

Algoma University Animal Care Committee	
#AU 0003 Processing of Captured Birds	
Issue date: August 2010	Last revised: March/2025

1. Purpose

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) describes acceptable procedures for processing captured birds.

2. Policy

CCAC guidelines and regulations

3. Responsibility

Principal investigator, their research staff, and their student investigators

4. Training Required

Animal Research Ethics

Handling/training in the relevant species

Bio-methodology training in the relevant technique and species

5. Materials Required

Calipers

Wing rule

Pesola Scale

Black sock

6. Procedures

1. Once a bird is captured, it may be processed (gathering of information relating to that bird).
2. The bird is held in a similar way to the method for blood collection (see SOP #AU 0001 or figure 1) and a wing rule is used to measure the length of the longest wing and tail feathers.
3. Digital calipers are used to measure tarsus length and bill length, depth and width. Information is documented in a general Log Book.
4. The bird is then placed into a black sock where excessive movement by the bird is difficult. The sock is hung from the Pesola spring scale for documenting weight in the Log Book.
5. The dominant hand of the individual reaches in to gently grasp the bird while the sock is turned inside out to release the bird.
6. The bird may then also be banded (see SOP #AU 0004).

7. The bird may then be placed in one compartment of a cardboard box, in which it remains for no longer than 1 hour, or placed in a cage.



Figure 1: Bleeding grip for adult birds. Birds should be held in a similar manner to measure wing length.

7. References (if applicable)

REVISION HISTORY		
Revision #	Revision Date	Summary of Changes
1	April 2011	
2	October 2018	
3	September 2022	
4	July 2024	Reformatted to new SOP template