



## **NOAA Firebird Project Priorities**

1 - Human Safety, 2 - Bird Safety, 3 - Equipment Safety, 4 - Data Collection.

How we represent ourselves as professionals, and our project, is very important to the public's perception of our profession, and the success of our project. This includes the photos/videos we take, and the context we share them in.

## **Photo/Video Rules**

These rules include traditional photograph/videography, and any capture of images or video for use in apps such as snapchat, tiktok, instagram or other mediums of sharing photos or videos. If you have questions, ask.

When taking photos of yourself, or others, ensure that you are all doing things which are safe, legal, and permitted. Including the wearing of appropriate safety equipment (life jackets when on boats, snake chaps when in rattlesnake habitat, etc). If you are not, fix your behavior immediately, and make changes to ensure those things don't happen again in the future, photographs or not.

**When taking photos/video, ensure that you have any kind of geotagging turned off, to prevent folks who may wish to find these places either because of enthusiasm for the birds, or to do them harm, from doing so.**

Photographs of birds in the hand for personal purposes are considered the lowest priority and taken only when the bird shows no signs of stress and when time and safety allows. When taking photos of birds in the hand, permission to take photographs must be obtained from the bander-in-charge, who can revoke that permission at any time. All photography equipment should be prepared before the bird is placed in anything other than the bander's grip. Birds will be held in the photographer's grip for no more than 60 seconds. Photos will not be allowed on any bird which is showing any sign of distress. We are not holding birds for more than 60 minutes, this includes banding, and photographs, there will be no exceptions. If flash must be used, it would be best to ensure that the bird's eyes have time to adjust before it is released.

Only those who are trained and whose training has been approved by the state lead (Texas = Warren Conway, Louisiana = Erik Johnson, Mississippi/Alabama = Mark Woodrey, Florida = Jim Cox) are allowed to hold birds, including for photographs, at the discretion of the bander in charge. For project techs and other staff who are not able to handle birds, a bird could be held close to them by an off frame person to allow a photo with the bird. Photographs of visitors holding birds should be discouraged, but at the discretion of the bander in charge, photographs of visitors helping to release birds may be allowed.



## **Sharing photos/video**

You are welcome to share project photos/videos with your friends and family via social media and other means, as long as those photos and video are in compliance with these rules.

When sharing photos of birds in the hand, you are required to include in the caption “This/These bird(s) were captured and handled as part of a scientific research project, and under the authorization of federal and state permits, and university ethics review, and were released unharmed immediately after.”

Do not geotag your photos at anything finer than the county/parish scale, these are species of conservation concern, and we do not want over enthusiastic members of the public, or those with more harmful intentions to find these birds because of our photos.

Do not share any photos or videos that contain other people without their explicit permission.

Always be sure to review the audio paired with any video collected to ensure it is appropriate.

## **Location Sharing**

You are not permitted to share the location of Black Rails with anyone outside of the project, for any reason without specific permission from the state lead (Texas = Warren Conway or Jena Moon, Louisiana = Jonathan Lucek or Erik Johnson, Mississippi/Alabama = Peter Kappes or Mark Woodrey, Florida = Heather Levy or Jim Cox).

## **eBird or other publicly available records**

To protect the location of Black Rails, an federally listed species, from those who might harm the birds or their habitats through malice or misplaced enthusiasm, every checklist that is submitted when working or volunteering on the project must be submitted as a hidden list, no exceptions. Those lists can be shared with others who were present. Similar policy for submission of any sightings to iNaturalist, or other similar platforms. This rule is in place regardless of whether or not you have seen a Black or Yellow Rail on that given day. If you don't know how to submit a hidden lists please ask before submitting anything to eBird or other platforms.

### **How to make a hidden checklist on eBird:**

Wait to submit your checklist until you are at a computer so that you can hide it as soon as possible after you submit it. Do NOT share your checklist until you have completed the following and have hidden it. Complete your checklist as you would any other (e.g., incidental, travelling, how many people, etc.). Immediately after submitting your checklist go to eBird on your computer and open the checklist you



Photo, Video, Location Sharing, eBird Rules  
NOAA Firebird Project  
Version 1.0 (December 2021)

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wish to hide. Look for the blue “Checklist tools” box in the upper right corner and select “Hide from eBird output” from the drop down menu (see Figure below).

96319, -90.15261 Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, United States

1 Species observed 1 individuals

1 Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*

**CHECKLIST FLAGGED**  
*Hidden checklist. This checklist has been hidden from public view by the owner of the checklist: this checklist and its observations are only visible to the checklist owner and do not appear in public eBird outputs. More information.*

Checklist tools

- Edit location
- Edit date and effort
- Edit species
- Add media
- Share w/ others in your party
- Change portal
- Hide from eBird output
- Download
- Email yourself

Once you select that option you will get a notification that selecting this option will hide your checklist from eBird output, which is what we want. Select the Green “Hide Checklist” button. Once you have done that you will see a note on the left side of the checklist indicating that the Checklist is Flagged as hidden (red box in Figure above). At this point, you can share the checklist if you need to. You’re done!