Terms for body parts and feathers

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American Birding Association
Principles of Birding Ethics

Everyone who enjoys birds and birding must always respect wildlife, its environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.

Code of Birding Ethics

1. Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.
2. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
3. Each group, however large or small, should be courteous and considerate to other groups in the same area.
4. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.
5. Keep trails clean of litter.
6. Use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.
7. Be an exemplary ethical role model for the group. Teach through word and example.
8. Keep groups to a size that limits impact on the environment and does not interfere with others using the same area.
9. Use your best judgment when recording or photographing birds.
10. Always observe birds in their natural habitat.
11. Avoid disturbing birds, eg., by using flash, loud noises, or feeding them.
12. Avoid feeding birds, including those that are injured or sick.
13. Do not attempt to handle or remove birds from the wild.
14. Respect the law and the rights of others.
15. Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
16. Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
17. Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people. Your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.
18. Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.

Please follow this code—distribute it and teach it to others.

Additional copies of the Code of Birding Ethics can be obtained from ABA. The ABA Code of Birding Ethics may be reprinted, reproduced, and distributed without restriction. Please acknowledge the role of ABA in developing and promoting this code.