

RAPTOR RESOURCE PROJECT BALD EAGLE NEST ETIQUETTE

This is not intended to be an absolutely complete list, please remember to use common sense—these are wild raptors with a natural fear of humans, let's keep them that way!!

Bald eagles can be very sensitive to human behavior, and what may seem innocuous to a human may disturb an eagle; humans are still the biggest threat to eagles. Remember, Federal law in the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Protection Treaty protects bald eagles.

1. Respect the landowners. Don't trespass or intrude on them in any way. Heed all No Trespassing signs.
2. Federal law requires you to stay at least 330 feet away from any nest. This distance is also true for individual eagles that may be perched on a tree or standing on the ground.
3. Use your car or a tree as a blind putting it between you and the eagles. They are less sensitive to those objects than a free-standing or moving human.
4. If an eagle stops what it is doing to watch you, you are disturbing the eagle—move on!
5. Be as quiet as possible. Don't honk, rev your engine, play loud music, shout or make any other loud noises.
6. If you see an eagle, consider yourself lucky. Don't do anything that might stress the bird. They will see you. Move slowly and carefully and keep your gestures restrained.
7. Do not feed the eagles in any way. This includes leaving food on the ground. These birds are wild and should not become dependent on humans.
8. If an eagle is on the ground, do not approach it. When it flies off, do not attempt to follow it.
9. It is illegal to possess any part of a Bald Eagle; this includes any feathers you may find. If you see a feather—leave it alone.
10. Be aware of your surroundings. If an eagle is near a road, check for traffic before moving. Your safety is important.
11. Binoculars and/or cameras will afford you the best view while visiting a nest.
12. Demonstrate eagle friendly actions by your own behavior. Be courteous to both other eagle observers and wildlife.
13. Keep the area free from litter. Pick up after yourself and take your trash with you.
14. Enjoy your visit to Decorah or to wherever you might go to view these magnificent raptors!!