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

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