



ETHICAL NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

To wildlife, we are seen as predators. Our presence can cause harmful physiological and behavioral changes to the animals we are trying to photograph — unless we are careful with our behaviour.

We can prioritize nature by following these best practices:

- Learn about the natural behavior, habitat, and signs of stress for the species you will be photographing.
 - Be a naturalist as well as a nature photographer!
- Avoid getting too close. Use your longest telephoto lens and/or a teleconverter.
 - Don't do anything that would change an animal's natural behavior.
- Stay 100 meters from nests/dens and 2-3 bus lengths from large mammals.
 - Avoid using playback of bird calls.
 - Avoid baiting wildlife with food or lures.
- Never follow animals, startle them on purpose, or flush them from their cover.
 - Walk only on designated trails, taking nothing and leaving nothing.
 - For species-at-risk and threatened species: use special care, don't share locations, and consider not visiting/photographing them at all.
- Learn more — <https://tfngo.to/wildlifedisturbance>



This is just one of the nature issues that the Toronto Field Naturalists care about. If you have a passion for nature, join us! Visit www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/join for more information.

Resource List: Ethical Nature Photography

(Prepared by the Toronto Field Naturalists, 2023)

All about Owl Baiting by Michael Furtman
www.michaelfurtman.com/on_owl_baiting.htm

Audubon's **Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography**
www.audubon.org/get-outside/audubons-guide-ethical-bird-photography

Canadian Conservation Photographers Collective's **Code of Ethics**
www.theccpc.ca/code-of-ethics

Common Excuses for Unethical Behavior by Bird Photographers, Georgina Steytler
www.ethicalnaturephotos.com/post/common-excuses-for-unethical-behaviour-by-bird-photographers

Five Guidelines for Ethical Wildlife Tourism
www.stephanieschuttler.com/5-guidelines-for-ethical-wildlife-ecotourism

Government of Canada's **Guidelines to Avoid Harm To Migratory Birds**
www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html

Is Whale Watching Ethical: The Trick to Responsible Tours
www.xploreourplanet.com/sea/ethical-whale-watching

Nature First: The Alliance for Responsible Nature Photography
www.naturefirstphotography.org

North American Nature Photography Association's **Ethical Field Practices**
www.nanpa.org/wp-content/Files/Public/Ethical-Field-Practices-Revised-3-2018.pdf
(They will also supply wallet cards in bulk)

Snowy Owl Photos Banned by Facebook Groups
www.newsweek.com/snowy-owl-photos-banned-facebook-animal-paparazzi-1763478

Top Fifteen Bad Behaviors of Bird Photographers, Georgina Steytler
www.ethicalnaturephotos.com/post/top-twelve-bad-behaviours-of-bird-photographers

Why Baiting Owls Is Not the Same as Feeding Backyard Birds
www.audubon.org/news/why-baiting-owls-not-same-feeding-backyard-birds

Wildlife Disturbance: Why Now and Why Does it Matter?
www.torontofieldnaturalists.org/wildlife-disturbance-why-now-and-why-does-it-matter