

OWL ETIQUETTE

It seems that everyone wants to see an owl! And while everyone should have the opportunity do so, it is important to remember that owls are nocturnal birds who need undisturbed rest during the day. Please treat them with care and respect by following these simple guidelines:

• Do not play tapes to attract owls, or shine flashlights on them at night. They can be seen perfectly well during the daytime.

• Allow them their rest by keeping a respectful distance away and by remaining quiet.

• Leave your pets at home, and help to educate young children about the importance of being quiet and not disturbing the owl.

• Limit your time at a roost site.

• Do not share sensitive owl locations with unknown people in large public forums such as Twitter.

• Help to educate others and promote responsible birding behavior—especially to beginner birders.

• In this critical time of the coronavirus pandemic, be sure to maintain a safe social distance from others in the crowds that owls may attract, and always wear a mask to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The Linnaean Society of New York https://www.linnaeannewyork.org