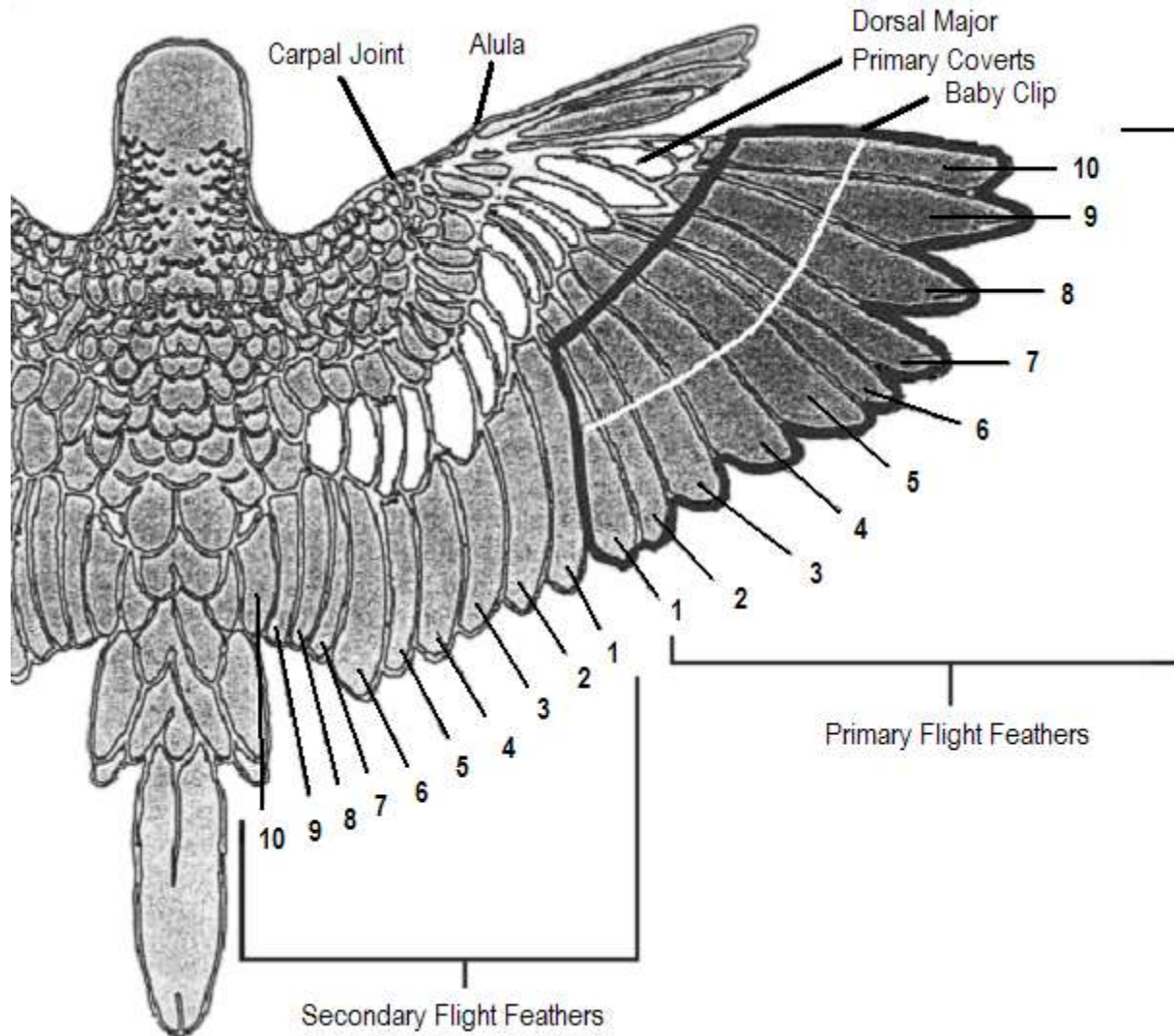




THE BIRD CLINIC VETERINARY CORPORATION

RECOMMENDED SAFE METHOD FOR WING CLIPPING



At The BIRD Clinic we see horrendous wing clippings every week that could have been avoided with only a lesson in bird anatomy. **ONLY** clip the FIRST five to ten (dependent on species) Primary Flight Feathers on BOTH wings to a level $\frac{1}{4}$ " longer than the end of the Dorsal Major Primary Coverts. This method protects the newly erupting primary blood feathers. **NEVER, EVER** cut or clip any Major Primary Coverts or Secondary Flight Feathers. The secondary flight feathers are the gliding feathers, so cutting these severely hinders the bird's ability to glide to break its fall and predisposes the bird to blood feather injuries or bone fractures. In addition, secondary flight feathers have a longer growth cycle, so a bad clipping might take up to TWO YEARS to recover. African species and young, heavy-bodied species (i.e., Macaws) should have a "baby clip" (clip primary flights at only 40-60% of exposed length) to further protect them from falls and injury.

*This publication is part of The BIRD C News™ series to help educate bird owners. Produced by The BIRD Clinic Veterinary Corporation
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Revised Jan 2021*