

## Tips and Responsibilities for Birding with a YVAS Group

- \* DO be on time for the trip or even early.
- \* DO let the leader know if there is a particular bird you would like to see.
- \* DO feel free to ask questions about birds and the trip.
- \* DO be safe.
  - Stay out of the way of motorized traffic and remind others to do the same.
  - If you are driving, do not stop in traffic lane (paved, gravel or dirt roads).
  - Park on the shoulder of the road or off the roadway.
  - Be aware of snakes, bees, and other critters as well the birds!
  - DO be careful and considerate of the animals and of other motorized and pedestrian traffic.
  - The birding group will travel as a caravan. Carpooling is good for gas conservation and is desirable for other reasons as well.
  - Keep speed reasonable to the normal traffic flow on a given road, and maintain a safe distance between each car in the caravan.
  - The leader will announce scheduled stops. If a car decides to make an unscheduled stop, other cars are encouraged to keep driving to the next scheduled stop. The car that made the unscheduled stop is asked to get as far off the road as possible. The group that is on the scheduled route does not have an obligation or responsibility for the vehicle that stopped. We want to keep each other safe but want to avoid putting others at risk based on the decision of one driver.
  - If the number of vehicles requires it, the caravan group may be split into sub groups for safety and to improve opportunities for bird viewing by trip members.
  - At a minimum the trip leader and a car bringing up the rear will have radios. If a caravan member needs to or wants to pull out of the caravan please notify one of these drivers for safety and other considerations. This radio arrangement will hold for all caravan groups and subgroups.
  - **REMEMBER: SAFETY FIRST THEN BIRDING FUN**
- \* DO stay with the leader even if the group is standing still. This is particularly true when the group is looking for a specific bird.
- \* DO be quiet when appropriate but speak up if you are unable to locate the bird the group is looking at.
- \* DO wear quiet clothing in quiet colors.
- \* DO be prepared for less than adequate bathroom facilities. This may mean long periods between bathrooms or outhouses or even nooks in the great outdoors. If this is a concern, please feel free to ask about the availability of facilities.
- \* DO leave your pets at home.
- \* DO carpool when you are able and share gas costs with the other passengers in your vehicle.
- \* DO turn off your cell phone while in the field birding with the group.
- \* DO be considerate of others when identifying bird calls with an electronic device.
- \* DO understand that you are responsible and liable for your own actions and decisions.