

## Use of Call Playback

The use of call playback can distress some species and may disrupt feeding and/or breeding activity. As a general rule, Hunter Bird Observers Club does not support the use of call playback for the purposes of bird observation. However, if artificial bird calls are to be used they should be used for limited periods and be played at a volume lower than that of the target bird. It should not be used during the target bird's breeding season.

The use of such devices should always be kept to a minimum, particularly in areas of high visitation by birders where call playback by other birders may well have occurred in the recent past. Responsible use of call playback can be valuable in locating cryptic birds without causing serious harm; however, it is a skilled activity and should not be taken lightly. If in doubt, avoid using call playback, particularly during nesting season when birds may be called off incubation duties, or even abandon the nest altogether.

During HBOC outings, call playback shall only be used under the direction of the designated outing leader. It shall not be used if the target species is known or suspected to be breeding. For any given target bird, call playback shall not be used more than three times in any fifteen-minute period. Acceptable applications of call playback during HBOC outings are for confirming the species identity and for educating outing attendees.

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