



Boulder County
Audubon Society

BCAS Field Trip Etiquette

While participating on BCAS field trips, please abide by the following guidelines to ensure a pleasant and productive field trip for all.

Put the welfare of the birds and other wildlife first. Avoid harassment of any kind. Do nothing to endanger or stress wildlife. Do not attempt to flush or call birds.

Do not trample or damage vegetation or habitat. Stay on designated roads, trails, and paths for your own safety (ticks, snakes, poison ivy, wasp nests, etc.) and to minimize your impact.

BCAS field trips are limited to a designated number so that they are a positive experience for new, as well as experienced birders. The leader needs to be able to be heard by all in the group, which cannot happen if the group is too large. Please don't just show up and expect to join a field trip. Make sure you rsvp and receive confirmation from the leader, and please be on time.

Sign the roster that the leader provides and let the leader know if you need to leave before the end of the field trip.

Follow the leader – do not precede them or explore nearby side areas. Such activity flushes birds before others can see them.

Once birding begins, be as quiet as possible and mute your phone. Keep extraneous conversation to a minimum and talk very softly. When the leaders or participants have been alerted to a bird, stop moving and stop talking. Try to avoid sudden or loud noises, sweeping gestures, or quick movements.

Rotate position on trails, giving everyone the opportunity to learn from the leader.

Gently, call the group's attention to any bird or sight of interest they may have missed.

If you are using a scope, invite others to view birds and other wildlife you have found. As a participant, limit your time viewing so that others may also get the sighting. You may be able to get a second view after everyone else has had a look.

Please do not bring dogs or other pets on guided hikes. They are a distraction to the group and may scare off wildlife. Service dogs are allowed on BCAS Field Trips.

Review and abide by the [*Audubon Guide to Ethical Bird Photography and Videography*](#).