

## Avian Physical Exam and Necropsy Glossary

**Anterior Chamber** - a fluid-filled chamber directly behind the cornea

**Asymmetrical Beak** - upper mandible is not lined up correctly with the lower mandible.

**Brood Patch** - a large patch of featherless skin that is visible on the underside of a bird's body. Only present when the bird is incubating eggs or babies.

**Callus** - Deposition of fibrous and/or bony material around a fracture site.

**Castings** – Any regurgitated material such as a pellet or partially digested food.

**Cataract** - a cloudy area in the lens, or on its anterior or posterior surface.

**Caudal** - refers to the lower part of a structure or away from the head.

**Cere** - fleshy area at the base of the upper mandible.

**Choanae** – Slit-like opening in the roof of the mouth connecting to the sinuses.

**Comminuted** - a fracture in which bone is shattered into multiple pieces.

**Compound** - a fracture in which the bone is sticking through the skin. Also called an open fracture.

**Concussion** - a jarring injury of the brain resulting in disturbance of cerebral function.

**Coracoid** – the bone that goes from the scapula to the sternum

**Cornea** is the clear globe or surface of the eye.

**Cranial** refers to the upper part of a structure or toward the head.

**Crop** - Food storage chamber in the upper part of the esophagus, which is very distensible and can accommodate large amount of food; not found in owls.

**Dehydration** - an abnormal loss of water from the body. Can be tested by pinching the skin on of a bird's eyelid or the skin on its foot or toes. Can also cause the mouth mucus to be tacky.

**Digit** – any of the toes.

**Dilated** – when the pupil becomes large.

**Distal** - away from the midline of the body.

**Dorsal** – on the back side.

**Dyspnea** - labored breathing.

**Etiology** - cause of injury.

**Esophagus** – a muscular tube that goes from the back of the mouth to the stomach.

**Femur** – the bone that goes from the hip to the knee.

**Fibrous material** – cloudy areas floating in the fluid in the posterior chamber, often the result of proteins leaking from the bloodstream into the eye due to trauma.

**Furcula** – Another name for the two fused clavicle bones located between the shoulders and upper keel bone; also called wishbone.

**Furcular Hollow** – the recessed area just above the top of the keel, between the furcula bones.

**Fx** – fracture.

**Glottis** - Opening to the trachea, located just behind the base of the tongue.

**Habituated** – the bird is used to being around people, but not imprinted. Is reversible.

**Hock** – the joint where the tibiotarsus meets the metatarsus on the leg.

**Humerus** – the bone going from the shoulder to the elbow.

**Hyphema** - blood in the anterior chamber of the eye.

**Imprinted** – the bird was raised in captivity and associates itself as being human. Is not reversible.

**Iris** - is a diaphragm, composed mostly of striated muscle. It forms the colored portion of the eye.

**Joint sepsis** – a septic bacterial infection that can show up in the joints causing the joint fluid to be purulent, not clear, and cloudy in appearance.

**Keel** - breastbone.

**Lateral** - away from the midline of the body.

**Lens** - is a transparent, structure in the eye that helps to refract light to be focused on the retina.

**Lesions** - any abnormal tissue found on or in an organism.

**Lethargic** – abnormal drowsiness or weakness.

**Luxated** – dislocated, displacement from its normal position.

**Medial** - toward the midline of the body.

**Menace Reflex** - reflex to movement near the eye.

**Metacarpals – Major and Minor** – the two largest bones of the metacarpus that parallel each other and go from the wrist joint to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phalanx. The major is the larger diameter of the two bones.

**Midshaft** – the center between two ends of a bone.

**Mutes** - fecal material.

**Nares** - openings to the nasal cavity, located in the cere.

**Nictitating Membrane or nictans**, is a semi-transparent membrane used to clean, moisturize, and protect the cornea.

**Oblique** – a fracture that is diagonal to a bone's long axis.

**Pads** – the center part of the underside of a bird's foot.

**Patagium** - thin membrane stretched out between the proximal humerus and distal radius & ulna forming the leading edge of the wing.

**Pecten** – a comb like structure in the back of the eye resembling a mountain range.

**Pericardium** – the membrane that encloses the heart. Often referred to as the pericardium sac.

**Plaque** – a localized abnormal patch on the surface on a body part.

**PLR - Pupillary light reflex** - the speed and extent of the reaction of the iris when light strikes the retina.

**Purulent** – containing, consisting of, or being puss.

**Posterior Chamber** - a fluid-filled chamber behind the lens.

**Proximal** - nearest to the midline of the body.

**Radius** – smaller of the two bones that go from the elbow to the wrist.

**Reading** – when a bird's head turns back and forth like it is reading. Caused by head trauma.

**Remiges** – the wing flight feathers (primaries and secondaries).

**Retina** - the layer of light-sensitive cells forming the back wall of the eye.

**Retina Detached** when the retina detaches from the back of the eye. Normally it is apparent as a white area, sometimes with visible, upturned edges.

**Retina Scarring** Raised lesions, black speckling or dots of varying sizes on the retina.

**Retrices** - the tail feathers.

**Scapula** – the shoulder blade. The flat thin bone on a birds back connected at the shoulder.

**Sclerotic Ossicles** - small bones forming a ring around the eye.

**Synechia** – when the iris is attached to the lens.

**SQ – Subcutaneous** - under the skin.

**Supra-orbital ridge** - a small bony ridge located above the eye. It is present in most diurnal raptors.

**Talon** – the claw or nail on a raptor.

**Tarsometatarsus** – the bone that goes from the hock to the toes.

**Tibiotarsus** – the bone that goes from the knee to the hock.

**Transverse** – a fracture that is perpendicular to the long axis of a bone (straight across).

**Trich – *Trichomonas gallinae*** - a single-celled, protozoan parasite. Also known as Frounce.

**Ulna** – the larger of the two bones that go from the elbow to the wrist.

**Uropygial Gland** - a large gland at the base of a bird's tail that secretes an oil used in preening.

**Vent** – the cloacal opening. The opening through which bodily wastes are eliminated.

**Ventral** – on the underside.