



(Stephen) Peacefully in the safety of his Backyard with his Best Friend Cindy. Are there any Wildlife secretly watching?

Issue #1 – Vol. #1 “*Living With Urban Wildlife*” (Introduction)

From: L.A. County Fish and Wildlife

Commissioner James Etter

We all love our Family and that includes our “Pets” who become a real part of our household.

I will post “Wildlife News” during the Summer Months (Beginning in May 2024) to assist in your awareness of our emerging Wildlife.

Commissioner James Etter

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Each Week, you can follow these tracks to understand and discover our Local Wildlife

“Living With Urban Wildlife”

INTRODUCTION

I was appointed to the Los Angeles County “Fish and Wildlife Commission” by 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger. (which stretches from the California Coastal Waters to the Mojave Desert) a huge territory of diverse topography and wildlife.

From the Depths of Death Valley to the heights of Mt. Whitney, I have experienced many wild animals. (Personal Experiences I have encountered are what I will extend to you as it worked for me, however; every animal may react differently.) I highly suggest you get EXPERT WILDLIFE ADVICE. (***In your URL put: Wildlife Safety Tips REI EXPERT ADVICE***) It once was that wildlife stayed away from humans in big cities, however; as Human Developments have put the squeeze on a growing wildlife population, more interactions between human and wildlife inhabitants have occurred in 2024!

¹My expectations of more Wildlife vs Human incidents in 2024 is based on the Record Rainfall in 2022.

Mother Bears may be extra aggressive protecting her larger brood of Cubs this year and more ravenous to provide extra food sources to feed them.

(I will be extra cautious this Summer around bears with cubs)

My 1st ADVISOREY “*Living With Urban Wildlife*” for Summer of 2024 will focus on BEARS!

(Which should be posted on this site by L.A. County or where you obtained this Introduction.)

¹ (***I Predict***) **MORE HUMAN vs WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS WILL HAPPEN IN 2024**) Mother Nature takes care of her earth and that includes our wildlife. We had a RECORD RAINFALL in 2022 and a longer Winter, *due to record Snow*. (BEARS) stay in hibernation, until the Spring thaw (which came later than usual, so Hibernating Wildlife came out of their dens with a ravenous appetite.) The extraordinary Rain and Snow produced an abundance of Natural vegetation and other food sources. This allowed wildlife (a.k.a. BEARS) to bulk up and stow away more fat. Nature provides for animals to have more offspring, when they are plush with extra fat, when they go into hibernation. I predict more Bears (and some other wildlife) in our County with more offspring this year, than in the recent past. This scenario promotes the likelihood of you meeting wildlife on hiking trails and in your backyard.

(3X more Bears in April 2024 have been spotted in L.A. County Residential neighborhoods than in 2022) PLEASE BE BEAR AWARE!

Each Week I will POST information on the various Wildlife which might invade your space in Los Angeles County and some of what you should know to optimize your survival from serious injury! Animals, just like people, might respond differently under the circumstances they encounter! How you react when facing wildlife that you come into contact with could make the difference from a wonderful Wildlife Moment to a scary incident! **(Yes! Wildlife can attack).**

This Series "*Living With Urban Wildlife*" will provide Information from my personal experiences, (and **EXPERT ADVICE** from **REI**) for you, your friends and family, as there already has been an abundance of Wildlife Sighting this year. **Many Bears in the Verdugo Foothills (Burbank – Glendale) Sunland-Tujunga, Monrovia and other human populated areas of Los Angeles County.** Knowing what to do when faced by an animal larger than your refrigerator, is important and could make the difference between a Wildlife Moment or a Bad Day.

This (*Issue #1 – Vol #1*) is the Introduction to my series "*Living With Urban Wildlife*" and each week in the coming Summer Months, I will give notes from my personal wildlife experiences and POST (EZ-Read) PUBLICATIONS that might help you cope, should you find a Bear in your Swimming Pool.



Starting this Series, (Next Week) I will introduce the most commonly encountered Wildlife. **THE BLACK BEAR.** Not to have the color deceive you, they are often Brown to Cinnamon or occasionally a rare albino/white. I will discuss the nature of this magnificent animal and how to react when meeting up with them, using my personal experiences and Professional Advice from REI/Wildlife Experts.

The coming series of: "*Living With Urban Wildlife*" will continue with:



Discussing other dangerous animals you may come across. The Mountain Lion, which is a formidable predator. The Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes and Coyote(s)



ALSO: Skunks, Possums. Rodents and keeping your property picked-up and Clean, including proper: Trash Cans Storage (Latching Lids and Tie-Downs). You should be safe and Wildlife Savvy, ready for a Beautiful Summer in L.A. County, a place of many opportunities!

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this Newsletter is that of Commissioner James Etter and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other seated Fish and Wildlife Commission Members, The County Board of Supervisors, staff or others unless specifically noted here-in this post. Please reach out to Professional Wildlife Personal for advice and Safety Tips.

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