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Bird Measurements - ISL Peru

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ABSTRACT

This protocol describes how to collect the relevant measurements during bird processing.

IMAGE ATTRIBUTION

Jorge Luis Mendoza-Silva

GUIDELINES

For an accurate description of measurements taken with birds, please refer to North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide https://nabanding.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Banders-Study-Guide-2001.pdf

MATERIALS

- Calliper
- Bird processing sheet
- Pen
- Ruler

PROTOCOL integer ID:
72998

Keywords: bird handling, morphology, measurement, insitulabs

Lengths

1 If requested: measure the **total length** of the bird using a tape measure or callipers. Align the bird's neck and measure from the tip of the beak to the tip of the tail. Avoid stretching the bird's neck when you are doing this.

2 The **wing measurements** are taken from the fold of the closed wing to the tip of the longest feather, first with a naturally positioned wing (**wing chord**)then with a **flattened wing**.

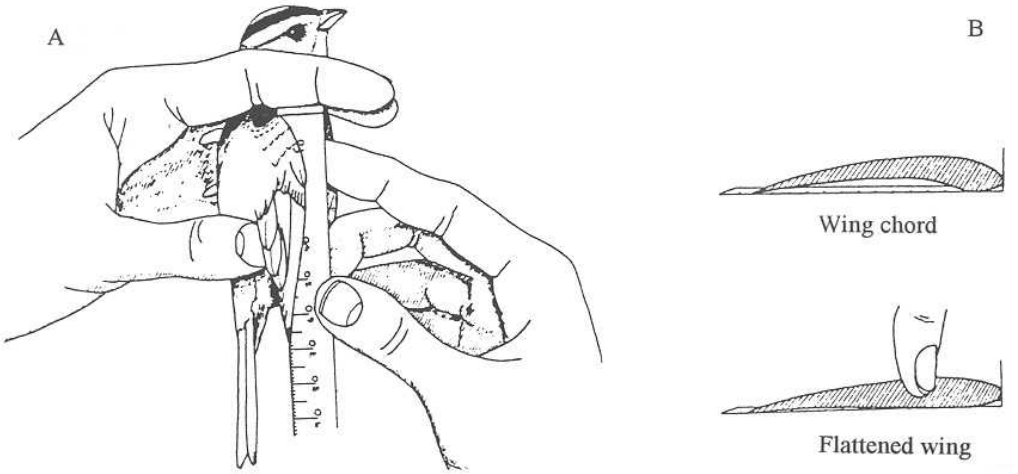


Image describing how to measure the wing measurements, from the North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide.

3 To measure the **length of the tail**, find the point of the rump and measure to the tip of the longest tail feather.

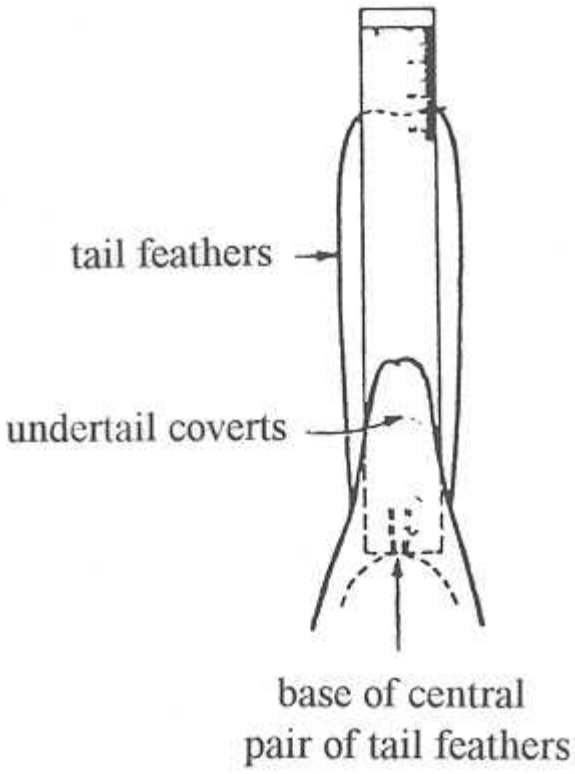


Image describing how to measure the tail lenght, from the North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide.

Bill measurements

4 **Bill measurements**:

4.1 The **exposed culmen** measures the distance between the tip of the bill and the edge of the feathering at the base of the upper bill.

Picture illustrating how to measure the exposed culmen, courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.

