



Code of Ethics for Birdwatching and Bird Photography

Most birdwatchers are environmentally conscious people who respect the law and value good community conduct. With this in mind, QuébecOiseaux has adopted a code of ethics to put these values into practice. All members agree, from the outset, to adhere to the following principles.

As a birdwatching or bird photography enthusiast, I commit to respecting the following ethical principles in order to protect birds and their habitats and to preserve the reputation of birding as a leisure activity...

Respect for Birds and their Habitat

- I commit to observing or photographing birds in a way that avoids disturbance and any disruption of their natural behavior, with concern for the well-being of the subjects. I maintain an appropriate distance to prevent unnecessary stress and refrain from using sound recordings.
- I avoid disturbing local flora and fauna. I stay on designated trails and preserve sensitive areas.
- I reduce my environmental footprint and adopt sustainable practices, such as prioritizing carpooling and other eco-friendly transportation to reach observation sites.
- I promote coexistence with birds by reducing threats such as window collisions and predation by cats. If I use feeders or nest boxes, I ensure they are placed safely and are properly maintained.

Respect for the Birding Community

- I show courtesy, both in the field and on social media. I respect the interests and skill levels of other birdwatchers and photographers.
- I contribute positively to the birding community by sharing my knowledge and experiences. I participate in citizen science activities and support research and conservation efforts.
- I exercise discretion before publicizing the presence of a bird and assess whether the bird or site can tolerate the disturbance caused by visitors. At all times, I protect sensitive species by not disclosing their exact locations publicly.
- If I observe harmful behavior, I tactfully and courteously share the recommendations of this code of ethics.

Respect for Laws and Property

- I familiarize myself with all laws and regulations governing birding and bird photography activities in the area and respect them.
- I do not enter private property without the owner's permission and do not obstruct public access.
- I act civilly and respect the preferences of local residents. I maintain positive relationships and communicate my observations to property owners.