



Photography & Wildlife Watching Ethics

All visitors in Baxter State Park are asked to use good judgment and demonstrate respectful behavior towards wildlife by adopting these ethical field practices:

- 👂 **Exercise restraint** when observing or photographing wildlife by respecting the routine needs of animals, such as eating, resting, raising young and seeking shelter.
- 👂 **Learn the patterns of animal behavior.** Know the warning signs of a stressed animal.
- 👂 **How can you tell if you are too close to an animal?** You are too close if it changes its behavior, for example, it stops eating, flees the area (sometimes leaving its young unprotected), its ears go back, or the hair on its back stands up.
- 👂 **It is extremely important not to move close to wildlife,** chase them, entice them for that perfect picture or feed them, as all of these behaviors stress animals. Avoid the travel route of animals and if they approach you, move away, even if you must detour around your intended route.
- 👂 **Refrain from imitating or using animal calls,** which may disrupt the natural activity of the animal. Use of electronic calls and playback audio devices to attract animals is prohibited in Baxter State Park.
- 👂 **Use zoom lenses** when photographing animals to ensure keeping a safe distance away.
- 👂 **Observe the “Wildlife Area Only” signs** and stay on trails, boardwalks and raised platforms. Protect the environment and habitat of the area for the wildlife.
- 👂 **Treat all other visitors with courtesy.** Educate those who may not know ethical field practices. If education doesn't work, report inappropriate behavior to a Ranger. Do not monopolize an area – always provide the opportunity for others to pass or share.
- 👂 The Rules and Regulations of the Park protect the wildlife and the natural environment, providing a wilderness experience for all. Harassment of wildlife is illegal in Maine.

Every person can make a difference in keeping the Park animals “forever wild”