4.2 **Culmen:** from the opening of the nostrils to the tip o the bill

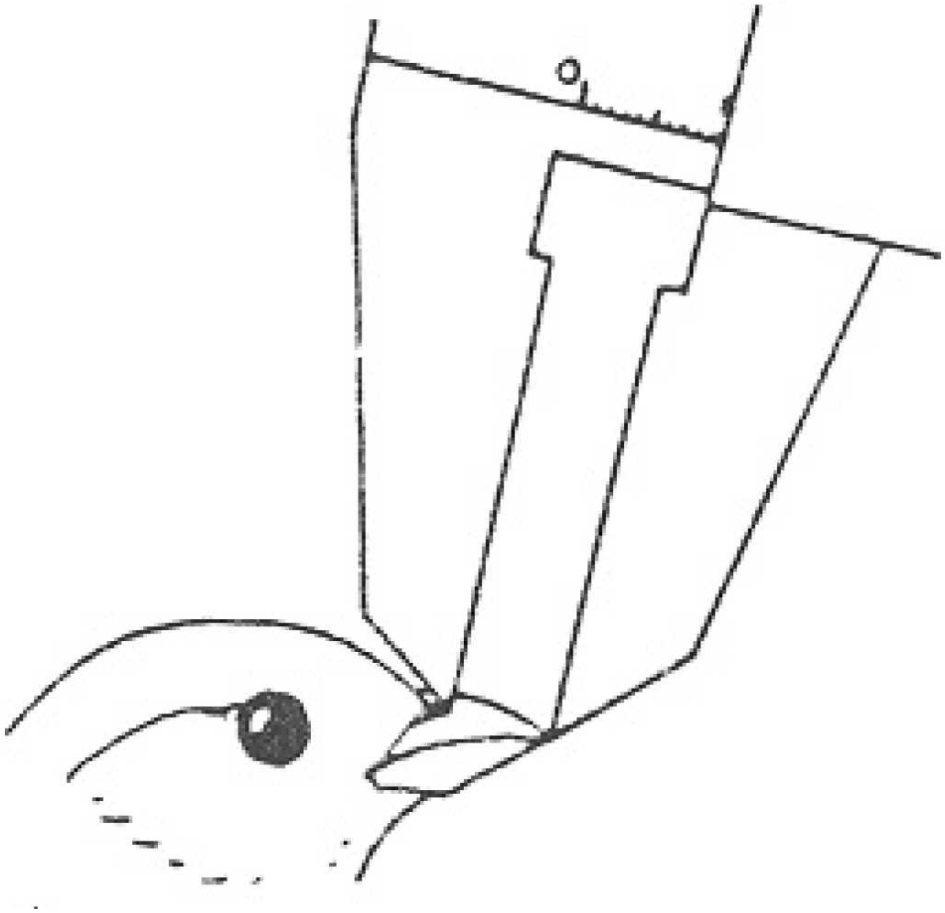


Image describing how to measure the bill culmen from the North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide.

The image shows how to measure the culmen of the bird. Courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.

4.3 **Bill width**: measured with the calliper from side to side at the anterior end of the nostrils:

Picture illustrating how to measure the bill width, courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.

4.4 **Bill depth**: distance between the dorsal and ventral aspect of the beak, measured at the anterior end of the nostrils.

Picture illustrating how to measure the bill depth, courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.

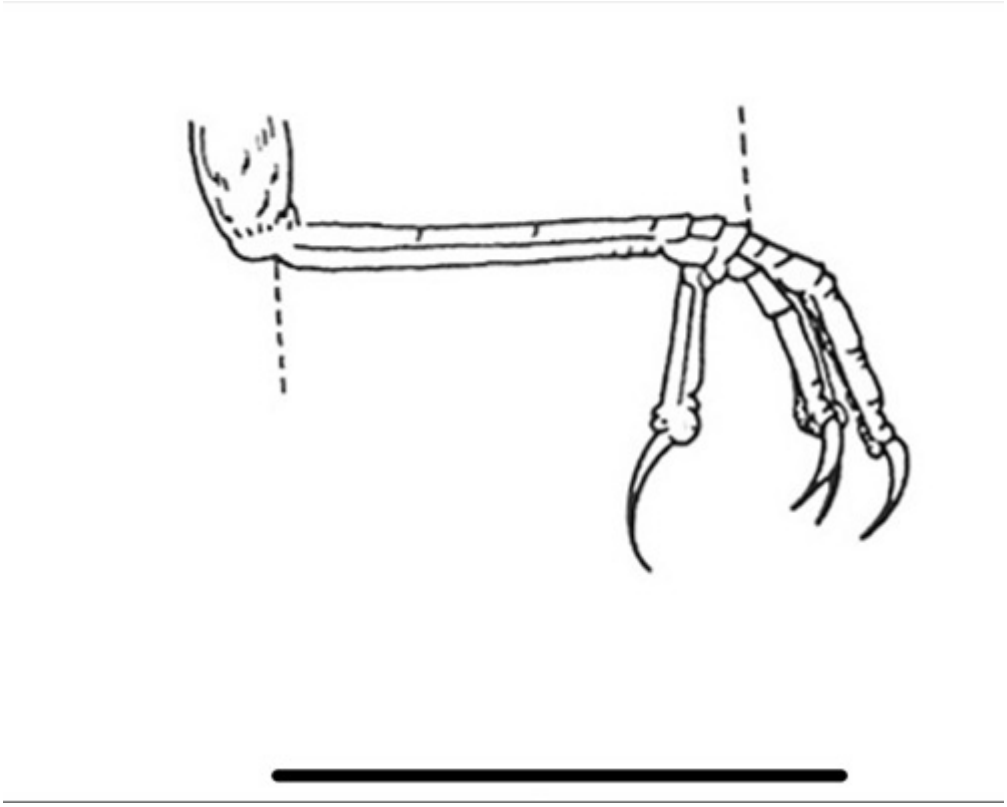
5 **head length** is measured with a calliper from the tip of the beak till the back of the skull:

Picture illustrating how to measure the head length, courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.

6 **Tarsus length** is measured with a caliper and it represents the distance between the depression in the intertarsal joint anteriorly, to the distal end of the last leg scale before the toes diverge distally.

CITATION

NORTH AMERICAN BANDING COUNCIL (2001). North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide.
LINK
https://nabanding.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Banders-Study-Guide-2001.pdf



Immage describing how to measure the tarsus from the North American Banding Council Banders' Study Guide.

The image shows how to measure the bird's tarsus, courtesy of Jorge Luis Mendoza Silva.