

# Animals Preserving Techniques

## A Shortened Summary

(More detailed instructions and suggestions can be found in the "ZOOLOGY ANIMAL COLLECTION AND TECHNIQUES" binder in 701)

### Animals collected live:

Most invertebrates except those listed below:

Kill and preserve in jars of 10% formalin solution or 70% alcohol (ethyl or isopropyl); make label with India ink and place **inside** jar

Most insects except butterflies, moths and dragonflies:

Kill in killing jar or freezer; pin properly; allow to dry; label should be no larger than 1"x1/2" and placed on pin below insect

Butterflies, moths and dragonflies:

Kill in killing jar or freezer; pin and arrange wings on spreading board or piece of styrofoam; allow to dry; label should be no larger than 1"x1/2" and placed on pin below insect

Vertebrates except for birds and mammals (e.g.: fish, frogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, turtles)

kill in freezer; fix and preserve in jar of 10% formalin solution; use syringe to inject formalin solution into the body cavity in several places; make label with India ink and place **inside** jar

Birds and Mammals:

Hunt following all applicable state and federal laws; prepare a "study skin" using the techniques outlined in the 'ZACT' manual mentioned above; a label no larger than 1"x3" is attached by string to rear leg

### Animals collected dead but in good condition:

Most invertebrates and lower vertebrates:

Preserve in jars of 10% formalin solution or 70% alcohol; label as above

Insects:

If they are freshly dead, use above procedures; if they are long dead and dried out you will need to place them in a "relaxing chamber" to soften them up so they can be pinned and arranged; label as above

Birds and Mammals:

"roadkills" in good condition can be skinned and study skins prepared as above

Skull or Skeletal mounts:

Flesh can be removed by several means such as boiling, staking near fireant hill or using dermested beetles; once bones are defleshed they can be placed in a bleach or hydrogen peroxide solution to whiten; allow to dry; place in bag or box with complete label tied to skull if possible

Nests, Feathers, Eggs, Racks, shells, feathers:

Clean up as much as possible and place in bag or box with complete label

Footprints and Burrows:

Use plaster of Paris to pour into print, allow to set then remove and clean off; place in bag or box with label

Photographs:

Should be original photographs; most 'good' photographs will need a telephoto lens for vertebrates or close-up lenses for small invertebrates and insects - the specimen should take up a substantial part of the frame and be easily recognizable