

## Examination of wing

Careful extension and flexion of wing to assess the motility.

Palpation of bones and joints.

Position of wing, wing drooping etc.

The patagium should be evaluated for loss of elasticity, trauma or scarring.

**Note these:** Recent trauma may be evident as **greenish discoloration** of the soft tissue. This is bruising, and should not be mistaken for infection or tissue death.

## Examination of legs

Careful extension and flexion

Palpation of all bones and joint {articular gout}

The toes examination:

Missing digits or nails and constrictions.

\*Swelling of interphalangeal joints.  
(**deposition of uric acid crystals**).

\* Excessive thinness, especially in neonates.

Abnormal position and conformation.

\* Excessively long or twisted nails. (over grown nails may indicate chronic liver disease).

\*Powder down is produced by the powder down feathers on the thighs of many species of birds, particularly cockatoos and African grey parrots.

**Extras:** Chronic liver disease and/or malnutrition can cause darkening of feathers/Tidiness of the plumage.

\*Chewed and/or broken feathers: suspect over-grooming, self-mutilation or malnutrition. Saw-toothed edges can indicate a failure to moult normally.



## Further readings and references:

Avian medicine and surgery in practice by bob doneley.

BSAVA manual of avian medicine by John Chitty and Deborah Monks.



## Examination of body

\*Palpation of the skin over the trunk occasionally reveals the crackling of subcutaneous emphysema (this is normal in species such as **pelicans**).

\*Internal distension of the coelom: fat, organ enlargement, ascites, neoplasia, presence of an egg etc.

\*External distension can be due to subcutaneous fat, neoplasia (**especially lipomas**) or hernias.

\*The back should be carefully palpated for: scoliosis, lordosis or kyphosis. Distortion of the carina, often indicates a **history of rickets or other metabolic bone disease**.

\*The cloaca can be assessed externally for **enlargement and dilation, prolapse, ulceration or inflammation around the mucocutaneous junction, and the presence or loss of sphincter tone**.

# THE AVIAN CLINICAL EXAMINATION PART 2

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## Examination of skin

### Skin and plumage:

#### Colour of the feathers:

Normal coloration of feathers is the result of pigment deposited in the feather keratin and the reflection of light from the feathers.

\*\*Trauma, if any should be noted.

#### Note these:

PBFD can cause green feathers to turn yellow and blue feathers to turn white.

Individual feather must be flexible like spring and should not bend.



Check for parasites.



## Examination of head

Examination of head: \* Matting of the feathers over the crown and nape can indicate that the bird has been vomiting.

- Nares, see if there is any obstruction.
- Check for any beak deformities.
- Eyes should be bright and clean.
- Check ears and choana for any discharges.

**Note these:** In the budgerigar cere colour can be used to sex the bird, with cocks having a blue cere and hens a brown cere.

**Thickening of brown cere in budgie hen may indicate hyper oestrogenic state.**

Excessive keratin flaking of the beak can reflect poor nutrition or simply a lack of opportunity to rub the beak on a suitably abrasive surface.

## Examination of crop

Palpation of crop just below the neck, cranial to thoracic inlet and see if:

- Is the crop filled?
- Feels doughy? Suspect crop stasis.
- Foreign bodies or ingluvitis?