



U.S. Geological Survey
National Wildlife Health Center – Honolulu Field Station

Call (808) 792-9521 to arrange all carcass submittals prior to shipment !
Do not email to arrange shipment

Avian Botulism Carcass Collection & Shipment

Collection and carcass preparation supplies

- GPS unit (set to WGS 84 map datum with Lat/Long decimal degrees)
- Sealable plastic bags
- Permanent markers
- Nitrile gloves for personal safety
- Newspaper

Shipping supplies

- Plastic cooler
- Blue ice packs (NO WET ICE!)

Carcass collection instructions

1. If a die-off is occurring collect several (up to 5) of the best condition carcasses.
2. Submit only freshly dead carcasses for necropsy. Carcasses that are decomposed or scavenged are unacceptable. If carcass has an odor, is soft and mushy, has skin discoloration, feathers or skin that easily rubs off, or if maggots are present, then it is too decomposed for most lab tests.
3. Treat the carcass with care so as to prevent feather damage. Carcasses in good condition will be held by USGS for future transfer to qualified museum or educational facility.
4. Take GPS reading and write it down on the submittal form. If GPS is not available, draw map and provide a description of where the bird was found.
5. If carcass is not to be shipped immediately store in refrigerator.
DO NOT FREEZE unless carcass needs to be held longer than 72 hours.

Carcass shipment preparation

1. Wrap carcass in newspaper so as not to damage feathers, folding head and feet against belly. Place wrapped carcass in plastic bag and seal.
2. Place data collection sheet in separate plastic bag and seal.
3. Place sealed carcass and sealed data collection sheet into the second bag and seal.
4. Place double bagged carcass in refrigerator until ready for shipment. DO NOT FREEZE !

Carcass shipment

1. Place enough blue ice packs in cooler to keep carcass chilled for two days.
2. Place carcass in cooler with blue ice packs and fill any space with crumbled paper.

IT IS IMPERATIVE TO NOTIFY USGS BY EMAIL OR PHONE
PRIOR TO SHIPPING SO THAT THE SPECIMEN IS EXPECTED !

Ship to:

Bob Rameyer (bob_rameyer@usgs.gov) or Renee Breeden (rbreeden@usgs.gov)
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96850