



## Hazing

**Hazing:** A lawful activity, or series of activities, conducted in an attempt to change the behavior of a habituated bear (it has become too comfortable around people) or to establish/maintain a healthy wariness of people. **CPW encourages lawful hazing.**

**Harass:** To unlawfully endanger, worry, impede, annoy, pursue, disturb, rally, concentrate, harry, drive herd or torment wildlife. **Harassment of wildlife is unlawful and NEVER ok!**

### Hazing Options:

- Yelling & Clapping
- Air Horn/Car Alarm/Noise Makers
- Motion Sensor Sprinklers
- Pepper Spray/Bear Spray
- Paintball \*\*\*

**\*\*\*AVOID HITTING THE BEAR'S FACE\*\*\***

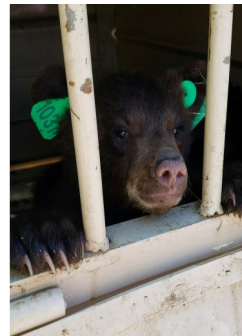
**Contact your local law enforcement agency for what methods are lawful for your neighborhood.** Only haze nuisance wildlife and be mindful of where wildlife will move (such as into a busy street). Your local CPW office can provide additional ideas & recommendations.

**Remember: Hazing will only be effective if the original attractants that drew the bear in are permanently removed!**

## Living Responsibly With Bears

Colorado Parks and Wildlife understands that viewing backyard birds is a great connection to the wildlife in your own neighborhood. It's also important to recognize that we have a responsibility as stewards of our outdoor spaces to live responsibly with all wildlife, including black bears!

The sight and smell of bird feeders alone is enough to attract bears onto your property and into your neighborhood. Once bears discover bird feeders they will visit every home in the area looking for more, making bird feeders (and trash cans) **the number one reason for human-black bear conflicts!**



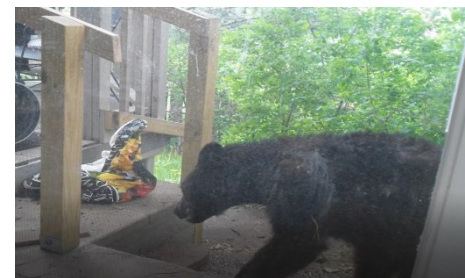
In addition, leaving attractants out, like bird feeders (hummingbird, suet and seed) and trash cans, where they are accessible to bears is a violation of state law as well as some local city and county ordinances.

**To avoid causing problems in your neighborhood, take bird feeders (hummingbird, suet & seed) down from April-November when bears are most active.**

## Save a Life, Don't Feed Wildlife

Feeding big game animals, like bears, is bad for animals and dangerous for people. People feed wildlife because they want to see them or think wildlife needs our help to survive. **The reality is, feeding is more harmful than helpful.**

- Animals that are fed become demanding and dangerous
- Concentrating animals can lead to the spread of disease
- Feeding can change an animal's natural behavior and cause them to become habituated (too comfortable around people).
- **A habituated bear can escalate its behavior and start breaking into vehicles, garages and homes**
- Feeding big game animals, like bears, is illegal in Colorado



## Bears and Bird Feeders: What You Need to Know





## The Birds & The Bears

Every year in Colorado, we get the joy of viewing many types of “backyard” birds at bird feeders. What most people don’t know, is that bird feeders (seed, suet & hummingbird) are also **very** attractive to bears. In fact, bird feeders are so attractive, that bears will go to great lengths to gain access to them including climbing decks, climbing across pulley ropes and tearing down iron pole holders.



Why are bird feeders so appealing to bears? The answer: **calories**. A bear’s entire life revolves around gaining enough weight to survive hibernation and bird feeders are full of calories! It’s also much easier to pull down a bird feeder than it is to forage for natural foods like berries, insects and nuts in their natural habitats.

### Bear Calorie Counter:

- 1 lb. Berries = 2,000 cal.
- **7 lbs. Bird Seed= 12,180 cal.**
- 25 lbs. Dog Food= 42, 425 cal.
- 28 oz. Peanut Butter= 4,750 cal.
- **4 oz Suet= 968 cal.**

## Hibernation: A Key to Bear Behavior

During the winter, a bear’s natural food sources aren’t available so, bears hibernate to cope with not being able to eat.

In the fall, bears enter a period of compulsive over eating (hyperphagia). They start feeding for **22 hours a day** and need to gain **20,000 calories a day** to survive hibernation. That’s equivalent to eating 37 McDonald’s Big Macs a day!

After this period of over eating, bears enter their winter dens and their body processes begin to shut down. For a bear, hibernation is like an extreme sport. A hibernating bear:

- Will not eat, drink, urinate or defecate for ~ **200 days**
- Their heartrate & metabolism will drop **50-60%** from normal
- Will lose **20-27%** of their total body weight



## Winter Bird Feeding

If you must feed birds, winter would be the best time to do so as bears are hibernating and no longer active. Winter feeding may also benefit some birds during this stressful season when natural food sources are hard to find.

In winter, it is still important to feed birds responsibly as other animals, like deer, coyotes, raccoons and even skunks, can be attracted to this easy food source.

Below is a quick list you can follow to ensure only birds are being attracted to your feeders.

- Clean spilled seed and shells from underneath/ around your feeders.
- Hang feeders where other wildlife cannot reach them, especially deer! **Eating bird seed can be deadly for deer (causing multiple digestive tract diseases).**
- Bring feeders in at night
- Clean feeders often to prevent the spread of diseases (like salmonella)
- Avoid using open, platform style feeders (which can be messy!)
- Research which seed is best for the birds in your area. Never feed bread, table scraps, etc.

## Attracting Birds, Not Bears

### Native Gardens

Native gardening is a great way to attract many different types of birds and other native wildlife like butterflies and native bees. Native gardens also require less water and maintenance once established. Visit <https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf> for more information on native gardening in Colorado.

### Flower Pots

Not the gardening type? Try flower pots or container gardening! Birds will be just as interested in visiting a flower in a pot as they would be to one in the ground. For hummingbirds, plant red, orange or pink flowers with a tubular shape.



### Bird Baths/ Nest Boxes



Birds are always looking for the things they need to survive including a reliable source of water and a safe place to raise their young. Adding a bird bath or nest box to your backyard landscape gives birds a reason to visit and to stay!