

## Wildlife Viewing Tips



The Colorado Division of Wildlife's **Wildlife Viewing program** offers the following tips and advice for more rewarding, safer, and responsible wildlife viewing.

- **Time your outing** for morning or evening, when wildlife are most active.
- **Wear earth-tone clothes**, like gray, khaki and olive green. Animals will tolerate you better if you blend into the surroundings.
- **Keep your distance**, for the safety and comfort of both animals and people. If an animal changes its behavior, stops eating or seems nervous at your presence, it's time to back away.
- **Stay quiet and still.** Noise and quick movements mean "danger" to wildlife. They may run or fly off, sometimes leaving their nests or young unprotected. Never chase or harass wildlife.
- **Look to the edges of the landscape**, (where the forest meets the meadow for example), because many wildlife species spend time along habitat edges.

• **Look for movement, shapes, and color contrasts.** Motion is the best giveaway. Also, look for parts of an animal such as its head, tail, ear, wing, or antler.

• **Use binoculars**, a spotting scope, or a telephoto lens for a close-up view.

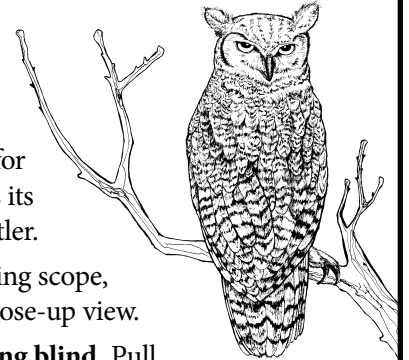
• **Use your car as a viewing blind.** Pull safely off the road. Respect others who are viewing the same animals.

• **Avoid animals that behave unexpectedly or aggressively.** They may be ill, injured, or have young nearby.

• **Leave your pets at home.** Pets hinder wildlife watching. They can chase, injure, or kill wildlife, or be injured or killed.

• **Do not feed wild animals.** It can change their behavior in ways that can be harmful—both to them and to people. Reserve feeding for 'backyard' birds.

*Find out more about Colorado's wildlife. Buy a Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide, attend a wildlife festival, and visit [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)*



### Tips for Helping Kids with Wildlife Viewing

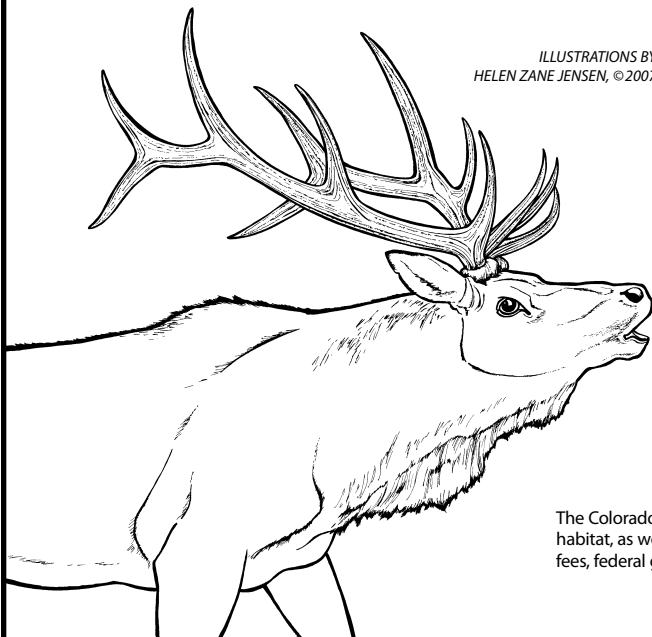
Kneel behind the child and stretch your arm forward, over the child's shoulder, right alongside the child's head at eye level, and point directly at the animal. Say, "Look where my finger is pointing."

Kneel alongside the child as you find the animal in your binoculars. Then invite the child to look through one eyepiece while you look through the other. Although this is not how one would ordinarily look through binoculars, it does get the job done!

### *Keeping Colorado Wild*

The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the state agency responsible for protecting and managing wildlife and its habitat, as well as providing wildlife-related recreation. The Division is funded by hunting and fishing license fees, federal grants, and Colorado Lottery proceeds through Great Outdoors Colorado.

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