

Guidelines for Bird Tissue Samples

RNA L8R

Time-sensitive (record approximate time from death to RNA L8R buffer):

Put ~ 0.5mL of buffer in cryotubes

Take the following tissues in separate tubes, noting time from death to tube

All individuals per species per site:

Tube 1) liver + spleen (label L + Sp)

Tube 2) heart + muscle + kidney (label HMK)

Up to 3 individuals per species per site:

Tube 3) eye, brain, reproductive tissue (label eye, brain, testis/ovary)

Tube 4) lung + stomach wall + intestine with food removed (label lung + guts)

Tube 5) blood. (label blood)

General guidelines:

- cut open breast quickly and take muscle sample
- for other tissues, cut down from breast and remove guts quickly
- be careful not to put too much tissue per tube
- if LN2 is available, drop tube into LN2 after ~ 4 hours; otherwise, tubes will be fine at room temperature until they can be frozen

Blood Slides

Take out heart and rub thinly across slide w/o squeezing the heart

Label slide with collector # and species, in pencil

Let slides dry for ~ 5 minutes before putting them in the slide box

DMSO Salt Buffer or 95% Ethanol:

Put ~ 0.5mL of buffer or ethanol in non-cryotubes

Mince small piece of muscle and put it into the tube

Liquid N₂

Put heart, liver, muscle, kidney, gonads stacked in tubes

For malaria work, put tissues in this order: heart, kidney, muscle, liver