

SYNOPSIS FROM THE PSA JOURNAL-3
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Ethics of Nature Photography

Do no harm is the essence of the ethics of nature photography. You can find the full PSA statement of the code of ethics at www.psa-photo.org. Then to divisions, to nature, to resources and finally to code.

In order to do no harm, a photographer needs to know about the subject, its habitat, its behavior etc.

In regards to birds-

- Try to photograph without being seen by the bird
- Do not expose the nest to the elements in a dangerous manner.
- Excess branches may be tied back but not cut off.
- A blind may be used but it should be erected is 15 minutes or less and should not flap in the wind. Remove the blind if the parents do not return within 30 min.
- Restore the area to its original state.

In regard to botany

- Photograph without picking.
- Rocks or wood could be moved to add background or to clear a shot, but should be replaced to its original position when the photographer is done.
- Avoid damage to fragile habitats.

In regard to insects

- It is best to photograph the insect in the field for a better story.
- Some insects can be chilled and some cannot. You must do your homework

In regard to tidepool subjects

- Many of these animals are quite brittle and easily damaged. They require the specific habitat, oxygen supply and temperature in which they are found.

In regard to newts, salamanders and amphibians

- These animals can be chilled but carefully and for brief periods only.

In regards to reptiles

- Do not lift a snake by the head or tail alone because of possible spinal injury.
- Artificial feeding is usually not successful.

In regards to Geology

- Pictographs and petroglyphs are not elibible because it shows the hand of man. In any case, they should not be touched.
- Cave formations are fragile and care should be taken when moving through them.

