

## WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND RELEASE OF CLAIMS

This Waiver and Release made on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

**BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT YOU WILL WAIVE CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS  
INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO SUE. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**To British Columbia Field Ornithologists (BCFO), a non-profit society  
in the Province of British Columbia**

In consideration of the permission granted to me, the undersigned, by BCFO to participate in an event organized by the said society, I am aware and acknowledge that there are inherent risks involved with my or my child(ren)'s participation in the activities of BCFO, and these risks include but are not limited to: those associated with traveling to various field sites, which may involve transportation by motor vehicle or boat; those associated with wilderness, wildlife, beach, river, and on-or off-trail hiking into precipitous, rugged, unstable, or snowy terrain. The activities of BCFO may be carried out under conditions of weather, tides, and other circumstances beyond the control of BCFO, and away from medical facilities. I recognize the Directors and members of BCFO do not have special expertise in these activities and are not responsible for my safety or my child(ren)'s safety.

I accept these risks as my responsibility and hereby release BCFO, its Directors, members, employees, contractors, and agents, either collectively or individually, from all actions, causes of actions, damages, claims or demands which I, my heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns may have against BCFO and other above described parties for all personnel injury or illness, property loss or other damages sustained by me during the under-named event, whether arising out of or incidental to the under-named event, or otherwise.

I, the undersigned, further understand and agree that BCFO, its Directors, members, employees, contractors and agents reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a participant should such person's health or mental condition or physical infirmity or general deportment impede the operation of the event, or the rights or welfare or enjoyment of other participants.

I, the undersigned, have read this Waiver and Release and understand all of its terms. I execute it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Waiver and Release at the city of \_\_\_\_\_ in the province of **British Columbia** on the day and year first above-written, and for the following events:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE NOTE, WE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERING TO ANY HEALTH REGULATIONS  
IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THIS EVENT**

## **Field Trip Ethics**

### **i. BCFO Field Trip Ethics**

1. All BCFO field trips shall be conducted to minimize disturbance to birds, habitat, wildlife and people.

### **ii. Responsibility of trip leader**

1. Leaders are expected to be ethical role models. They will determine the most appropriate size of the group and must ensure that all participants behave in a manner that avoids undue disturbance to target species.

### **iii. Responsibility of participants**

1. It is expected that all participants will follow all protocols outlined by Species at Risk Recovery Teams when viewing threatened or endangered wildlife. Locations of sensitive habitat or threatened and endangered species should only be revealed to an appropriate local or regional conservation authority.

2. Birders should be alert to any signs of stress in birds or wildlife and modify their activities accordingly. Birders should also be watchful for evidence of breeding and ensure that their activities do not interfere with parental care of young. Methods of artificial attraction such as sound playback should be used only at the discretion of the trip leader. Laser pointers should only be used by the leader and never pointed directly on or very close to the target bird. Luring raptors with live prey and the use of drones is inappropriate. Pets are also inappropriate for birding field trips; birds perceive dogs as predators and will be disturbed by them even if they are leashed.

3. Birders should be respectful of all local laws and regulations regarding access to private and government lands. Access to private property needs prior landowner approval. Vehicles must be kept on established roads and parking areas to avoid environmental damage. Similarly, all efforts should be made to walk only on established paths where available. When not available, birders can minimize environmental damage by all following the same route.

4. Ethical birding also includes a respectful attitude towards the rights of fellow birders. Birding skill levels will vary within the group; it is hoped that those with greater skills will show a willingness to share their knowledge and expertise with others. When a target species is located, participants are expected to make every effort to avoid flushing the bird so that all can see it. Noise should be kept to a minimum and cell phones used only in emergencies. Birders should be aware of the location of others in the group and ensure that they don't block others from seeing the bird. When using a shared spotting scope, all participants have a responsibility to ensure that every member of the group has an opportunity to view the bird. Participants must stay with the group and avoid getting ahead of the leader.

## **Waiver of Liability and Release of Claim**

i. The Board of Directors has approved the application of the waiver to all field events organized by the BCFO. Legal advice to the Society is that the waiver as worded is necessary to provide some protection to the Society and its Directors in the event of an injury occurring during any BCFO sponsored field event. The legal opinion is that the Society has the right to refuse participation to any member who refuses to sign the waiver. This waiver form will also include a copy of the field trip code of ethics. Signing the form is an agreement that the participant will adhere strictly to this code.