



This black bear, attracted by hummingbird feeders, was recently photographed by Cheryl Thiele's wildlife camera on San Clemente Trail.

Conservancy Advisory: Be Bear Aware

On The Preserve, seasonal bear sightings are rare and exciting, and also a reminder that we can employ good practices for successfully living with wildlife. Black bears (*Ursus Americanus*) can be found in forested and wooded areas where they forage on insects in the summer and nuts and berries, like acorn and manzanita, in the fall. They are omnivorous and will eat carrion and occasionally small animals.

Bears are typically shy and take care to avoid people. Their late summer passage through The Preserve can be observed through tracks, scat, claw marks on trees, stripped and broken berry bushes, and long coarse hair imbedded in tree bark from rubbing their backs on trees.

In Your Homeland

- Keep garbage, recycling, and compost securely stored.
- Do not feed pets outdoors.
- Keep BBQ grills clean.
- Bird feeders, including bird seed and nectar, attract bears. Consider taking them indoors at night.
- Harvest fruit from fruit trees as soon as it is ripe, and collect fallen fruit.

On The Trail

- Keep dogs on a leash or close to heel.
- Hike with a buddy and have a conversation, loud noises will alert bears of your approach.
- If you see a bear on the trail, do not approach it. Consider heading back the way you came.
- If you have a close encounter with a bear, remain calm, keep an eye on the bear as you back away slowly and speak loudly to the bear. Do not run.
- If you find an unattended bear cub, leave it alone and immediately leave the area. The mother will return for it soon.

Bears tend to have poor eyesight and hearing, but have a strong sense of smell. The scent of food, including bird feeders, compost, and improperly stored garbage may attract bears. This year, we received a report of a bear raiding a bird feeder (see photo above). We recommend bringing feeders in at night, making sure all grills are cleaned, and properly securing garbage to prevent bears and other wildlife from associating people as a source of food. If you notice disturbance to your trash or garden, please notify the Conservancy as soon as possible so we can help avoid conflicts.

You are welcome to contact Dr. Christy Wyckoff if you have any questions or concerns about wildlife.

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