

Wildlife and Bird Watching

Be Mindful of Your Impacts

- Don't interfere with the natural behavior of birds or wildlife
- Practice Leave No Trace Principles
- Keep your distance
- Never feed wildlife



Know Before You Go

Research the bird or wildlife you hope to see—learn about its habitats, habits, etc. Not only will this prepare you for the best opportunities, it helps you better understand the birds and wildlife which you view.



Timing is Everything

Looking for owls during the middle of the day may prove challenging. Most wildlife is active at dawn and dusk, and some species, those that are nocturnal, may be most active during the night.

Ecotones—or edges of habitats—are often active places to observe wildlife.



See, Don't be Seen

Blend in with your surroundings but remember to be visible during the hunting season. Included in this is sound—seek to be as quiet as possible to reduce disturbance and increase the likelihood of observing wildlife. Also, remember scent plays an important role for most wildlife—stand downwind and leave the body spray at home.



Seek Cover

Many state parks and forests offer bird blinds for offering quiet observation points. If you are in an area without a blind, sit quietly in an unobtrusive area, but be aware if you are on a wildlife corridor or path.

Channel Your Inner Coyote - Be Stealthy

When we tromp through the forest or paddle loudly on the water, we diminish our chances of seeing wildlife. When you must move, move slowly and quietly.



Be Prepared

Take the right gear—from assistive devices for viewing to food, water, appropriate clothing for the weather, a map, compass, camera, sunscreen. Let someone know where you plan to be and when you plan to return.

