

Mecklenburg Audubon Society



Just for Fun: Birding 10 Commandments



1. Thou shall have no other interest before birding. If thou does, thou shall not discuss it with other birders.
2. Thou shall not take unto thee any graven image of the birds that are in heaven above without giving photo credit to the photographer. Thou shall not capture and cage the wild birds, nor shall thou visit birds in zoos (unless the birds are endangered and part of a breeding release program), nor shall thou respect and cherish any introduced species.
3. Thou shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: not when thou just missed seeing that rare bird, nor when the potential life bird doth not sit still for an identification, nor when thou droppeth thy binoculars in the middle of the lake.
4. Remember all thy birding days, and keep them special. Six days shall thou labor and do all thy work: but the seventh day is to renew thy spirit with the avian flock. Work is the curse of the birding classes.
5. Honor those who introduced thee to birding and taught thee about birds that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. If thou should dishonor those experts, thy days may be short. Honor those who own the private property where birds congregate that they may allow thee to come back the next time.
6. Thou shall not kill any bird (nor any bird hunters - no matter how strong the provocation). Thou shall labor to protect and keep them for all the days of thy life (well, maybe not the hunters...).
7. Thou shall not take any thing that belongs to another birder without asking: not his place in the hide, nor his field guide, nor his birding partner, nor his lunch.
8. Thou shall not steal a bird's eggs or, more importantly, a bird's habitat if thou wish to see the bird long on this earth.
9. Thou shall not bear false witness about birds thou hast identified or heard, nor shall thou exaggerate or brag about birds thou hast seen. Thy word is thy bond, especially on Birding Big Days.
10. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's life list, but must create thine own. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's birding scope, nor his identification skills, nor her bird photography ability, nor his ability to travel to see more birds than thou, nor any other thing that is thy birder neighbor's.

Remember these commandments, and keep them holy, in the name of the father (John James Audubon), and the son (Roger Tory Peterson) and the holy ghost (Charles Sibley).