Urban creatures coming out to play

As we’re squirreled away at home, animals are reclaiming their turf

By Louis Sahagun

As California’s coronavirus case counts have declined, naturalists believe animals — including coyotes, foxes and even bears — have been reclaiming spaces vacated by humans due to stay-at-home orders.

At Griffith Park, coyotes have been seen more frequently than usual in certain areas. At Los Angeles County’s Ballona Wetlands, a fox has been reported wandering on the beach.

Naturalist Gerry Hans, president of the nonprofit organization Urban Wildlife Institute, said in April that coyotes in Griffith Park were “looking for an opportunity to interact with an unfamiliar element — people. They’re seeing an opportunity to potentially live in human areas and take advantage of it.”

Hans, who has been studying coyotes in Los Angeles County for 15 years, said coyotes have been moving into more populated areas in recent months.

“Coyotes are opportunistic, and they’re very adaptable,” he said.

Hans said coyotes are becoming more visible to residents because people are staying home.

“When we’re going about our daily business, we don’t always see wildlife,” Hans said. “But now, people have more time, and that’s creating more opportunities for wildlife to become more visible.”

Hans also noted that many of the areas where coyotes are becoming more visible are near popular hiking trails.

“People are walking around more, and that’s bringing them into places where coyotes are,” Hans said.

Hans said coyotes are not aggressive and are usually not a threat to humans. But he also said people should be aware of their presence and take precautions.

“Coyotes are not trying to attack people,” Hans said. “But they can get scared and act aggressively.”

Hans said people should avoid feeding coyotes and make sure their pets are secured.

“Coyotes are opportunistic feeders,” Hans said. “They’ll eat anything they can get.”

Hans said coyotes are not a problem for most people, but they can be a concern in some areas.

“Where there are a lot of people, there are more coyotes,” Hans said. “And that’s creating more conflicts.”

Hans said people should report any coyote sightings to their local animal control agency.

“It’s important to report coyote sightings,” Hans said. “That helps us track their movements and better understand their behavior.”

Hans said coyotes are an important part of the local ecosystem and help control populations of rodents and other pests.

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Hans said coyotes are a reminder of the importance of conservation and the need to protect natural habitats.

“Coyotes are a reminder of the importance of conservation,” Hans said. “We need to protect natural habitats to ensure the survival of these animals.”

Hans said coyotes are also an example of the importance of being respectful of nature.

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Trump's move came as the number of coronavirus cases rose dramatically. Citing the need to protect the nation from the disease, Trump signed the order, although he has not said how he would enforce it.

Trump said the order would allow him to "act quickly to protect the American working class and to ensure that we provide the essential medical care and supplies needed to save lives and protect America's workers.

The order would target areas of the country where the coronavirus is spreading rapidly, such as New York City, and would allow the federal government to control the movement of people from those areas. The order would also provide funding for coronavirus testing and other public health measures.

Trump's order would supersede a previous executive order signed by former President Barack Obama in March, which the administration had not implemented. The new order would give the president broad authority to issue orders and regulations to combat the virus, including the ability to limit the movement of people and goods.

The order would also provide funding for states and local governments to support their coronavirus response efforts. The funding would be provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which would receive $25 billion for this purpose.

The order would also allow the administration to make emergency declarations in response to the coronavirus outbreak, which would give it the ability to access funds from the Disaster Relief Trust Fund and other federal funds.

The order would also require states and local governments to report to the federal government on their coronavirus response efforts, including the number of cases and deaths.

Trump said the order would "make sure no American is put at risk of losing their lives because of this virus. We will protect our citizens and our health care workers."