



Birders' ethical code

This ethical code is intended as a guide for birders and aims to ensure that their behaviour is nothing but exemplary. You should be reminded that birds are living beings and are sensitive to human activity in all of its facets, including birding. It is, therefore, essential to guarantee their welfare.

We would like to encourage all birders to follow the advice outlined in this code both in Navarre and elsewhere.

1. The protection of birds and their natural environment is paramount.

- Disturbing birds is never justified: making them fly or approaching them excessively in order to see them better or photograph them may prove detrimental to their well-being.
- The breeding season is a highly sensitive time. Unsuitable conduct (approaching a nest, interfering with chicks and eggs, etc.) may cause birds to abandon their nest and chicks or the loss of the latter. Every precaution should be taken during this time.
- Birds resting from tiring migratory flights are also highly sensitive to any kind of disturbance.
- Remain on paths, tracks or roads as far as possible in order to reduce damage to and disturbance of the habitat.
- Try to make as little noise as possible so as not to disturb birds and other visitors. You are more likely to see birds if you do not make too much noise.
- The use of birdcalls and other means of attracting birds is forbidden. They disturb and distress birds, particularly when they are breeding.
- Leave the place as you found it (or, if possible, better still).

2. Always observe current regulations and legislation:

- Find out what the regulations are for each area before visiting it and observe them to the letter. Follow the instructions given by wardens and those in charge of informing the public.
- Inform the authorities as to any aggression to birds or their natural environment that you witness.

3. The rights of other users should be respected:

- Respect private property and ask for permission from the owners if you wish to enter.

- The countryside is home to many other types of work and leisure activities. Respect and do not interfere with them.
- Be friendly and give birders a good name.

4. Collecting information about birds is of great interest and importance:

- Information from the observations you make may be of great interest to science and lead to a better knowledge of Navarrese birds. We would, therefore, like to encourage you to send such information to the appropriate organisation:

You can do this through Birding Navarre (birding@navarra.es).

- Sightings of birds considered *rarities* (see the Check-list to find out what the rarities are) require approval from the SEO/Birdlife Rarities Committee.

Send a detailed description of the bird and the circumstances in which it was seen to the following address: rarezas@seo.org.

- Revealing the location of nests may have serious consequences (excessive concentration of birders, disturbance, plundering, etc.), particularly when a scarce or threatened species is involved. Inform the appropriate organisations and the authorities so that the right measures to protect them may be taken.

Inform fellow birders as to this ethical code by word of mouth and example.