

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION CODE OF ETHICS

DRAFT  
5-15-93

- I. Iowa Ornithologists will always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds and other wildlife and minimize their effect on the environment we share with them. To this end, we will:
  - A. Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in significant ways,
  - B. Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing individual birds,
  - C. Use recordings and other similar devices sparingly. We will never use them in heavily birded areas and will not repeatedly direct them towards the same individual,
  - D. Keep an appropriate distance from nests, roosts, etc. so as to not disturb the birds or expose them to danger,
  - E. Stay on existing paths, trails, roadways, etc. in fragile environments, ABA adds whenever possible
  - F. Leave the habitat in as good a condition as we found it or better.
  
- II. Iowa Ornithologists will always respect the rights of others. We will:
  - A. Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and asking permission to enter posted private lands.
  - B. Respect the intentions of wildlife managers by observing closures of public lands, by seeking permission or staying out,
  - C. Obey all laws, rules and regulations of public or private birding areas. We will report violations to the appropriate authorities,
  - D. Close all gates behind us and cross fences in a manner so as not to damage the fence,
  - E. Practice common courtesy by:
    1. Limiting requests for permission or information to reasonable times of the day.
    2. Allowing those that come after you the same opportunity to observe birds as you had,
  - G. Behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to others.
  
- IV. Iowa Ornithologists recognize the special concerns when traveling in groups as larger numbers multiply many of the problems of individuals as well as presenting additional ones.
  - A. Group Members will:
    1. Act in consideration of others in the group. They will:
      - a. Not flush birds until all others have seen the bird,
      - b. Help others find the bird,
      - c. Share their knowledge about the birds and bird identification,
      - d. Share their knowledge about the location of birds,
    2. Support the leader of the group.
  - B. Leaders will:
    1. Be responsible for the entire group,
    2. Limit group sizes so as to not threaten the environment or cause problems for persons granting permission to enter private properties.
    3. Teach others birding ethics by word and example.
  
- V. Iowa Ornithologists recognize the importance of research projects to further our knowledge about birds. We will:
  - A. Encourage workers in the field to conduct their research in such a manner as to limit disturbances to birds or the environment,
  - B. Encourage our members to participate in research studies.
  - C. Not knowingly interfere with research projects.

Modeled after the American Birding Association Code of Ethics.