

# BIRD TAXIDERMISTRY

**M**y name is Carl Church and I am a specialist bird taxidermist. I have won several major awards for my taxidermy at world show level. Over the years I have mounted several birds from falconers and breeders and as this is an unusual article I hope I do not offend anybody. There is an alternative to burying or incinerating your fallen stock. I am interested to hear from bird keepers and breeders who wish to part with their dead birds. Below, I have put together a small process for storing your dead bird correctly in a way so that the bird can be kept for several years safely.

Lay the bird on its back, close the wings and straighten any feathers that may be damaged (Pic. 1). If there is any body heat left in the bird, leave it to cool in a safe place.

Once cool, put the bird in a freezer bag trying to keep the bird as straight as possible. Remove as much air as possible then tape or tie up the bag (Pic 2).

If the bird has a long tail, a piece of cardboard should be taped around the bird for support and protection in the freezer. Make some notes on the card, ie. name of specimen, age, condition, licence or article 10 number (Pic 3). Put your bird into a freezer and now is the time for you to choose your taxidermist in your own time.

Remember, the law is as important in selling live birds as it is dead ones. I can only give guidelines but for more information on this matter follow the links on my website.

I am often asked how much are dead birds worth, but this will vary between taxidermists. As falconers and breeders you will be asked the condition of the bird, ie. its age, whether it is a juvenile or adult bird, its feather condition, full adult or in moult or with a brood patch.

Also, are its tail and primary wing feathers damaged – this will determine the value of the bird.

Please remember to get permission from who you share your freezer with – wives, girlfriends and mothers are not always understanding when it comes to foreign bodies in their freezer.

Please contact me with your comments at [www.birdtaxidermy.co.uk](http://www.birdtaxidermy.co.uk) or telephone 01751 472019.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3