

## Birders Code of Conduct

Acceptable Birding code of conduct. This code is as follows;

Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife. In keeping with this principle we will:

- Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
- Avoid chasing and repeatedly flushing birds.
- Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas or during breeding season.
- Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger. Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities.

Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment. In keeping with these principles we will:

- Stay on existing roads, trails and pathways whenever possible to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
- Leave all habitats as we found it.

Birders must always respect the rights of others. In keeping with this principle we will:

- Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No trespassing" signs, and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
- Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information where deemed inappropriate, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
- Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities. As group members we will:

- Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present. Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.
- Support, by our actions, the responsibility of the group leader (s) for the conduct of the group.

As group leaders we will:

- Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
- Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
- Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
- Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.