

Avian Carcass Packaging Instructions

General Tips for Avian Carcass Collection & Storage

- Collect only the freshest carcasses for submission (3 carcasses of the same species are preferred during a mortality event). Carcasses more than 24-48 hours old yield little to no information at necropsy. Avoid carcasses with obvious insect or maggot infestation, a noticeably foul odor, or that have been scavenged.
- **Record species, location, and date for each carcass.** Tag each carcass with this information if possible, or include on card inside plastic bag with carcass. Carcasses submitted without date and location found, will not be necropsied.
- Store specimens in refrigerator until shipped. Try to ship specimens as soon as possible after collection to avoid having to freeze the carcasses as this will limit diagnostic value.
- If specimens do need to be stored for 3 or more days (e.g. over the weekend or holiday) freeze the specimens as soon as possible after collecting to minimize decomposition. However, if fresher specimens become available just before shipment, ship the newly collected specimens, rather than the frozen carcasses.

General Tips for Avian Carcass Packaging & Shipment

- Place each carcass in separate plastic bag and seal the bag (Figure 1). Remember to label with species, date, and location.
- Place the bagged carcass(es) in a second plastic bag and seal the bag (Figure 2).
- Place the bagged carcass(es) inside Styrofoam cooler, inside cardboard shipping box (Figure 3).
- Place frozen gel pack inside cooler, placing a layer of newspaper between the carcass and the gel pack.



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- Pack remaining empty space inside cooler with absorbent material such as newspaper.
- Place **datasheet and/or intake sheet** inside separate plastic bag with species, date, and location found, at a minimum.
- Seal the box with packaging tape.
- Attach **Fed Ex shipping label** to outside top of cardboard shipping box (Figure 4). Remove any old shipping labels first, if necessary.
- Packages should ship **Fed Ex priority overnight** or **standard overnight** only.
- Attach Refrigerate Upon Arrival label or handwrite on outside side of cardboard shipping box.
- Notify Krysta Rogers at 916-358-1662 or krysta.rogers@wildlife.ca.gov of shipment.
- Ship specimens Monday through Wednesday to ensure the package will arrive at lab before the weekend.

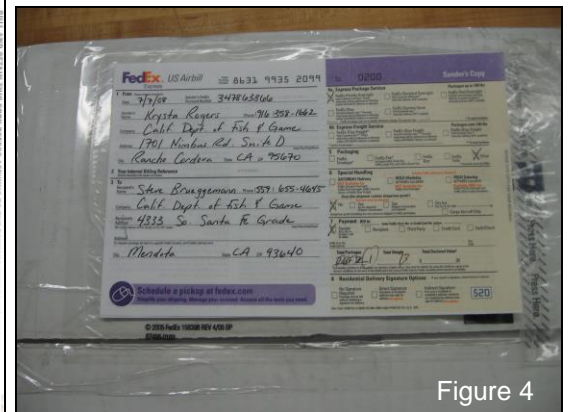


Figure 4

Questions, please contact:
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