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# EXPERIMENT 1 IDENTIFICATION OF EXTERNAL BODY PARTS OF A BIRD

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## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

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Before discussing the different aspects of poultry in details, it is necessary to have some knowledge of the external body parts of poultry. The poultry's body is covered with a combination of skin, feathers and localized scales, with the latter being a derivative of reptiles.

### Objectives

After performing this experiment, you will be able to:

- identify the external body parts of a bird; and
- assess the health condition of birds.

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## 1.2 EXPERIMENT

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### 1.2.1 Principle

Knowledge of external body parts of a bird will help in identifying the birds as well as their health and productivity status. It also helps in distinguishing the male birds from female as well as in performing some of the management aspects.

### 1.2.2 Requirements

- Live bird of different species. Example: Chicken, Duck, Turkey etc., of both sexes.

### 1.2.3 Procedure

- 1) The external body parts of poultry can be divided into five different regions and their parts are as follows:

Table 1.1: External Body Parts of Chicken, Duck and Turkey

Sl. No	Name of the Regions	Parts		
		Chicken/Fowl (Fig. 1.1)	Duck (Fig. 1.2)	Turkey (Fig. 1.3)
1.	Head	• Comb	• Bill	• Eye
		• Point of comb	• Eye	• Ear
		• Blade of comb	• Ear	• Beak
		• Base of comb	• Nostril	• Snood
		• Beak		• Nostrils
		• Eye		• Throat wattles
		• Ear		• Ear opening
		• Ear lobe		
		• Wattle		
	• Nostrils			
2.	Neck	• Hackle	• Neck feather	• Caruncle
3.	Trunk or Body	• Wing bow	• Wing bow	• Body coverts
		• Wing bar	• Wing bar	• Breast
		• Breast	• Breast	• Secondary and primary feathers
		• Primary feather	• Primary feather	
		• Secondary feather	• Secondary feather	
		• Axial feather	• Axial feather	
		• Fluff	• Fluff	
		• Back	• Back	
4.	Tail	• Saddle feather	• Tail feather	• Tail
		• Sickle feather		
		• Lesser sickle feather		
		• Main tail feather		
5.	Limbs	• Thigh	• Thigh	• Thigh
		• Drum stick	• Drum stick	• Hock
		• Hock	• Hock	• Shank
		• Shank	• Shank	• Spur
		• Spur	• Spur	• Toe nail
		• Toes	• Toes	• Toes
		• Toe nail	• Toe nail	
		• Claws	• Claws	
			• Prominent web	

