

# TROPHY CARE TIP

## *Care on Birds in the Field*

A high grade quality bird mount can only be performed if the bird is kept in good condition after harvesting it. Be prepared when hunting to handle your bird properly for mounting. You must keep a few simple items in your pocket. The list contains: cotton balls, paper towels, and a nylon stocking. If they are kept in a zip lock bag they should become an automatic part of your bird hunting equipment. These items when used properly will help insure a good quality mount.

### *Ducks, Pheasants, and Grouse:*

Wipe off excessive blood from the feathers with your paper towel, blotting more than rubbing or wiping. Wrap another paper towel around the bird after it is cleaned off as a safe guard. Place a cotton ball into the mouth. This will stop any fluids from leaking out. Place your bird inside a nylon stocking head first. Now it can be placed in your hunting vest and transported without abusing the feathers. The main reason for the nylon stocking is to straighten and lay the feathers flat. This also prevents your feathers from bending and breaking during transportation. Remember prior to putting it in the freezer to place your bird inside of a plastic bag to prevent freezer burn.

I do not recommend keeping your upland game bird in a freezer for more than 6 months if you are planning to have a top quality mount. Take extra care with birds having white feathers. Taxidermists can remove a lot of stains but sometimes we cannot remove them all. Extra care in the field can make a good mount look great.

Waterfowl can be kept in a freezer for up to a year with good results because they have a higher fat content but it is not highly recommended. For best results with all birds you should get it to your taxidermist as soon as possible.

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