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BIRDLIFE SOUTH AFRICA: BIRDER'S CODE OF ETHICS

Birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment and the rights of others. We provide leadership by adhering to guidelines of good birding behaviour.

- 1 **Birders do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife.** We will:
 - Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way.
 - Avoid chasing and repeatedly flushing birds
 - Sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not in heavily birded areas or during breeding seasons.
 - Keep appropriate distances from nests and nesting colonies, not disturb them or expose them to danger.
 - Refrain from handling birds and eggs unless in recognised research activities.

- 2 **Birders do not harm the natural environment.** We will:
 - Stay in existing roads, trails and pathways to avoid trampling or disturbing fragile habitat.
 - Leave all habitats as we find them.

- 3 **Birders respect the rights of others.** 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 courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, limit requests for information, and make them at reasonable hours.
 - Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding communities in the eyes of the public.

- 4 **Birders in groups have special responsibilities.** We will:
 - Take special care to alleviate problems and disturbances 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 tranquillity of others
 - Teach others birding ethics through words and example

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