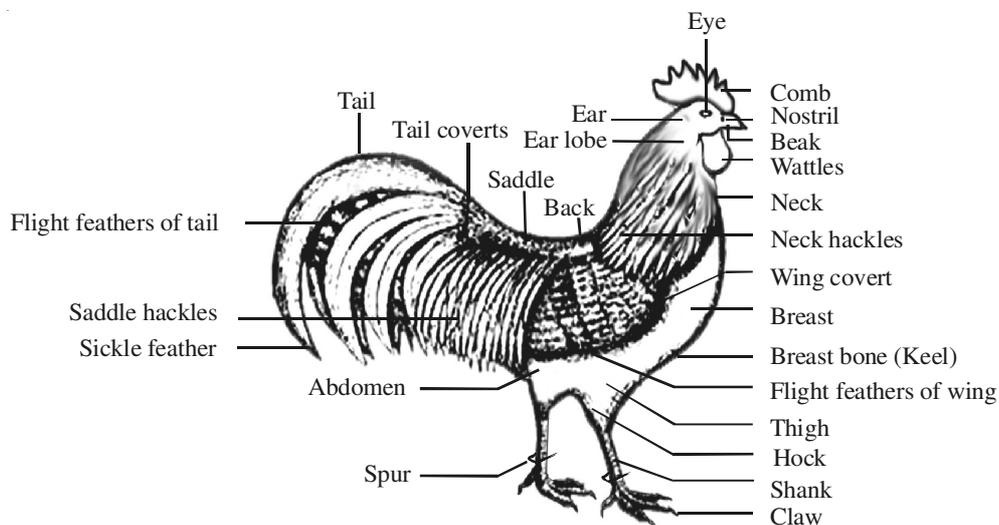


Fig. 1.1: Body Parts of Chicken

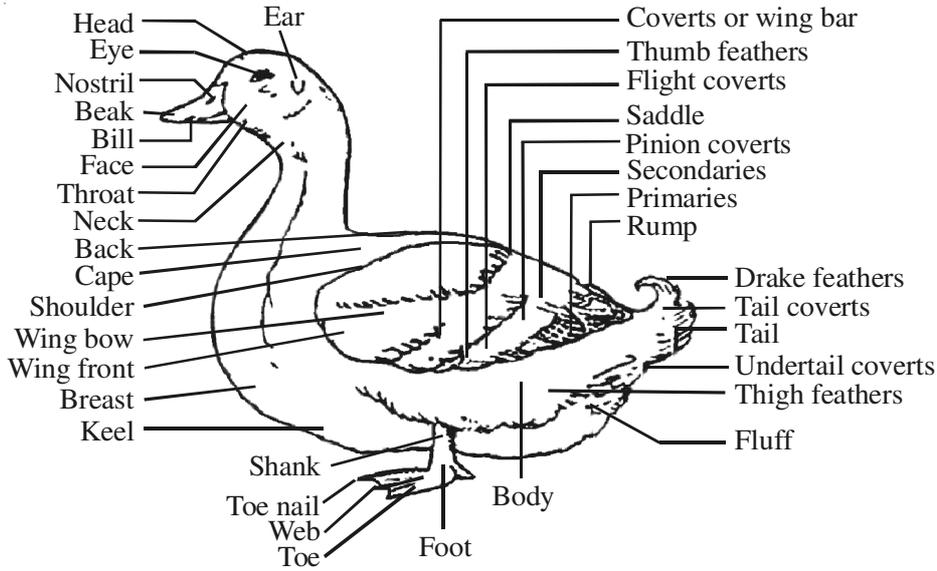


Fig. 1.2: Body Parts of Duck

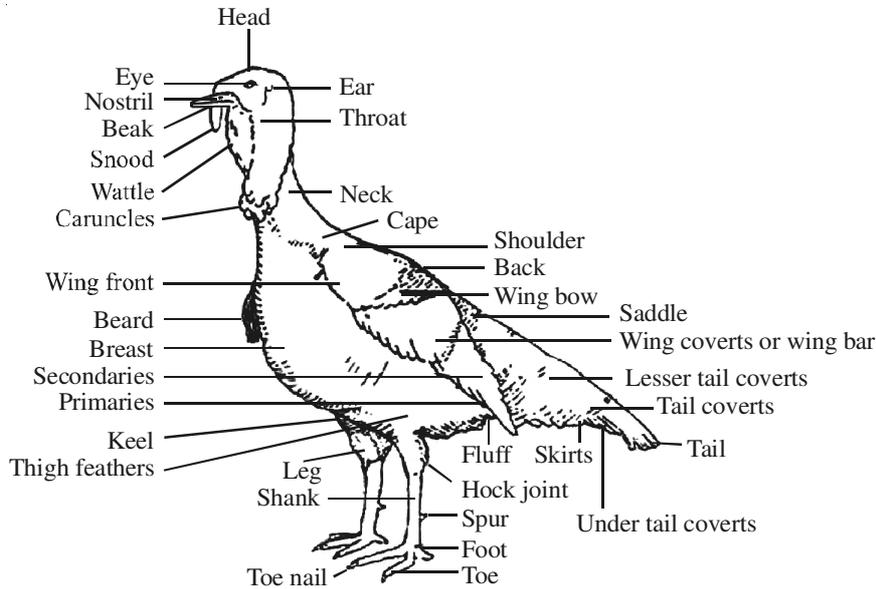


Fig. 1.3: Body Parts of Turkey

2) Observe different external body parts of the bird and record your observation.

### 1.2.4 Observations

Note down the different body parts of a bird observed and identified by you:

- i) Head .....
- ii) Neck .....
- iii) Body .....
- iv) Tail .....
- v) Limbs .....

### 1.2.5 Results

Give your comments on the condition of body parts of a bird based on your observation.

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### 1.3 PRECAUTIONS

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- Bird should feel comfortable at the time of handling and hence, have to be handled with care such that they will not get frightened.