



SANDAKAN BORNEO BIRD CLUB

BIRDWATCHING/BIRDING ETHICS

Birdwatching/birding is a fun outdoor activity. Balance respect approach between wildlife, environment and the rights of others.

'Our Bird, Our Heritage' - In any conflict between birdwatchers/birders and birds, care to remind that birds and its environment are the prime priority.

1. WELFARE OF BIRDS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

- a. Support any program to protect bird habitat.
- b. Avoid stressing birds, or exposing them to danger.
- c. Be restrain and caution when photography, sound recording, or filming.
 - . *Any method of attracting bird (playback) should be use sparingly specially in the important bird area.*
 - . *Keep away from nesting location, roosts and feeding sites. If in need research and observation, use blinds or hide.*
 - . *Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography when need close-up record.*
- d. Assess negative consequences before sharing or advertising presence of highly demanded birds (rare or black trade demand).
- e. Stay on the designated paths or trails. Keep habitat disturbance at minimal.

2. LAWS – PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

- a. Do not trespass private properties.
- b. In any situation, one must comply with the local authority rules.
- c. Practice courtesy with other birdwatcher/birder or non-birdwatcher/birder.

3. ARTIFICIAL BIRD ENVIRONMENT

- a. Keep water and food dispenser clean, hygiene and disease free.
- b. Maintenance done regularly.
- c. Artificial environment must consider predatory assessment.

4. BIRDWATCHING/BIRDING IN GROUP

- One must embed ethics 1 and 2 to pursue birdwatching/birding in a group.
- a. Respect the interest, rights and skills of the others (Birding or other outdoors activities).
 - . Freely share knowledge and experience, except where (1d) applies.
 - . Helpful to the birding/birdwatching beginners.
- b. Approach unethical conduct with courtesy and tactful. (Specially on tour group)

5. BIRDING TOURS (LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES)

- a. Be the ethical role model to the group.
- b. Keep group number at carrying capacity of bird destination.
- c. Ensure everyone in the group knows of and practise this ethics.
- d. Must inform group member of other rules of conduct of visited areas.
- e. To ensure the Company or organisation attached to understand at all time that Business interest come second after Bird Welfare.
- f. Keep record of sightings, document irregular occurrence and submit record to the appropriate organisation.

