

Birding Etiquette.

Follow the Leader

- Be on time for group birding
- Follow any instructions that the leader gives the group
- Do not charge ahead of the leader
- Stay with the group and do not stray
- Alert the leader to any problems that develop
- Tell the leader if you need to leave early

Keep it Quiet

- Birds are sensitive to noise. Walk as quietly as possible and talk softly. Remove anything from pockets or hanging off backpacks that might make a noise as you walk (ex: loose change, keys, etc.)
- Keeping quiet allows birders to hear bird calls that often help to identify and to locate birds.
- Put your phone on Silent. Don't scare birds, other wildlife, or startle people standing near you.
- Put empathy for birds and friends in your birding toolkit

Let Others Get a Clear View

- Be respectful of each other's space
- Be careful not to step in front of someone else's binoculars or scope and block their view. If in a tight space, once you see a bird, move aside so others can get a view also.
- When using the group scope, take a brief initial view, then return for a longer view when everyone has had a chance at a first view.

Share

- When you spot a bird, share your sighting. Give a landmark near the bird to help your fellow birders locate your sightings. Use the hands of a clock to locate a bird in a tree. For example, *“the Pileated woodpecker is in the tall pine directly in front of us with a burn scar, about 3 o’clock on a bare branch”*.
- Be willing to share your knowledge of birds, field guides, and birding phone apps, binoculars, and scopes with fellow birders in your group and especially with new birders who are learning.
- What **not** to share: If you use bug spray, **do not** spray near other people or scopes or binoculars. The spray can harm lenses and others may not want your spray on them.

We hope to have many share the joy of birding in a new location. If you know of a birding opportunity, please share the location with the Bird Club so the opportunity can be passed on to the members.

Other Birding Etiquette and Ethics resources can be found on the web. American Birding Assoc., Audubon, mindfulbirding.org and many others.