

COLLECTION OF SEABIRD CARCASSES FOR CDFG NECROPSY OR CAL ACADEMY

Collect ALL Marbled Murrelets for the GFNMS and CDFG

Marbled Murrelets shall be collected regardless of condition. Notify Sanctuary emergency phone ASAP when you have collected a MAMU. Emergency Phone Line, (415) 987-0412.

NOTE: Only fresh MAMU carcasses shall be shipped to the CDFG lab. Scavenged, decomposing or mummified MAMU carcasses should be brought to the GFNMS office ASAP.

COLLECTION OF FRESH DEAD FOR CDFG NECROPSY

You will be collecting all **FRESHLY dead SEABIRD carcasses**, packaging, and shipping the carcasses to wildlife health investigators for California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Birds must be chilled (not frozen) and arrive at the laboratory within two days of death. Therefore, birds found on Fridays shall not be collected unless specifically directed to do so during mortality events.

Wildlife veterinarians will perform a necropsy (an autopsy for animals) on the bird. It is only through these types of post-mortem examinations that wildlife veterinarians can determine the true cause of death. By monitoring mortality patterns, we can develop better information on what affects (natural and human) our seabird populations.

What is a Freshly Dead Bird

All birds collected for necropsy must be fresh, or the expense of shipping and examination will be wasted.

- Birds should not be scavenged. A small amount is okay, if the bird's organs are all still intact.
- Birds should have both eyes intact, and the eyes should be round, full and clear. No cloudiness to the eyes or sunken eyes.
- Smell the bird, if it smells like it is rotting, then it is not fresh.

Good Rule of Thumb: If a carcass is fresh and not scavenged, then collect it and ship it to the CDFG lab in Santa Cruz. The same day you collect a specimen, call the Sanctuary Emergency Phone, (415) 987-0412 for notification. Also record the collection on the Dead Vertebrate section of your datasheet.

**Collecting, Preserving and Shipping the Bird to CDFG (FRESH SPECIMEN ONLY;
do not ship to GFNMS or CAS)**

- Collect the bird by wrapping the bird in aluminum foil (preferred) or unused brown paper bag.
- Double wrap the specimen in plastic bags. Place the foil-wrapped bird in a zip-lock bag, or for larger birds, in a kitchen-size garbage bag and place this in another plastic bag to stop any leakage.
- On a piece of waterproof paper write in pencil: your name, date collected, beach name and segment number, and species. Place the collection information inside the outer plastic bag.
- THE BIRD SHOULD NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH ANY PLASTIC OR WATER PROOF PAPER.
- Package the bird as soon as you complete your survey so the bird will stay fresh for two days. The bird should be placed in a Styrofoam cooler with blue-ice packets on top and underneath it. Triple tape the edges of the lid of the cooler so that no moisture can escape the cooler.
 - Contact the Seabird Health Study department at CDFG, (831) 469-1745 or the main lab at (831) 469-1719. If you have to leave a message, be sure to leave your name, phone number, species you are shipping, and date of shipment.
- BIRDS CANNOT BE RECEIVED ON WEEKENDS OR HOLIDAYS, so do not collect birds on Fridays or on Saturdays prior to Monday holidays, unless specifically directed to do so during mortality events. If you collect on a Saturday, you can have the bird shipped by 4 PM that day. If you collect the bird on a Sunday, you must wait until Monday to ship the bird. If you survey on a Friday, do not collect any birds for shipment and necropsy.
 - **Call the Sanctuary Emergency Phone Line, (415) 987-0412** to let Jan know that you have shipped a specimen, the collection information and the species of bird collected.
 - Some birds will be returned to resource managers after the necropsy. Others may be Shipped to other labs for further investigation or to a museum.
 - THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION:
All Marbled Murrelets shall be collected regardless of condition.
 - NOTE: Only fresh MAMU carcasses shall be shipped to the CDFG lab. Scavenged, decomposing or mummified MAMU carcasses should be brought to the GFNMS office ASAP.

NOTE: you are working under Jan Roletto's collection permit, so you must notify Jan on the Sanctuary emergency phone line the same day you collect a bird carcass. Carry your shipping supplies in the car so you can package and cool the specimen before driving home.

DO NOT bring the carcass to the office, this will only delay the necropsy and may prevent a necropsy from being performed.

DO NOT place the carcass in your freezer or refrigerator. This is unhealthy and will ruin the carcass tissues thus preventing an examination.

Collection Day

Shipping Day

Mon. - Thurs.

ship same day

Fri.

do not collect - do not ship

Sat.

ship same day, will arrive on Mon., don't ship if Mon. is a holiday

Sun.

ship on Mon., don't collect and don't ship if Monday is a holiday

Please see separate document for current UPS shipping and account instructions.

COLLECTION OF UNUSUAL BIRD AND RARE SPECIMENS FOR CAL ACADEMY

(Regardless of condition)

The California Academy of Sciences (CAS) requested to be informed about rare and unusual specimens not in their collection. If you find any of the bird or mammal species listed below, contact the CAS and give them precise instructions for locating the carcass at (415) 321-8006 or collect the specimen. CAS will contact you to make arrangements to pick up the specimen. Make sure to properly wrap the specimen in foil and keep cold in an ice chest with frozen blue ice or refrigerator.

CATEGORY I: Contact Cal Academy when you find the following birds and the carcass is fresh, decomposing or mummified. The majority of the skeleton must be intact.

- **Loons:** Arctic, Red-throated, Yellow-billed
- **Albatrosses:** All species
- **Shearwaters:** Short-tailed, Flesh-footed, Pink-footed, Streaked, Buller's, Black-vented
- **Frigatebirds:** All species
- **Tropicbirds:** All species
- **Boobies:** All species
- **Skua:** South Polar
- **Auklets:** Parakeet, Crested, Whiskered, Least
- **Puffins:** Tufted, Horned

CATEGORY II: Contact Cal Academy when you find carcasses of the following birds when the specimen is fresh with MINOR scavenging.

- **Grebes:** Red-necked, Horned
- **Shearwaters:** Sooty

- Fulmar: Northern
- Storm-petrels: Leach's, Black, Ashy, Fork-tailed, Wedge-rumped, Least
- Jaegers: All species
- Gulls: Franklin's, Mew, Sabine's, Glaucous
- Kittiwake: Black-legged
- Terns: Common, Arctic, Aleutian, Least, Black, Royal, Elegant, Caspian
- Skimmer: Black
- Murrelets: Kittlitz's, Xantus's, Craveri's, Ancient
- Auklets: Cassin's, Rhinoceros
- Puffins: Tufted

Report these Mammals to Cal Academy

Mink	Mountain Beaver	Bobcat	Gray Fox	All Bats
Ringtail Cat	Weasel	Coyote	Badger	Mountain Lion