

# Quiet Season for Wildlife!



Photo courtesy of Dave Masters

Consider a donation to help Wild Aware with our mission of coexistence with wildlife!

Elk bulls have grown quiet, bears are winding up their last days of hyperphagia (gorging!), and wildlife are migrating or hibernating. But we still need to be aware:

- Late fall can be the most dangerous time for wildlife-vehicle collisions. Scroll down to read what Denver Motor Vehicle has to say about driving around wildlife.
- Ruminants such as deer and elk start to change eating habits in preparation for winter-they eat less food and few carbohydrates. This is why feeding them high-carb food (like corn) can not only cause them extreme gut pain but can be lethal..and feeding wildlife is illegal. PLEASE LET WILDLIFE BE WILD AND DON'T FEED THEM.
- As always, if you find an animal you suspect is injured, abandoned, lost or otherwise in distress, please do not interact with the animal. Call \*277 for

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## WE'RE GROWING!

Thank you for sharing your time, expertise and donations with us! Please join us for happy hour or coffee to learn more about our new volunteer program. See dates and times below.



Photo credit: Daniel Rakes

*please join us!*

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW WILD AWARIANS

*coffee*

JAVA GROOVE 9:00  
NOVEMBER 11  
DECEMBER 2ND

*happy hour*

EVERGREEN BREAD & COCKTAIL LOUNGE 5:00  
NOVEMBER 17  
DECEMBER 15



You are in good company! Meet other fans of wildlife and share your stories. Catch us in the morning or the evening or both! We look forward to seeing you.

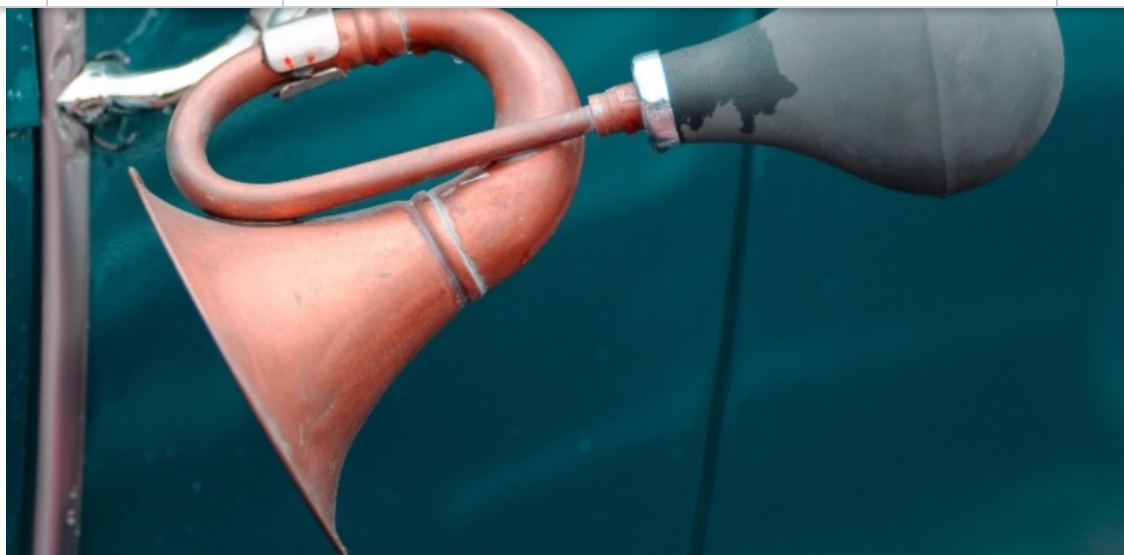
# Wildlife Emergency?

.....  
Dial \*277  
.....

Emergency involving humans, call 911.



Let's put a smile on your face!  
Pennsylvania man captures all walks of life crossing log bridge



## Regarding Honking at Elk Herds in the Road

Public officials have made it clear: Honking at elk herds in the road is unsafe, ineffective and potentially dangerous.

After consulting with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Colorado State Patrol during in-person meetings, Wild Aware leaders learned that these agencies do not recommend honking at elk herds crossing the highway. Elk and other wildlife are unpredictable and may very well do exactly the opposite of your anticipated outcome. Attempting to move elk herds off the road by shouting or honking can result in the risk of unforeseen accidents, endangering other drivers as well as the animals themselves. Likewise, honking at others who are waiting to let animals cross can cause unnecessary stress to all involved. Purposefully bumping elk with a vehicle to make a path to drive through a herd is unlawful and may result in a fine.

Regardless of honking or even tragic wildlife-vehicle collisions, all wildlife will continue to consider Highway 74 as their highway in the same way that we do-a necessary part of their lives as they move throughout the community in search of water, food and safe places to give birth.

We ask you to consider the unique nature of living and driving in Evergreen. We cannot ask wildlife to change their instincts and behaviors and we must rely on our own wisdom and creativity to provide a peaceful space for coexistence with them.

What to do?



