

# Standard Operating Procedures

## #AU 0001 Blood Collection from Small Birds

### **Materials:**

Q tip swabs or cotton balls  
Rubbing alcohol  
27 G needle for adults  
25 G needle for nestlings  
Heparinized capillary tube  
Gloves

A Federal Canadian Wildlife Service Scientific Collection Permit is required for collection of blood samples from wild birds.

### **Procedure (adults):**

The researcher will wear gloves during blood sampling. The bird will be held in the non-dominant hand, with the bird facing up, the head of the bird secured between the first and second fingers, and the body secured with the thumb and last 2 fingers. The wing is secured in an outstretched position, below the 'elbow' joint using the second and third fingers.

The site will be cleaned with a swab dipped in 70% rubbing alcohol. Blood will be collected from the ulnar vein, prior to where it branches, at the point where it crosses the joint.

The ulnar vein will be punctured using a 27G needle, and 50-100 µl of blood will be collected from the surface using a heparinised capillary tube (free flowing blood collected, no syringe used).

The site will be cleaned using alcohol and then a Qtip/cotton ball placed on the wound. The bird is secured with the wing closed on the Qtip/cotton ball to keep it in place with pressure on it for 1-5 minutes (time to clotting varies between individuals).

The site will be inspected and the bird released when the blood stops.

### **Procedure (nestlings):**

The nestling will be held in the non-dominant hand with the right leg held between the thumb and index finger and middle finger (at the foot).

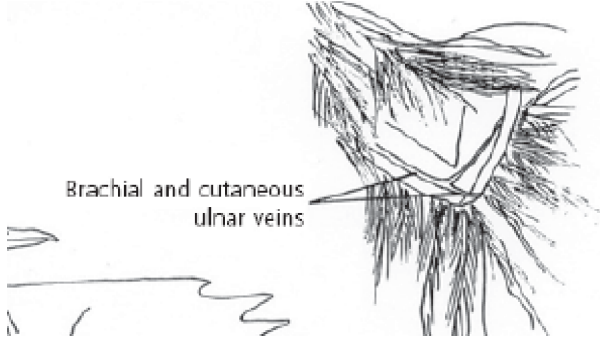
The site will be cleaned with a swab dipped in 70% rubbing alcohol. The metatarsal vein will be punctured using a 25G needle and 50µl of blood will be collected from the surface using a heparinised capillary tube. Blood will be collected from the mid-point of the tarsal vein. The site will be cleaned using alcohol and then a Qtip/cotton ball placed on the wound and kept in place with pressure on it for 1-3 minutes (time to clotting varies between individuals).

Speices: This SOP applies to all small birds under 50g.

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Modified April 2011  
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AU ACC

Bleeding Grip – Adults



Nestling blood sample

