

Ornithology - Day 3

1. What adaptation do birds have to lighten their bones? _____

2. Which of the displayed skeletons is the most pneumatized?

- A) hummingbird
- B) vulture
- C) sparrow
- D) parrot

3. Why does a flying animal need a rigid body? _____

4. Why does a bird need an unfused vertebrae between the synsacrum and pygostyle?

- A) to facilitate in-flight steering
- B) to make walking easier
- C) there is no value to this feature

5. In birds, the furcula serves several important functions. Can you identify one of them?

- A) to stabilize the shoulder
- B) to compress avian lungs
- C) to house the preen gland
- D) to brace the rib cage

6. Name an adaptation that modern birds have that has nothing to do with flying.

7. The hind limbs of a bird differ from our own because birds have:

- A) knee joints that point backwards
- B) proportionately longer femora
- C) long metatarsals that are fused together
- D) inflexible toes

Answers

1. Answers may vary but could include hollow bones with thin walls and air pockets, with struts back and forth to reinforce the bones and reduce breaks.
2. B
3. Answers may vary but could include standing up to gravity, maintaining an aerodynamic shape while in flight, and avoiding sagging or flopping with each wing beat.
4. A
5. A
6. Beaks with toothless jaws
7. C