – helps birds that dive under water  
for food or act as “flight goggles”**



**Tell how the ENDOCRINE system is modified to help birds fly**

**1. THYROID & PANCREAS**

**control fast burning of glucose for energy**

**2. ENDOTHERMIC METABOLISM-**

**provides energy for extended activity**

**Birds are Vertebrate deuterostomes**

**Invertebrate protostomes**

**Invertebrate deuterostomes**

**Vertebrate protostomes**

**Vertebrate deuterostomes**

**That means their embryonic blastopore  
becomes their anus**

Contour feathers give birds  
shape, provide color, and lift for  
flight.

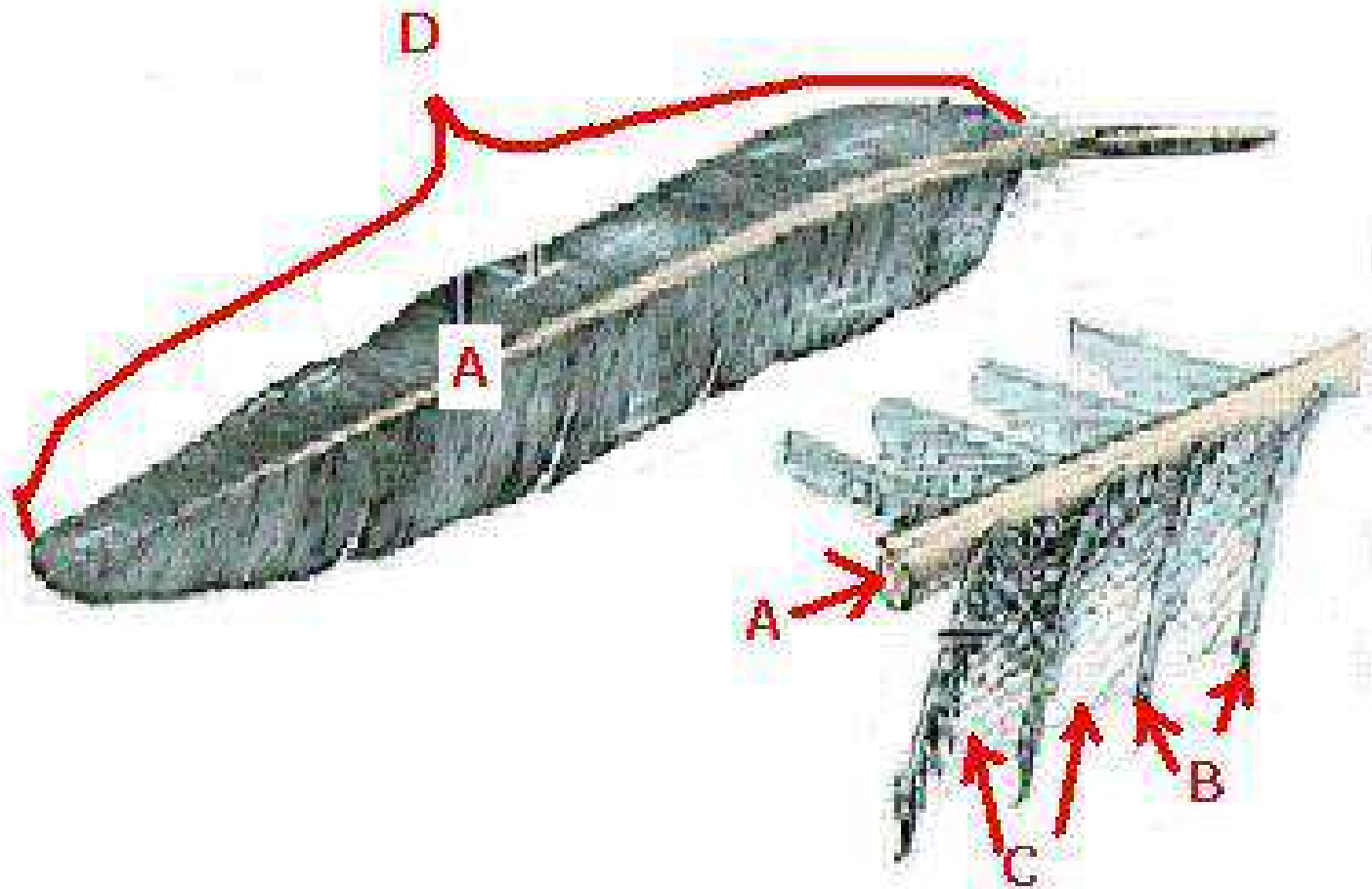
contour      down

Birds are endo thermic.

ecto      endo

# **Tell how the CIRCULATORY system is modified to help birds fly**

- 1. LARGE HEART-** for body size pumps more
- 2. 2 LOOPS-** most efficient/fastest system
- 3. 4 chamber heart-**  
total separation of HIGH/LOW oxygen blood
- 4. 4. FAST HEART RATE-**  
moves oxygen/nutrients faster



