

## **THE MUSCULAR SYSTEM IN BIRDS**

Most birds have approximately 175 different muscles, mainly controlling the wings, skin, and legs. The largest muscles are the pectorals, or breast muscles, which control the wings and make up about 15 - 25% of a flighted bird's body weight. They provide the powerful wing stroke essential for flight. The muscle medial (underneath) to the pectorals is the supracoracoideus, this raises the wing between wing beats. The supracoracoideus and the pectorals together make up about 25 - 35% of a bird's full body weight.

The skin muscles help a bird in its flight by adjusting the feathers, which are attached to the skin muscle. These adjustments help the bird to manoeuvre in flight.

There are only a few muscles in the trunk and the tail, but they are very strong and are essential for the bird. The pygostyle controls the movement of the feathers in the tail. This gives the tail a larger surface area which helps keep the bird in the air.

Source: Wikipedia