Birders’ Code of Conduct

Birds MUST come first at all times

- Avoid stressing birds by approaching too closely
- Make as little noise as possible
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds
- Keep away from nests, nesting colonies and breeding sites
- Avoid using flash photography
- If birds become agitated by your presence, BACK OFF

Protect all bird habitat

- Stay on roads, marked trails or paths
- Avoid trampling vegetation
- Do not remove any plant material or fungi
- Park sensibly

Respect private property

- Be careful not to trespass without permission
- Leave immediately if asked to do so
- Do not block driveways or cause damage to fences
- Inform landowner of interesting sightings

Have consideration for other birders

- Do not disrupt other birders’ activities
- Be polite to other birders and helpful to beginners
- Be courteous in explaining the possible negative results of thoughtless behaviour you may witness

Rare bird sightings

- Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the circumstances carefully
- Consider whether an influx of birders will disturb the bird, people or other species in the area, and whether habitat will be damaged and where people will park
- Inform the landowner of the find and explain what may happen
- Sites of rare nesting birds should be divulged only to the proper conservation authorities

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