

SONORAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Group Birding Etiquette (2014)

1. General conduct:
 - a. Walk behind the trip leader. If the group stops to look for a bird you may temporarily step ahead of the leader.
 - b. Don't wander away from the group for any reason. If you need to leave the group (bathroom break, going home, etc.) let the leader know.
 - c. Be quiet.
 - i. Try to walk quietly.
 - ii. Do not talk loudly or persistently.
2. Specific conduct scenarios:
 - a. Do not walk or stop in front of someone who is looking through binoculars or a scope.
 - b. Don't make sudden movements, such as pointing, that cause birds to flush before all birders have had a good view.
 - c. If you are in front of the group and others are trying to see a bird past you, stand still.
3. Helping others:
 - a. Once you have seen a bird step aside and help others see it.
 - b. Give specific and clear directions when giving directions to a bird. For example, use the plant's location and identity and the clock position, such as: at the three o'clock position midway up the closest mature cottonwood.
4. Clothing:
 - a. Don't wear brightly-colored clothes. For nighttime birding, do not wear white clothes.
 - b. Because we are in Arizona, you may wear a wide-brimmed hat. However, people behind you may not be able to see past your wide hat. In some group situations a baseball cap is a better option.
 - c. Do not wear noisy clothing like jackets or pants made of some kinds of synthetic materials.