

Bird Watching Etiquette



Maintaining a Safe Distance

- 1. Stress reduction: Keeping your distance prevents unnecessary stress on birds, which can affect their feeding, mating, and nesting behaviours.
- 2. Natural behaviour observation: By staying far enough away, you're more likely to witness genuine, undisturbed bird behaviour.
- 3. Safety: Some birds may become aggressive if they feel threatened, especially during nesting season

Minimizing Noise and Disturbance

- Birds are highly sensitive to sound and movement. To observe them effectively and ethically, it's crucial to minimize the disturbance you create:
- 1. Speak quietly: Use hushed tones when communicating with fellow birders.
- 2. Silence electronic devices: Turn off phone ringers and camera sounds.
- 3. Move slowly and deliberately: Sudden movements can startle birds and other wildlife.
- 4. Be mindful of your shadow: Especially in early morning or late afternoon, your shadow can alarm birds if it falls across their location.

Respecting Nesting Sites

- Nesting season is a particularly vulnerable time for birds. Extra caution is needed during this period:
- 1. Identify signs of nesting: Look for birds carrying nesting materials or food, or exhibiting defensive behaviours.
- 2. Keep a greater distance from nests: Even if you discover a nest, resist the temptation to approach for a closer look.
- 3. Limit the time spent observing nests: Extended observation can stress parent birds and potentially expose eggs or chicks to predators.
- 4. Never touch eggs or chicks: It's a myth that human scent will cause parents to abandon their young, but handling can cause real harm.