

Keel 1.0 = 1
 1.5 = 2
 2.0 = 3
 2.5 = 4
 3.0 = 5
 3.5 = 6
 4.0 = 7
 4.5 = 8
 5.0 = 9

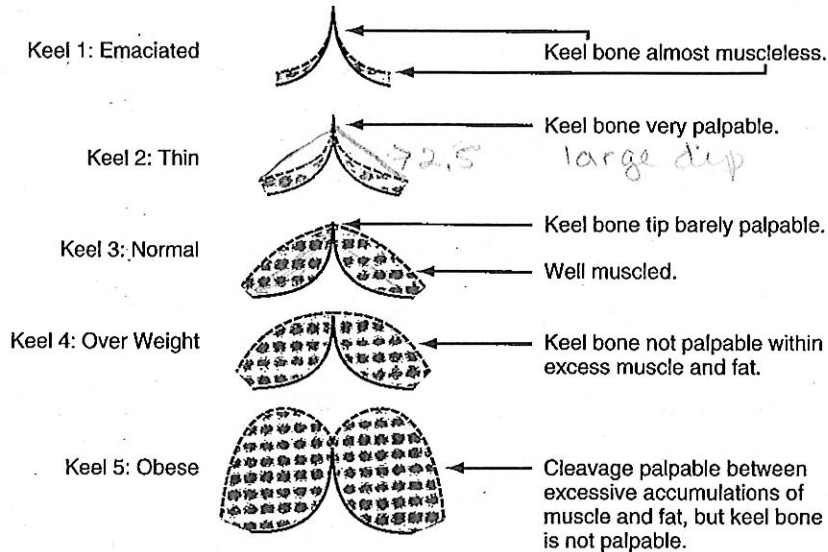


Figure 1. Keel scoring is based on a system of 1–5. A bird with a score of 1 is emaciated, while a bird with a score of 5 is obese. A score of 3 is considered normal; in this case the tip of the keel bone is barely palpable, and the bird's chest is well-muscled. *Plus* signs can further define birds that do not fit exactly within these five categories, hence 1 would be emaciated, 1+ very thin, 2 thin, 2+ almost normal, 3 normal, and so on.

has three divisions (cranial, middle, and caudal), and its respective ureter empties directly into the cloaca, as birds do not have a bladder.

Reproductive System

The avian gonads are located ventral to the cranial pole of the cranial division of the kidneys and lie directly caudal to the adrenal glands. Gonadal enlargement during the breeding season is normal in adults. An active female's ovary has numerous follicles at different stages of development, whereas active testes simply enlarge. Normally, the testes are paired in all male birds, whereas female psittacines typically have only a left ovary and a left oviduct.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN TAKING A CLINICAL HISTORY

While gathering a detailed history, be sure to observe the bird from a distance in its transport cage or home environment: Observe its interactions with its owner and other animals if applicable. Note if the bird displays any abnormal behaviors, but remember it may not demonstrate such behaviors in a novel environment like an examination room. Observe the cage content, diet, general level of care and cleanliness, and the presence or absence of normal feathers.