

Wildlife Viewing

Respecting and Protecting Wildlife



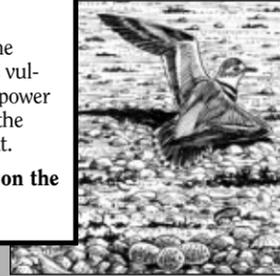
indicates activity to be avoided



Wetland Birds

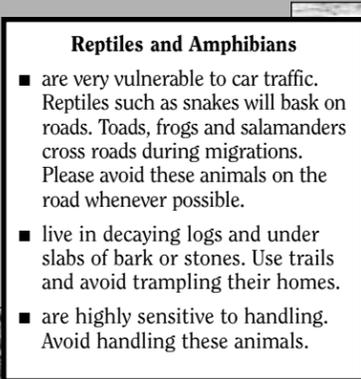
- that breed and rear young in lakes and rivers are particularly sensitive to disturbance. Stay clear of wetland nesting areas.
- sometimes nest directly at the water's edge. These nests are vulnerable to large wakes from power boats. Please be sensitive to the wake left behind by your boat.

Watch for camouflaged nests on the ground.



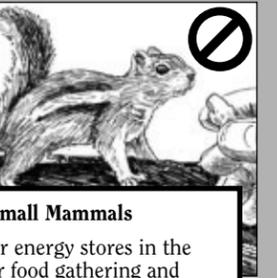
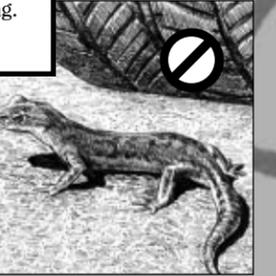
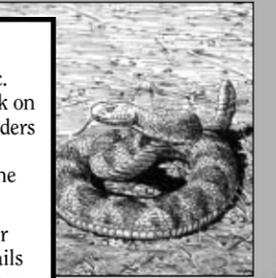
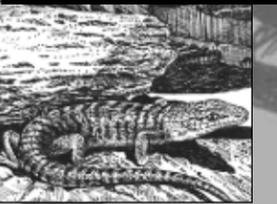
Coastal Birds

- Nesting seabirds may abandon their nests from a single disturbance. Seabird island ecological reserves are closed during breeding season.
- Migrating shorebirds need food energy to recharge for long flights. Avoid disturbing their feeding and staging activities.
- Migrating shorebirds are particularly sensitive to dogs, so don't bring dogs to beaches with shorebirds.



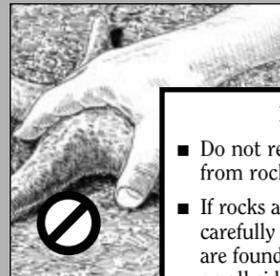
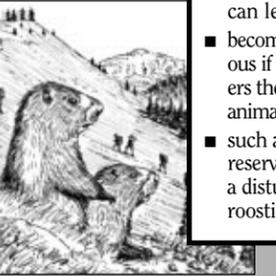
Reptiles and Amphibians

- are very vulnerable to car traffic. Reptiles such as snakes will bask on roads. Toads, frogs and salamanders cross roads during migrations. Please avoid these animals on the road whenever possible.
- live in decaying logs and under slabs of bark or stones. Use trails and avoid trampling their homes.
- are highly sensitive to handling. Avoid handling these animals.



Small Mammals

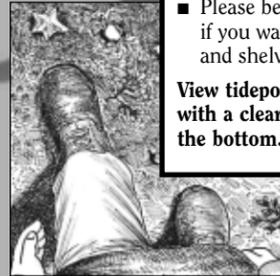
- need their energy stores in the spring for food gathering and territorial activity. Disturbance can lead to breeding failure.
- become more aggressive or dangerous if fed by people. Feeding also lowers their abilities to survive. Feeding animals in protected areas is illegal.
- such as roosting bats use critical fat reserves to "wake up" and flee from a disturbance. Avoid any place with roosting bats.



Intertidal Life

- Do not remove attached sea life from rocks or tidepools.
- If rocks are moved, they should be carefully replaced exactly as they are found, otherwise wildlife living on all sides of the rock will die.
- Please be respectful of marine life if you walk over intertidal rocks and shelves.

View tidepool life using a bucket with a clear plastic window glued to the bottom.



