

Code of Birding Ethics

The welfare of the birds and their environment comes first

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Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Promote the welfare of birds and their environment. Support the protection of important bird habitat. To avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger, exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.

Limit

the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds, and never use such methods in heavily birded areas or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, or of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area.

Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas, and important feeding sites. In such sensitive areas, if there is a need for extended observation, photography, filming, or recording, try to use a blind or hide, and take advantage of natural cover.

Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups. Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area, and proceed only if access can be controlled, disturbance can be minimized, and permission has been

obtained from private landowners. The sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation

authorities.

Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

Respect the law and the rights of others. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad. Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.

Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care. Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as those of people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities. Freely share your knowledge and experience. Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.

Additional copies with greater detail of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from The American Birding Association. www.aba.org/about/abaethics.pdf



Do you eBird?

Do you eBird? You should, for the simple reason that it is an extremely fun way to make a positive contribution to nature conservation. Here's how it works: eBird is an online checklist program for the birding community. Anyone, anywhere can record their bird sightings into eBird and these data become available to scientists and birders.

This is important to you for two reasons. First, you can access all the data. If you're planning a

trip and want to know what birds are being seen, eBird will tell you. Second, your data will be used by scientists to understand, and ultimately protect, the birds you enjoy. Now that's something to feel proud about. The Klamath Bird Observatory hosts the Klamath-Siskiyou eBird website (www.ebird.org/content/klamath-siskiyou), which is sponsored by regional Audubon societies. eBird was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society. Join today!