

## EEB 4260: ORNITHOLOGY SAMPLE TEST **KEY**

### **Multiple choice questions. Correct answers are boldfaced.**

1. Which of the following statements about the Palaeognathae are true?

- A. Members of this group all display female uniparental care.
- B. Members of this group are characterized by a particular arrangement of bones in the tongue.
- C. Most members of this group are socially monogamous.
- D. All members of this group are flightless.
- E. This group includes all of the ratites.**
- F. This group includes only the ratites.

2. Which of the following features are present in modern birds but NOT Archeopteryx?

- A. sclerotic ring
- B. beak without teeth**
- C. keel-less sternum
- D. pygostyle**
- E. fused hand elements**
- F. bipedality

**Short Answer (3 points each):**

Define the following terms:

i) bird – a **feathered endothermic amniote; the last living lineage of dinosaurs**

ii) pygostyle **a structure made up of the few remaining tail vertebrae in birds, partially fused together; it serves as the point of attachment for the tail feathers and the muscles that control them.**

Briefly summarize (no more than two sentences) how we know that birds are dinosaurs. **We know that birds are dinosaurs because the fossil evidence shows that Theropod dinosaurs share many structural characteristics with birds that are not found in other groups of animals, including: fused clavicles and sternum, fenestra and other features of the skull, lower jaws made up of three bones fused together, elongation of the forelimbs through elongation of digits, digitigrade feet, elongate s-shaped necks, fusion of the pelvis with the vertebrae, pneumatic bones, and most importantly, feathers.**

**Answers to the TABLE will depend upon which taxa you enter.**