

Birding Code of Ethics.

Illawarra Birders takes the welfare of birds seriously. The following guidelines from *Birdlife Australia* are designed to promote the welfare of birds and their environment.

- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Watch carefully for stress indicators. If new to birding experienced members will point out stressed behavior. Look for signs before the birds fly away.
- Avoid using methods such as flushing, spotlighting and call playback, especially during nesting season when birds may be called off incubation duties, or even abandon the nest altogether.
- Be aware of the impact photography can have on birds; avoid lingering around nests or essential territories and limit the use of artificial light.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist to keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- Report bird sightings – all data are useful to bird conservation. Illawarra Birders uses the fantastic and free **eBird website and smart phone app** as its primary conservation database.
- Consider the birds – always put the health and wellbeing of birds first; consider the impact you as an individual and the group are having on birds and their environment.