

*Putting knowledge to work with the people of Maine*

### Family Birding Activity: Observation Skills Tip Sheet

Observation Skill	Deeper Understanding
<p>Approach observation sites calmly. Avoid running and making loud noises.</p>	<p>When approaching your observation site, be careful that you do not scare away any wildlife. To make sure that you do not scare away the birds that you hope to observe, move slowly and quietly.</p>
<p>Avoid rapid movements.</p>	<p>Rapid movements will frighten the birds that you are observing. Make slow motions and avoid pointing or reaching for the animals.</p>
<p>It is alright to look at the animals, but do not touch the animals that you are observing.</p>	<p>Catching animals may frighten them and cause injury to the observer and the animal. Catching the animals may cause them to behave abnormally, which will change the results of your observation.</p>
<p>Keep your shadow to yourself.</p>	<p>While people are not frightened by shadows, birds often fly away when a shadow passes over them. Avoid casting your shadow over a bird while trying to observe them.</p>
<p>If you want to take a closer look, carefully approach what you are observing.</p>	<p>If you want to take a closer look at the birds, approach them slowly and calmly. Be respectful of their space and do not get close enough to scare them.</p>