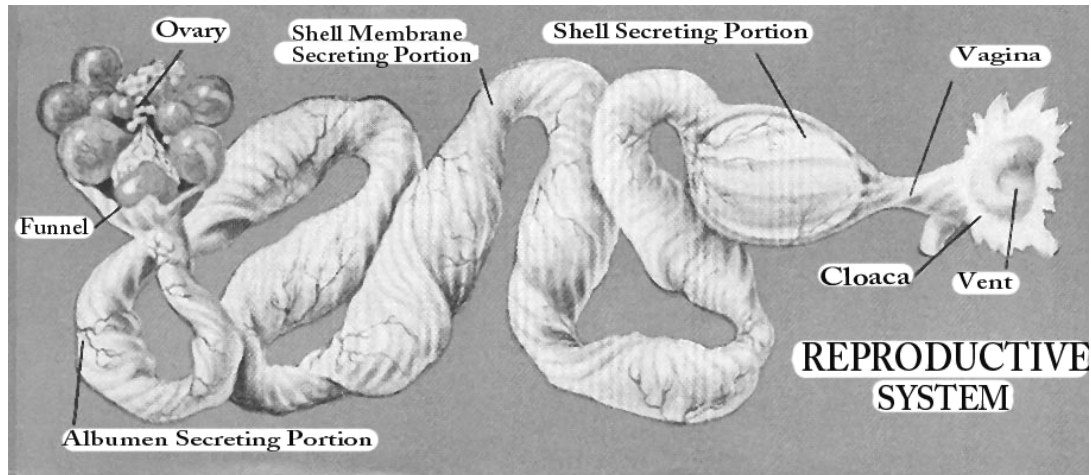


CHICKEN & TURKEY

REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM



FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM

The reproductive system of the female bird consists of the ovary and oviduct, plus other minor organs. This system is the source of eggs.

The ovary, located beneath the left kidney, is the producer of egg yolks (see diagram on Anatomy & Physiology study sheet). When a laying bird is posted, a large number of developing yolks or ova may be observed. The ova grow from the exposed surface of the ovary, starting as tiny invisible granules and developing into full size yolks.

The oviduct is a tube like structure leading to the cloaca. It receives the yolk from the ovary, and completes the structure of the egg, adding albumen, shell membranes, and shell. The ova are also fertilized by the male sperm cells in this organ.

The complete egg emerges from the oviduct, passes into the cloaca, then out through the vent area.