

Mutilation of animals, deprives flight

5

A 11:43

CITY CLERK
MASSACHUSETTS



B Ms. Harriet Baker
613 Sea St
Quincy, MA 02169

To City Council 6/03 (5)

Might you work out a
plan to re-home white geese
of Cambridge to Boston Common/
Parkway -- so that swan torture
(in Boston) is phased out ?!

Harriet Baker

WHATEVER
DECORATE THE CITY.

PINIONING CAN BE DONE BY SEVERING TENDONS OR LIGAMENTS,
WIRING JOINTS, CHEMICALLY FUSING JOINTS OF THE WING TO
"FREEZE" THE WING IN ONE MOTIONLESS POSITION, OR MOST
OFTEN, BY SURGICAL AMPUTATION OF THE WING AT THE ELBOW
POINT. THERE IS AN ARM AND HAND-LIKE STRUCTURE IN THE
SKELETON OF WINGS (SEE DIAGRAM).

LET THE MAYOR KNOW THAT KINDNESS, NOT CRUELTY, TO ALL
ANIMALS WOULD IMPRESS YOU MORE THAN MUTILATED, ABUSED
IMPRISONED SWANS REQUISITIONED ANNUALLY "FOR FUN."

(Mayor Thomas M. Menino, City Hall, Boston, MA 02201.)

TAKE ANY OTHER ACTION YOU CAN THINK OF TO HELP!

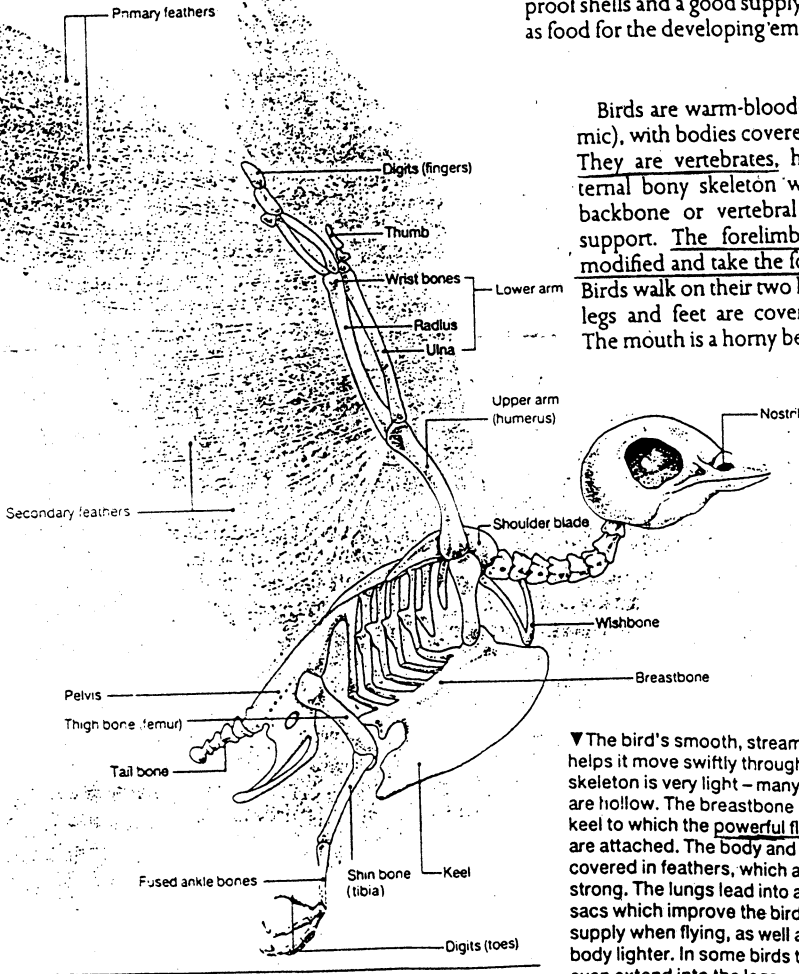
OVER →

WHAT IS A BIRD?

Birds, with their powers of flight, are found in almost every part of the globe. A few birds, such as ostriches and penguins, cannot fly. Instead, the ostrich can run very fast, up to 45mph, and the penguin uses its wings as flippers for swimming.

All birds lay eggs with hard, water-proof shells and a good supply of yolk as food for the developing embryo.

Birds are warm-blooded (ectothermic), with bodies covered in feathers. They are vertebrates, having an internal bony skeleton with a central backbone or vertebral column for support. The forelimbs are highly modified and take the form of wings. Birds walk on their two hind legs. The legs and feet are covered in scales. The mouth is a horny beak or bill.



▼ The bird's smooth, streamlined shape helps it move swiftly through the air. The skeleton is very light – many of the bones are hollow. The breastbone has a large keel to which the powerful flight muscles are attached. The body and wings are covered in feathers, which are light but strong. The lungs lead into a series of air sacs which improve the bird's oxygen supply when flying, as well as making its body lighter. In some birds the air sacs even extend into the legs.

From: The Waterbirds, Encyclopedia of the Animal World,
Robin Kerrod, Facts on File, New York, 1989

Distributed by Harriet Baker
613 Sea Street, Quincy, MA 02169: Phone: 617-472-9618

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JUN 25 A 11:43

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS



from Birds of North America

DO YOU THINK SWANS SHOULD BE SEVERELY MUTILATED AND DEPRIVED OF THE ABILITY TO FLY AND USE WINGS FOR THEIR WHOLE LIFE--SO THAT THE MAYOR ET AL. CAN SATISFY A WHIM?

YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN A SWAN INCARCERATED FOR THE SUMMER IN BOSTON (ON THE COMMON OR THE JAMAICA WAY) FLY!

WHY? THE CITY OF BOSTON PAYS A SWAN/BIRD BREEDER TO PINION (NOT CLIP) THE SWANS' WINGS SO THEY CAN NEVER FLY AGAIN! THE SWANS ARE CARRIED IN AND OUT OF BOSTON EACH SEASON. THE MAYOR AND THE PARKS DEPARTMENT FAVOR WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO USE THESE LIVING TOYS TO DECORATE THE CITY.

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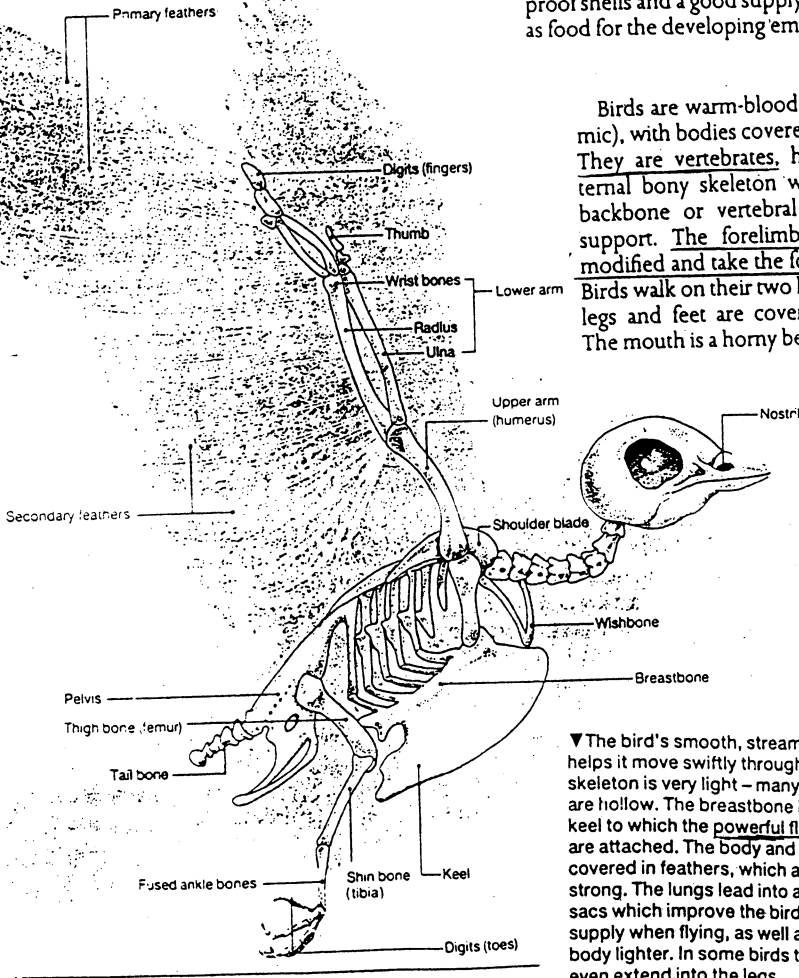
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Readers' opinions

The Patriot Ledger

Sept. 3, 1996

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Pinioned

When I read that the wings of the swans on Boston Common are ~~clipped~~ "to prevent flying," I undertook some informal research on this practice. I view it as one more instance of our lack of reverence for animal life and our cruel indifference to the suffering of animals.

I learned from the Audubon Society and the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife that swans are not native to this area and their multiplying is not seen as desirable. Their wings are "pinioned," as a requirement for their entry on the common.

The ligaments of their flight wings are severed, precluding flight ever again. This was described as a "benign practice" that doesn't bother the swan or the many other farm and other birds that are pinioned routinely.

Cat declawing is the amputation of the cat's claws along with the bones, ligaments, and tendons of the first paw joint. I find this ongoing practice despicable and inhumane, as well. Some veterinarians are now severing the ligaments of the cat's paws — instead of declawing the cat. So, now the cat is merely disabled, but not dismembered!

It seems to me that these practices are unethical in light of the Veterinarian's Oath taken upon admittance to the profession of

veterinary medicine. A pledge is taken to protect animal health, relieve animal suffering, and to practice the profession in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics. Rationalizations about what people will enjoy and where they want to enjoy it should not be tolerated, as I see it.

Further, I submit that these practices are illegal when considered beside the Massachusetts Animal Cruelty Statute (Chapter 272, Section 77) which prohibits mutilation of an animal. Similar statutes exist in each state and Canadian province.

Black's Law Dictionary defines "mutilation" as the depriving of any of those limbs which may be useful in fight. Clearly, declawing cats, paw ligament severing, and pinioning are all mutilations under the law.

Compassion may or may not be acquired. Caring is indeed a rare virtue. So, will someone help me to get the law enforcement authorities off their chairs, enforce the existing law, and make it impossible to deprive cats of the joy of using their claws and birds the thrill of flight. Contact your county sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable. If they are all too busy, offer to do their busy work while they enforce the law.

HARRIET BAKER
Quincy

Harriet Baker

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QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS 02169

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NOTE:

Clipped wings grow back.

However, pinioned wings are crippled (disabled, unusable) permanently, as are paws that have been declawed or tendonectomized.

5243

Communication #5

A communication was received from
Harriet Baker, regarding working out
a plan to re-home white geese of
Cambridge to Boston
Common/Fenway.

In City Council August 4, 2003

PLACED ON FILE