FEATHER ART & CUSTOM FRAMING

FEATHER & FRAME
TAXIDERMY

Shipping Your Bird to *Feather & Frame*

Your bird should arrive cold, protected, and fast. Follow these steps in order and your feathers show up the same way they left your hands.

Bird tag: featherframetaxidermy.com/bird-tag

Prepared by Jake Davidson
Feather & Frame Taxidermy

Billings, Montana

Before You Ship

Three things to settle before the bird goes in a box. They decide what board you can get and whether you keep the meat.

A Message me and pick your board

We settle the layout first, then I send you the shipping address. Your board decides whether you can keep the meat.

- **No body background:** you can breast the bird out and keep the meat. Leave the wings, tail, and head attached.
- **Body background:** the background is built from the bird's own body feathers, so I need it whole and uncut.
- **Not sure yet?** Keep it whole and ask me before you clean it.

B Care for it in the field

- Wipe blood off the feathers gently with cold water.
- Don't gut, field-dress, or hose the bird down. Breasting out is the only exception.
- Let it cool completely before it goes in the freezer. Don't pile warm birds together. Trapped heat spoils them.

C Fill out your bird tag online

Go to `featherframetaxidermy.com/bird-tag` on your phone or computer.

- Fill it out and press **Send to Jake**. I get a copy right away.
- Press **Print the tag**, then **sign the printout by hand**.
- The signed tag goes in the box with your bird.

Federal law requires a signed tag on any duck or goose left with a taxidermist. Turkeys and upland birds don't need one federally, but send one anyway so I have a record of your bird. If someone else shot it, they sign it.

Six Steps, In Order

Each step protects the last one. Follow them in order and your bird reaches Billings cold, clean, and ready to work with.

01 Prep the Head and Feathers

Once the bird has cooled, pack a paper towel into the beak so blood can't stain the feathers. Tuck the head under a wing or lay it flat against the body, and smooth every feather into place.

02 Bag It Air-Tight

Seal the bird in a heavy-duty zip-top bag, squeeze out every bit of air, then seal that inside a second bag. Sending more than one bird? Bag each one separately.

03 Freeze It Solid

Freeze the bagged bird completely. Not chilled, not partly frozen. Solid all the way through.

04 Box It Right

Pack the frozen bird in a sturdy cardboard box and fill empty space with newspaper. A styrofoam cooler inside the box helps keep it cold, but it isn't required. No loose ice, and keep feathers off gel packs and dry ice.

05 Add Your Signed Tag

Put the signed bird tag in a zip-top bag and set it on top, inside the box, where it stays dry.

06 Ship Fast, Early in the Week

UPS or FedEx, on a **Monday or Tuesday** so the box doesn't sit in a warehouse over the weekend. Overnight is best. Two-day is fine for ducks, geese, and pheasants. Text or email me the tracking number once it's on the way.

SHIP TO

Jake Davidson
5141 Clemson Dr
Billings, MT 59106

CARRIER

UPS or FedEx, Monday or Tuesday
Overnight is best
2-day OK for waterfowl and pheasants

Do & Do Not

A quick version of the steps, plus the mistakes that show up most.

Do

- Message me and settle your board before you clean the bird
- Wipe off blood with cold water and let the bird cool before freezing
- Pack the beak with a paper towel and smooth the feathers
- Double bag it, air squeezed out, one bird per bag
- Freeze it solid before packing
- Use a sturdy box. A styrofoam cooler inside helps keep it cold
- Fill out the bird tag online, press Send to Jake, then print and sign it
- Ship on a Monday or Tuesday, overnight if you can, and send me the tracking number

Do Not

- Use loose ice or ice cubes. They melt, leak, and ruin feathers
- Gut, field-dress, or hose the bird down
- Freeze warm birds piled together
- Ship ground, or late in the week
- Skip the double bagging
- Let feathers touch gel packs or dry ice
- Leave the tag loose where it could get wet

Multiple birds, one box: fine, as long as each bird is bagged separately and the whole box stays frozen solid. One well-packed box beats two half-packed ones.

When It Arrives

I inspect every bird the day it arrives. If there's freezer burn or any damage, you'll hear from me within 24 hours to talk through options.

DEPOSIT

Due once your bird arrives

$200 on duck, pheasant, and turkey diamond boards. $400 on turkey wing mounts. Comes with a signed agreement.

BALANCE

Due before shipping

Paid when your board is finished, before it ships back.

RETURN SHIPPING

Included on duck and pheasant boards

Turkey boards ship at the client's cost.

CLEANING FEE, WHOLE BIRDS

$100 turkeys and geese

$50 for every other bird. Charged only if needed.

Shipping FAQ

Who pays to ship my bird to you?
You do. The cost depends on distance and box weight, so check UPS or FedEx before you ship.

Can I drop my bird off instead?
Yes, if you're near Billings. Message me first and we'll set a time. There's no walk-in shop.

How fast will I hear back?
Usually within 24 hours, often the same day. If you're on a tight timeline, say so.

Do I need a styrofoam cooler?
No. It helps keep the bird cold, but a sturdy box works. If the bird thaws some on the way, it may just need extra cleaning.

Do you take birds year-round?
Yes. As long as it's frozen and packed right, you can ship any time.