

# Ducks and Geese Skillathon

## Procedures for Show a Bird

**TABLE 9. Procedures for showing a bird.**

Procedures	How Done	Reason
1. Remove bird from exhibition coop.	Always head first with one hand over back, and the other under the body with fingers around legs.	Prevents excitement and struggle of bird to get away.
2. Hold the bird.	Pick up bird by spreading your fingers and placing your hand palm up under the bird's breast as it faces you. As your palm touches the breast, you will find that the bird's legs will be between your fingers. As you lift the bird, gently grasp the legs by closing the fingers. You can now lift the bird without having it squirm and fight.	Makes the bird feel at ease. Isn't so likely to struggle. The bird is easy to handle.
3. Examine the head.	Hold head of bird alert by prodding at the region of the wattles.	To note eyes, shape of head, and any defects present.
4. Examine wings.	Open either wing with free hand. To open the other wing, merely pass hand, palm up, over to that side. Grasp wing bow and fan out wing. (There is no need to transfer bird to other hand.)	To note color, absence of feathers, slipped wings, split wings, and twisted feathers.
5. Examine body plumage.	Over the back, on the breast, and the body.	To note color and quality, presence of lice.
6. Examine tail plumage.	Give the tail a quick flip up and down.	For color and feather quality. To detect tail defects.
7. Examine shanks and feet.	Place free hand on back of bird. Turn bird upside down. Back of bird should rest in the palm of the hand.	To note color and abnormal feet.
8. Examine body.	Hold as in No. 7.	To note width and depth of body and amount of fleshing on body—also body defects.
9. Hand bird to judge.	Head first.	To let judge verify any observations.
10. Return bird to coop.	Head first.	To keep bird smooth and unruffled.
11. Return to position by the coop.	Keep your bird on alert until judge has made a decision.	Give judge better opportunity to see the bird.