

1 SAMPLE LABELING

1. Before start, label the paper envelope for sample storage (mark bird species, identification number of the bird, ring tag).
2. Write the same label on the order form (available upon request).

2a FEATHER SAMPLE COLLECTION

1.a Pluck 3-5 breast feathers, making sure that the feather contains the calamus (Figure A).

Avoid touching the calamus with your fingers to avoid contamination.

If there is a little blood left on the feather tip, allow it to air dry before storing in an envelope.

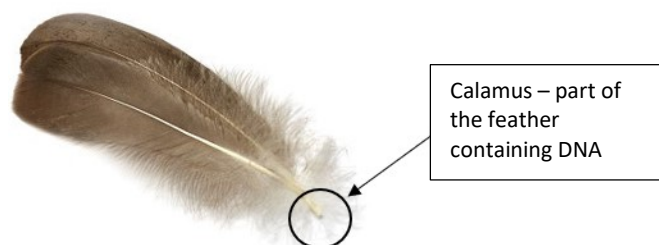
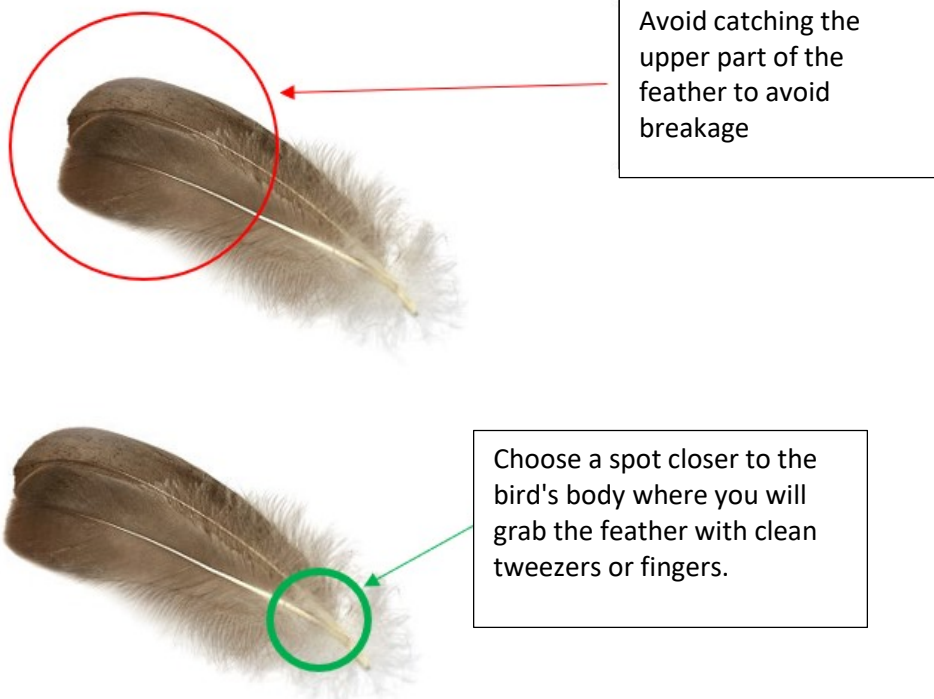


Figure A



2.a Store the feathers in a previously prepared and labelled paper envelope.

Collect one feather at a time.

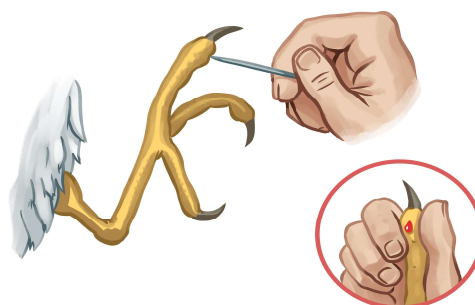
If collecting feathers from multiple birds, wash your hands thoroughly between collecting samples from different birds to avoid contamination.

2b BLOOD SAMPLE COLLECTION

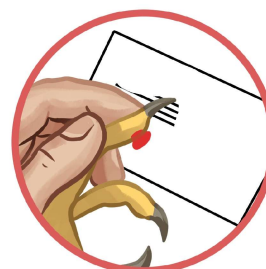
1.b Mark the blood sample collection card
(a clean paper tissue or paper towel can also be used; in that case mark the paper envelope in which you will store the sample).



2.b Take a clean, thin needle and poke it gently into the bird's leg.



3.b Collect the blood drops on a collection card within the marked circle or on a clean tissue paper.



4.b Let it dry at room temperature at least one hour before storing it in a paper envelope.

If collecting a blood sample from multiple birds, wash your hands thoroughly between collecting samples from different birds and disinfect the needle to avoid contamination.

3 SENDING SAMPLES FOR THE ANALYSIS

1. Collected samples can be sent by mail or delivered to the laboratory.
2. Samples must be accompanied by a completed and signed order form and proof of payment.

NOTES AND PRECAUTIONS:

- Store each sample in a separate envelope.
- Do not send large flight or tail feathers, cut feathers, feathers without calamus, or feathers that have fallen out on their own (e.g. feathers lost during moulting).
- Before returning the bird to its cage, make sure the bird is feeling well.
- Store the sample at room temperature and do not leave it in direct heat or sunlight!