



Please Don't Feed Park Wildlife

Handouts Hurt—Keep Wildlife Wild

Keep wildlife away from your handouts, leftover food scraps, and garbage by ensuring that ice chests, storage bins, and trash cans are secured at all times. Leave no food scraps or trash behind. Store food and coolers in bear-resistant lockers or your vehicle.

Park regulations strictly prohibit the feeding of wildlife. Here's why:

- When people provide food, wildlife populations become unbalanced. Your food attracts predators, including jays and ravens, which prey on baby birds. Access to our food has led to a surge in the population of jays and ravens in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and this has resulted in a striking decline in the number of endangered marbled murrelet chicks. These seabirds fly inland to nest in the limbs of old-growth trees, and in the last century their population in California has declined by more than 90%. When you avoid feeding wildlife in the park, you help species like the marbled murrelet survive.



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Wild animals have specialized natural diets, and they can become malnourished or die if given the wrong foods. Feeding animals, either directly or indirectly by leaving food accessible to them, means they are not getting their natural diet. During daytime hours, squirrels, birds, chipmunks and other animals may develop an unhealthy habit of searching for food in picnic areas and campgrounds. At night, raccoons, skunks, deer and wild pigs search these grounds for your food. An unnatural food supply can lead to an outbreak of disease or starvation.

Visitors risk injury and transmission of disease if they don't keep a respectful distance. Wild animals can lose their natural fear of humans when they are fed. This is not safe for the animal, or for the visitor who gets too close.

You can help wild animals by not feeding them and by keeping your stored food and trash out of their reach. Thank you for your support!



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