

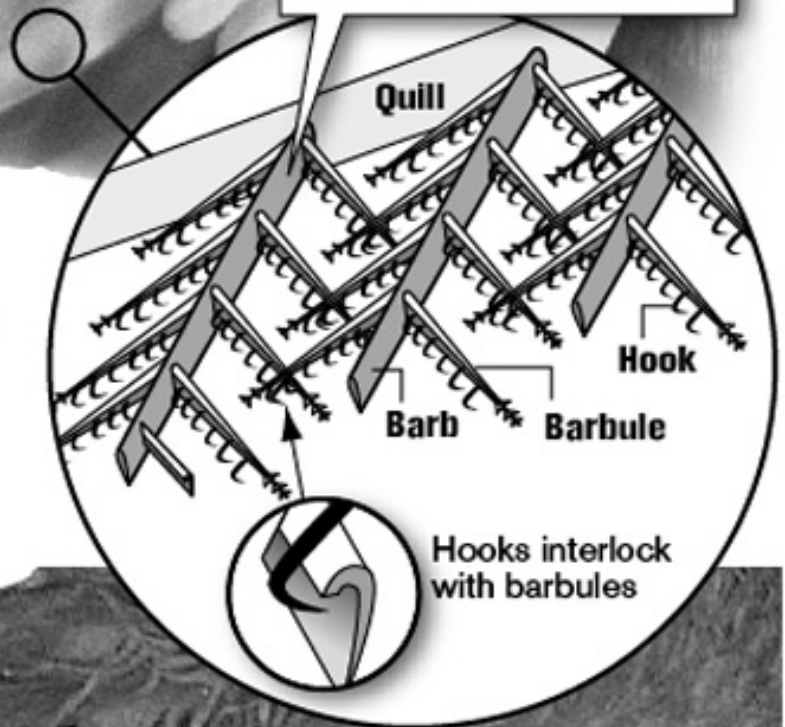
Dirty wings kill birds

Feathers overlap each other like shingles on a roof to create a waterproof covering for the bird

Millions of tiny barbs on individual feathers gently interlock with each other to form a flexible seal.

Healthy duck wing

Birds spend a considerable amount of time every day preening and aligning their feathers to ensure a waterproof and airtight seal around their body to stay insulated from the cold. If the feathers are not perfectly aligned, the bird will die from exposure.



Oil-soaked wing

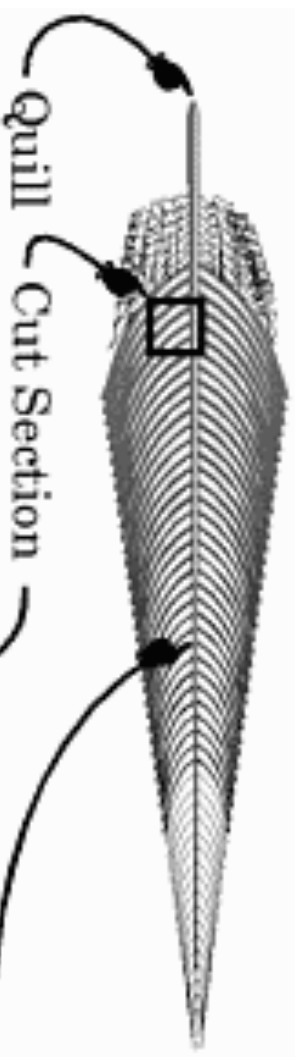
Oil mats feathers and separates the tiny barbs, impairing the waterproofing and exposing the bird to temperature extremes



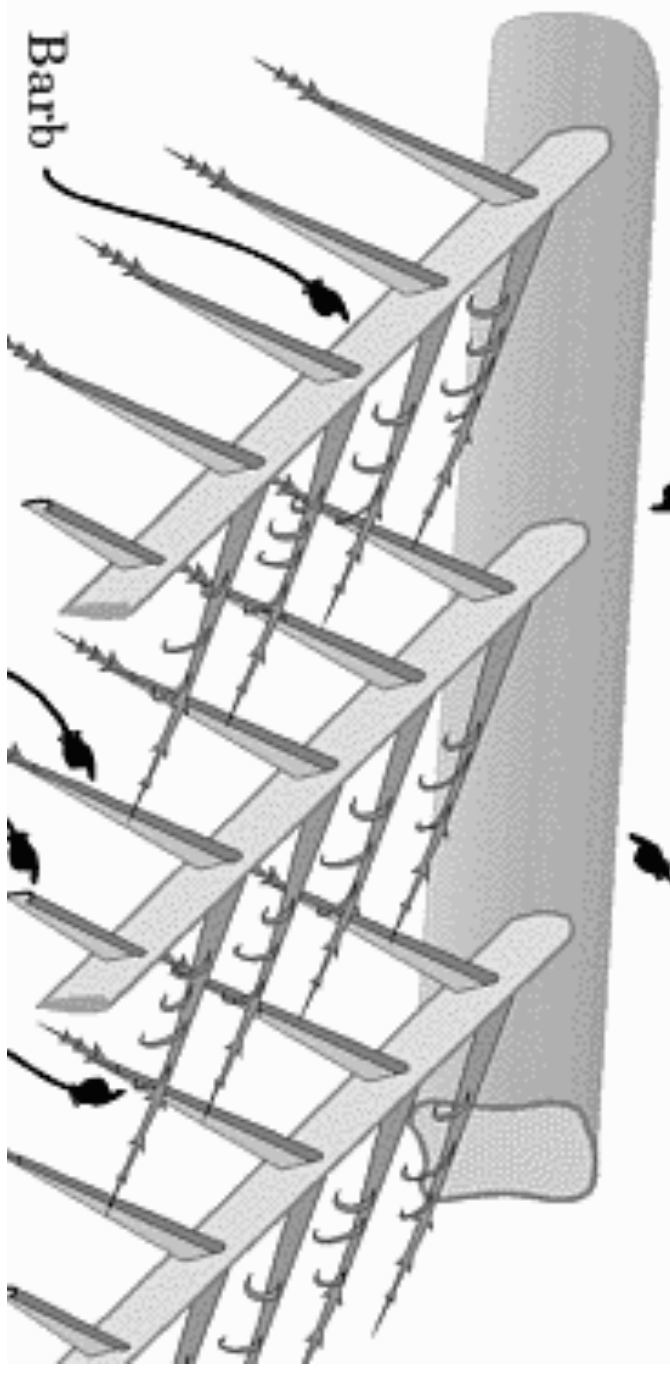
Source: *International Bird Rescue*

JOHN BLANCHARD / *The San Francisco Chronicle*

Anatomy Of A Typical Feather



Rachis/Sh
(Top or Front S



Barb