



Offering the World's Best Duck Hunting Experiences

GUIDELINES FOR IMPORTING TROPHY BIRDS

When booking flights, allow 1.5 to 2 hours minimum to clear customs, have birds inspected, and make your connecting flight. Airports each have unique protocols. Some ports of entry, such as Atlanta, are more cumbersome than others.

Many countries of origin, such as Mexico, Netherlands, Mongolia, and Russia, for examples, require that imported birds be consigned to a USDA Approved Facility (taxidermist). If yours is not USDA Approved, we can suggest one. The export of birds from Argentina and Uruguay is prohibited. Some countries have specific export requirements.

YOU are ultimately responsible for the safekeeping and storage of your birds. Hunters should bring bird: (1) tags required for lawful transportation home, (2) a permanent marker, (3) appropriately sized plastic bags. (4) Colored zip ties placed on birds (through the nostril, on a certain leg) ensure no confusion of bird ownership at the end of a long day. Hint: if birds are stored in a large camp freezer, place your birds into a (5) conspicuous bag inside the freezer so that they don't get lost during shuffles as other hunters rummage for birds.

Do not leave your birds in the freezer for others to carry home at a future time. Do not leave such things as leg bands. If you leave the lodge without such items consider them gone.

Bring an appropriate container for transporting birds home. We suggest placing your frozen birds inside checked luggage instead of using ice chests when possible. Large ice chests invite questions in airports. Soft-side ice chests work perfectly for carry-ons in many instances. Be aware of airline baggage policies and weight restrictions.

USFWS states that all birds MUST be tagged individually to include hunter name, address, species, date collected, where collected. The outside of all containers must be labeled to include species, sex, and number of birds. Hunters must import their own birds. Hunters may use the same container, but each hunter must tag/declare their own birds.

When entering through US Customs, indicate that you are importing "meat, animal, animal/ wildlife products." You will be directed to the line for inspection of birds. There you will present required documentation.

At Customs, you must provide a USFWS Form 3-177 (Fish and Wildlife Service Declaration for Importation of Fish and Wildlife). Bring blank copies and instructions with you on your hunt. Complete the Form 3-177 at the lodge prior to your return travel. If applicable, the USDA Approved Facility must be named on the form. *We can provide Form 3-177 samples for your convenience.*

In addition to the Form 3-177, you will be required to present hunting permits, tags and other paperwork that the outfitter will provide to you prior to departure. **DO NOT LOSE THIS PAPERWORK! TAGS CANNOT BE REPLACED! USFWS REQUIRES THAT HUNTERS MAINTAIN IMPORT RECORDS FOR 5 YEARS!**

Following inspection and completion of USCPB paperwork, your container will usually be wrapped with quarantine tape and will then continue on with you. It must be consigned to the USDA facility within 10 days. In Atlanta and Miami, birds must usually be consigned back to the airline at time import. They are released only after USDA and USFWS inspects them. Customs brokers must usually be hired at these locations to ensure their return to hunters.

Penalties and confiscation are the result of smuggling (not declaring) or improperly declared wildlife.

Documents pertinent to your importation of trophy birds and more are available at our Travel Resources page or by contacting us. Contact Ramsey Russell for more information or to discuss further.