**A = ? Rachis**

**B = ? Barb**

**C = ? barbule**

**D = ? vane**

**Tell 3 cues bird use to navigate**

**Position of sun/stars; landmarks;  
sense Earth's magnetic field;  
air pressure changes;  
low frequency sound waves**

**TRUE or FALSE**

**Birds shed their feathers annually and  
can regrow lost or damaged feathers.**

**TRUE**

**Fertilization in BIRDS is internal**

**internal                  external**

**Name 3 characteristics of BIRDS**

**Wings, feathers,**

**Light weight/strong skeleton**

**4 chambered heart**

**Endothermic (warm blooded)**

**Super efficient respiratory system**

**Beak**

**Oviparity (lay amniotic eggs)**

**Birds are coelomates**

**acoelomates**

**pseudocoelomates**

**coelomates**

**Number of ovaries in a bird**

**Only one (on left side)**



# **Tell how the RESPIRATORY system is modified to help birds fly**

- 1. Super efficient-gets more oxygen out of air**
- 2. AIR SACS- allow oxygen on inhale & exhale**
- 3. AIR SACS- extend into bones = less dense**
- 4. ALVEOLI- increase gas exchange**

**Name the substance that does each of the following:**

**Digest fats**       **bile**      

**Digest proteins**       **trypsin**      

**Made by joining glucose molecules**

**Used by animals to store energy**       **Glycogen**      

**Tells cells to take glucose from blood**

**& store it as glycogen**       **insulin**      

**Tells cells to take stored glucose &**

**release it into the bloodstream**       **glucagon**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Stores & moistens food crop

Oil gland to make feathers waterproof Preen gland

Featherless patch to keep eggs warm Brood patch

Hook barbs together barbules

For higher thinking & learning cerebrum

**Tell how the excretory system is modified to help birds fly**

**1. NO URINARY BLADDER**

**No storage of urine/ eliminated as made**

**2. Nitrogen excreted as URIC ACID-  
needs less water to dilute**

**Tell how the REPRODUCTIVE system is modified to help birds fly**

**1. ONLY ONE OVARY/OVIDUCT on left side  
-less weight**

**2. OVIPARITY-**

**Eggs laid outside body- less weight**

**3. OVARY enlarges during breeding season  
Shrinks rest of time = less weight**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

**Stabilizes shoulders**

**during flight** furcula

**Support for tail** pygostyle

**Makes trypsin**

**for the small intestine** pancreas

**Controls muscle**

**coordination** cerebellum

**Tell how the NERVOUS system is modified to help birds fly**

- 1. LARGER BRAIN-** than reptiles/amphibians
- 2. BIGGER CEREBRUM**
  - for higher thinking, learning, problem solving**
  - helps navigation**
- 3. 3. BIGGER CEREBELLUM-**
  - motor coordination/balance**
- 4. BIGGER OPTIC LOBES-**
  - Improved vision- for navigation, finding food**
- 5. Internal compass stores iron- for navigation**

# How is reproduction in birds **SIMILAR** to reproduction in turtles?

**Both : Separate sexes/ with internal fertilization  
lay amniotic eggs  
have a cloaca**

**oviduct adds albumen and shell**

# How is reproduction in birds **DIFFERENT** than in turtles?

## **BIRDS****TURTLES**

**only one ovary on left side 2 ovaries**

**Parental care laid in nest and left**

**Sex chromosomes no sex chromosomes**

**(sex determined by temp)**

**Calcium makes shell hard tough leathery shell**



# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Fleshy area near beak cere

3<sup>rd</sup> eyelid Nictitating membrane

Part of small intestine where  
nutrients are absorbed ileum

Removes uric acid  
from blood kidneys

Attachment for  
flight muscles sternum

**How is the excretory system in birds  
SIMILAR to the excretory system in  
turtles?**

**Both : have 2 kidneys  
excrete nitrogen waste as uric acid  
exit through cloaca**

**How is the excretory system in birds  
DIFFERENT than in turtles?**

**BIRDSTURTLES**

**No urinary bladder Urinary bladder stores urine**

# Match the BIRD body part with its function

Carry eggs from ovary \_\_\_\_\_  
to cloaca **oviduct**

Carry sperm from testes \_\_\_\_\_  
to cloaca **Vas deferens**

Largest Vein returning \_\_\_\_\_  
to heart **Vena cava**

Largest artery leaving heart \_\_\_\_\_  
**Aorta**

# **How is the circulatory system in birds SIMILAR to that seen in turtles?**

**Both : closed circulation**

**septum (partial or full)**

**No conus arteriosus or sinus venosus**

**2 loops**

**red blood cells have nuclei**

# **How is circulatory system in birds DIFFERENT than in turtles?**

**BIRDSTURTLES**

**4 chamber heart 3 chamber heart**

**Tell something that is new about birds  
that you haven't seen in any other  
animal you dissected.**

**They are ENDOTHERMIC  
(warm blooded)**

**4 chamber heart**

**Feathers**

**Hollow bones**

**Fused bones: furcula, pygostyle**

**Syrinx**

**Air sacs**

**No urinary bladder**

# THE END

