

Introduction :- In Birds

- In birds the integument is thin, dry and loose-fitting.
- It is devoid of glands, the only glands are paired uropygial glands opening on a papilla above the tail.
- The skin is covered with feathers (epidermal derivatives).
- The epidermis has a basal Malpighian layer and an outer stratum corneum.

- It is delicate, except on Shanks and feet where it is ~~thick~~ thick and forms epidermal Scales.
- The epidermis has great ability to produce Keratin which is used largely in the formation of feathers and Scales.
- The dermis is Compact and is largely made of Connective tissue, muscle fibres, nerve fibres, blood Capillaries and fat cell.
- Dermal elements like the Scales of fishes or bony Plates of certain reptiles are lacking in birds.
- Further more, the epidermis and dermis have no Pigment cells.
- Pigment occurs in feathers and Scales only.

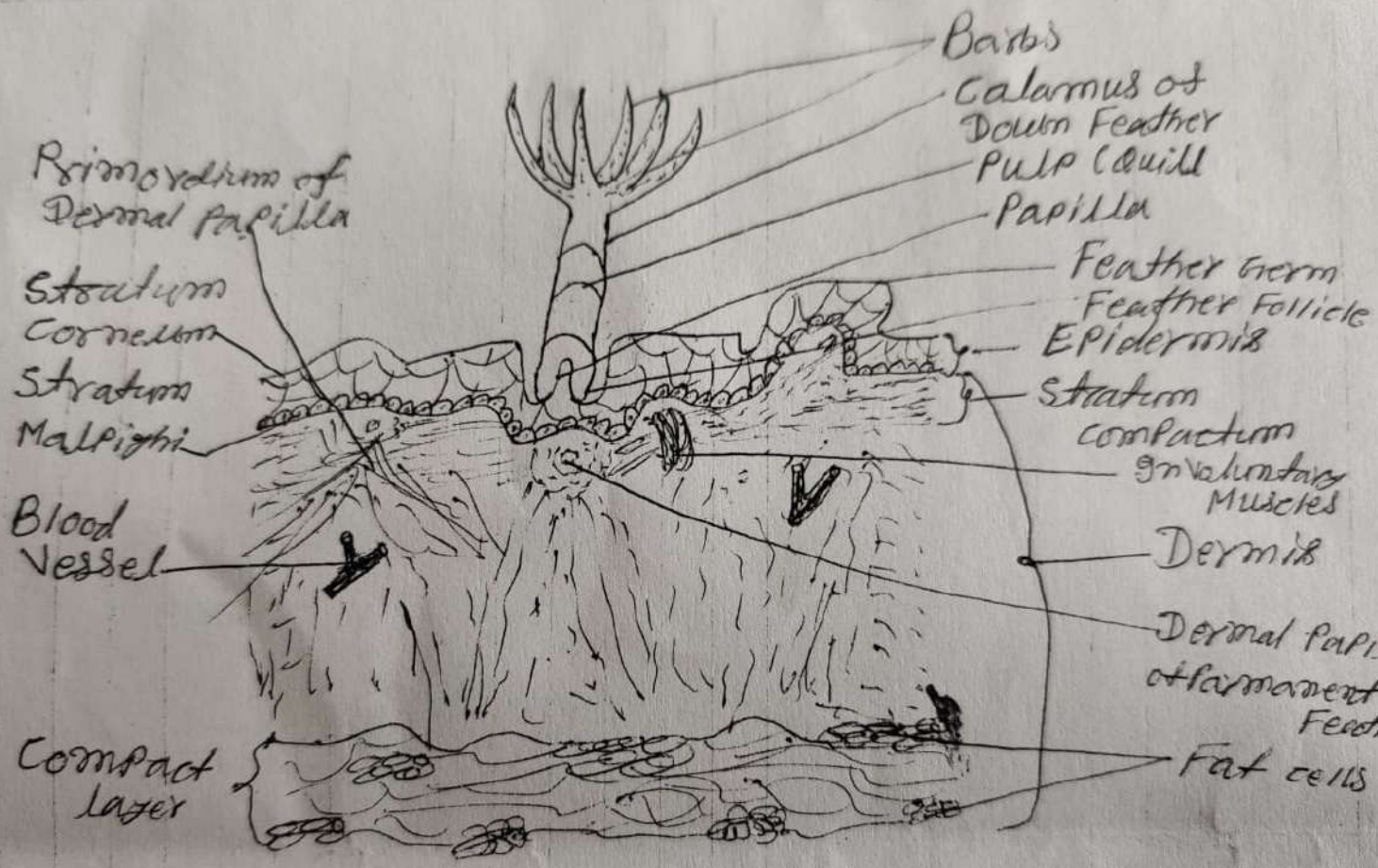


FIG-1.7

V. S. SKIN of Bird.