

Ethical Birding

Factsheet for Birders

Promote the welfare of birds and their environment

- Support the protection of birds and their habitat
- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger
- Avoid using methods such as flushing, spotlighting and call playback, particularly during nesting season when birds may be called off incubation duties, or even abandon the nest altogether
- Be aware of the impact photography can have on birds- avoid lingering around nests or core territories for long periods and limit the use of artificial light
- Avoid handling birds
- Report rare bird sightings to conservation authorities and consider the wellbeing of the bird before making this knowledge more publically available
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist- avoid leaving litter along a birding trail and 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
- Consider and respect the rights of landholders
- Practice common courtesy in interactions with other people

Group Birding Ethics

- Lead by example and know your audience – encourage others to employ ethical birding practices
- Report bird sightings – all data are useful to bird conservation and wherever possible, should be reported to ornithological databases such as the BirdLife Australia database - birdata.com.au
- Impart knowledge – share what you know about birds and their habitats
- Get involved – encourage birders to engage local communities and get involved in conservation initiatives at their favourite birding locations
- Consider the birds – always put the health and wellbeing of birds first- consider the impact you as an individual and the group are having on birds and their environment

For more information, please refer to the complete BirdLife Australia Ethical Birding Guidelines

birds are in our nature