

URINOGENITAL SYSTEM OF BIRDS

Like other vertebrates the excretory and the reproductive system are intimately associated with each other and hence called urogenital system.

Urinary system :

It includes a pair of metanephric kidneys. Each kidney is flat and divided into three lobes. The uriniferous tubules has a long loop of henle. This is an adaptation for reabsorption of water from the glomerular filtrate.

Ureters arise from the anterior lobe of kidneys. These open directly into the urodaeum of cloaca because urinary bladder is absent.

Birds are uricotelic animal as the nitrogen is excreted in the form of uric acid. The cloacal wall reabsorbs water from excretory wastes. Thus urine is excreted in semisolid state along with faeces. Such product are called guano.

Reproductive System:

Male reproductive system :

Male reproductive system consists of (i) Testes

(ii) Vas deferentia (iii) Seminal Vesicles.

i) Testes: One pair of white oval shaped testes remain attached to the kidney by a fold of peritoneum called mesorchium. Right testis is smaller than the left testis. Testis consists of seminiferous tubules. It has been suggested that the abdominal air sac may help in keeping the testes cool.

ii) From the inner border of each testis arise a convoluted vas deferentia. It is the Wolffian or mesonephric duct. Each vas deferentia open into the urodaeum. At its hind end, it is swollen to form a seminal vesicle (Vesicula seminalis).

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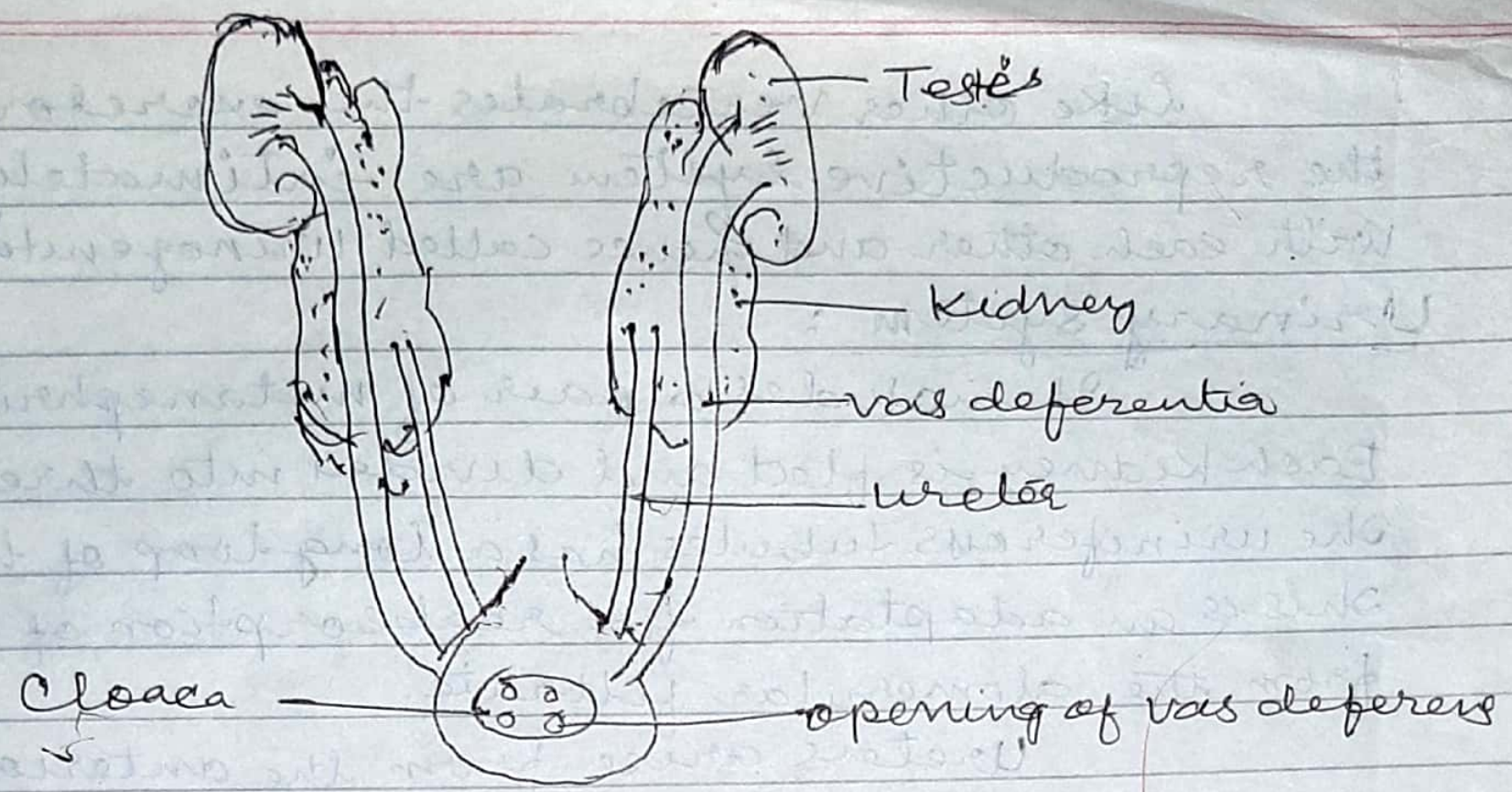


Fig - Male urinogenital system of Columba.