

7 Tips *for* Photo Blind Photography

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1) Look before leaping.

Snakes, wasps, and spiders—and sometimes even a nesting mammal—often inhabit blinds when photographers don't. Always check out the scene before entering, enter slowly, and then check again. Check photo bags & equipment before leaving, too, in case a critter crawled inside while you were busy taking pictures.

2) Forget about your phone.

That means **don't bring it!** I've heard grumbles from others in a group that, even when phones are silenced, text-addicted photographers take away from others—those who've come to immerse themselves in the wildlife-photography experience and leave the modern world behind for a bit.

3) Watch the weather.

In South Texas, prepare for heat by dressing appropriately, drinking plenty of water, and bringing along a cloth for wiping sweat from your brow and camera back. In cooler climes, such as photographing during winter in New Mexico, bundle in layers to help control body temp.

4) Pad with a pillow.

After sitting for hours, no matter how mesmerized you are, your bootie begins to beg for padding. Your butt will thank you if you bring along a throw pillow or stadium cushion.

5) Remember memory!

Sounds obvious, but many frustrated folks have discovered—too late—they're out of memory. Disturbing the wildlife to get up and go disturbs other photographers so consider bringing along extra memory cards to guarantee you'll get the shot!

6) Mind your liquids.

Drinking too much means you'll need to urinate more often. However, if it's hot don't wait too long to replace water lost when sweating. Also think "quiet" when choosing your water bottle, as some tend to crackle annoyingly.

7) Shhh!

If you want a chance to photograph some of the more shy animals cut the chatter. Birds often don't care, but you will wreck your chances—and others'—to see a bobcat with talking. Socialize after the shoot.

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Award-winning naturalist photographer, Jeff Parker, leads friendly & informative photo tours & workshops focused on the flora & fauna of North, Central, & South America, in addition to India.

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