Signs You Are Too Close to Wildlife

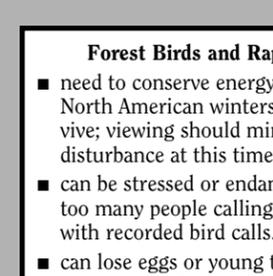
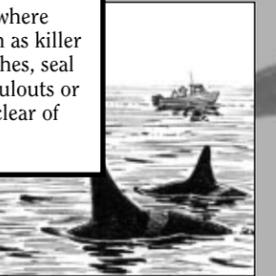
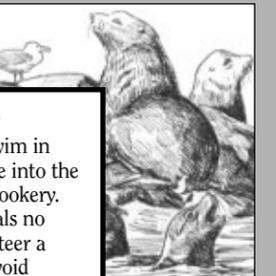
All animals need to avoid predators, eat enough food, and reproduce. In our northern climate, survival is usually a very delicate balance, and, for many species, even a few disturbances can cause death or failed reproduction. Watch for the following signs that animals may be experiencing stress as a result of your behaviour:

- ▶ A raised head; the animal looks at observers. Mammals may point their ears in the direction of observers, or stand up to face them.
- ▶ Any interruptions of feeding or migratory activities.
- ▶ Displays of nervous behaviour: skittishness, the animal jumps at sounds or movements. Looking directly at an animal may trigger the fright/flight response it naturally has to predators.
- ▶ Birds repeatedly move away, preen, wipe their bills or peck at dirt or feet. Mammals might attempt to shield a calf or pup from a human intruder.
- ▶ Animals make alarm calls; birds will repeatedly chirp and chip; mammals vocalize; marine mammals will fin, tail-lob, or breach.
- ▶ Displays of aggressive behaviour: the animal moves away or lowers its head (mammals will bring ears back in preparation for a charge); erect hairs on neck and shoulder; charges directed at intruders.

Always be patient and be ready to back off so that your disturbance is minimized.

Marine Mammals

- are stressed if forced to swim in evasive patterns, or to dive into the water from a haulout or rookery. Approach marine mammals no closer than 100 metres. Steer a steady, slow course and avoid cutting in front of them.
- spend time in locations where they are vulnerable, such as killer whale rubbing rock beaches, seal haulouts and sea lion haulouts or breeding colonies. Stay clear of these sensitive areas.



Forest Birds and Raptors

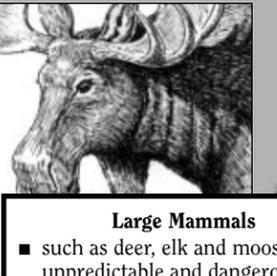
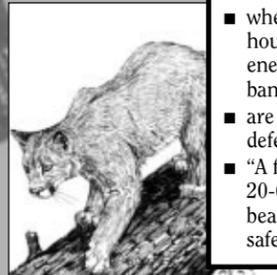
- need to conserve energy during North American winters to survive; viewing should minimize disturbance at this time.
- can be stressed or endangered by too many people calling birds in with recorded bird calls.
- can lose eggs or young to predators if disturbed from the nest. Avoid going near nests.

Make yourself less noticeable through the use of bird blinds and drab clothing.



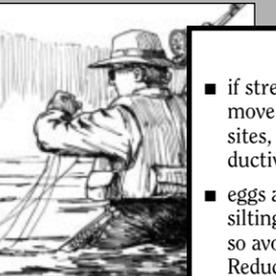
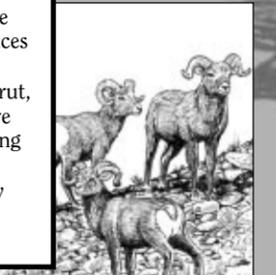
Bears and Other Carnivores

- need lots of space and clear directions for easy retreat. Stay back, and never corner them.
- when startled, might run for an hour uphill, wasting precious energy reserves. Frequent disturbances are harmful.
- are especially dangerous when defending their kills or young.
- "A fed bear is a dead bear" – 20-60% of human-fed nuisance bears will need to be killed for safety reasons.



Large Mammals

- such as deer, elk and moose are unpredictable and dangerous – always maintain a safe distance.
- need all their energy to survive through the winter. Disturbances can cause death.
- are vulnerable during the fall rut, because males are under severe stress. Stay clear of their rutting grounds.
- are both dangerous and highly sensitive to disturbance while looking after their young.



Fish

- if stressed during spawning may move to less suitable spawning sites, leading to reduced reproductive success.
- eggs and alevins are sensitive to silting or any physical disruption, so avoid damage to the streambed. Reduce stream bank erosion by staying back from the stream edge.

Use polarizing glasses to see into the water and binoculars to view fish from a distance.