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- Take a deep breath and wait. The cars and the animals in front of you will move as soon as they can.
- If the elk herd is large and might take a long period of time to cross, call \*277. The dispatcher will contact an officer who will arrive if possible (there are times when officers are too far away or are involved in helping with another accident) to calm traffic and help encourage wildlife to stay off the road after they have all safely crossed the road. Colorado State Patrol has recommended that \*277 callers may want to call dispatch a second time if an officer has not arrived on the scene within 20 minutes.

Please share this important message with others!



**Driving tips from Denver Motor Vehicle:**

**WILDLIFE ON THE ROAD**

**consider these statistics:**

- A collision with some form of wildlife occurs, on average, every 39 minutes.
- 1 out of every 17 car collisions involves wandering wildlife.
- 89% of all wildlife collisions occur on roads with 2 lanes.
- 84% of all wildlife collisions occur in good weather on dry roads.
- The average repair cost of a car-deer collision is \$2,800.
- Approximately 200 motorists die in the United States each year from car-wildlife collisions.

To avoid adding to these statistics, trim your chances of colliding with traversing wildlife by practicing the following precautions:

- Slow down when passing yellow animal-crossing signs. These warnings are posted not because road crews just happened to have a surplus of signs, but because heavy animal traffic frequents the area.
- Wildlife is most active during dusk, dawn, and night. Deer are most frequently hit during dusk and dawn, bears and moose at night.
- Headlights have an illumination range of 200 to 250 feet. To allow for sufficient brake time, reduce your speed to 45 mph at night—or even down to 30 mph when roads are icy.
- Pay attention to shoulders. Even though wildlife may be off to the side as your car approaches, animals may suddenly attempt to flee by inexplicably leaping into the road.
- Slow as you approach.
- Look for reflecting eyes.
- Slow if you spy a moose. These gangly animals harbor a weird escape gene. Instead of leaping into forested cover, moose will gallop down the road ahead of you for long distances before finally veering into the woods.
- Keep in mind that deer, elk, and antelope wander in groups. If you see one crossing, slow to a crawl. More are bound to follow.
- If you drive in a state or province that employs road salt, keep in mind that wildlife embraces it as a condiment. Roads may be drier but wildlife more numerous.
- Deer whistles are merely peace-of-mind placebos.

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swerving, you can suffer more grievous consequences from an oncoming SUV delivery truck than from a leaping mule deer or skittering antelope. It is best to lock the brakes, jam the horn, and (if time allows) duck low behind the dashboard.

Moose are the lone exception to the do-not-swerve rule. An adult moose can grow to 1,600 pounds. Consequently, colliding with a moose is comparable to colliding with a compact vehicle on stilts, with the likelihood of fatal or long-term injuries to the front-seat occupants of your car. So if the situation allows, swerving for a moose is a defensive option.



## A Word From Our Founder

### Happy Birthday to Us!



As we approach the 3rd anniversary of Wild Aware in December, I feel humbled by the support we have received in this community. From dynamic new volunteers to financial resources to provide our yard signs, Living with Wildlife flyers and Wildlife Emergency cards, Wild Aware benefits from the care which the Evergreen area and beyond demonstrate for the wildlife with whom we share a home.

Our guest speaker in August, Julia Kintsch of EcoResolutions, spoke of Evergreen as being a particularly challenging area for mitigating wildlife-vehicle collisions, as we have seen throughout this year. EcoResolutions conducts studies to prioritize locations at which wildlife crossings are most advantageous, a process driven by roadkill studies, terrain, land ownership, budgets, and migration paths. Evergreen, with its private property, retail developments and terrain is not a candidate for a crossing structure such as an overpass or underpass. That is why we as a community need to continue to search for answers knowing that there will not be a silver bullet but rather the possibility of new technologies, innovative



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Wild Aware's work in our community has benefited wildlife and people in direct and subtle ways. The main ingredient in all of this activity is YOU. Without your commitment, caring, and giving of time and financial resources, we could simply not achieve what we have this year.

We need you more than ever. The effectiveness and variety of programs we can offer the community to improve coexistence between wildlife and humans is a direct result of how many people jump in and give us a hand, hoof, paw or foot. Please join us for another great year!

## Barbed Wire Makes for Unhappy Wildlife



Elk cow and calf grapple with barbed wire fencing in Elk Meadow, Evergreen CO

July and October Barbed Wire Removal projects in DeDisse Park  
with Denver Mountain Parks



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Evergreen has plenty of elk, but we also have these little insect-eaters!



### Give Bats a Little Respect!

People who enjoy fewer mosquitoes at their outdoor barbecues or who like a margarita on occasion might appreciate bats a little more. The 18 species of bats that live in Colorado are insectivores, but there are bats living on every continent except Antarctica who pollinate plants (like agave, a key ingredient of tequila), disperse seeds by devouring fruit and eat millions of insects. In fact, one little brown bat can eat *1,000 mosquitoes in an hour!*

Not found in the Colorado, the vampire bat is native to Mexico, Central America and South America. Of the 1200 species of bats, only 3 drink blood. Using both echolocation and eyesight, the bat identifies prey and can use heat detecting pockets on their faces to locate the blood vessels closest to the surface of the skin. Using a special incisor to make a tiny cut, the bat then produces saliva, which contains an anticoagulant. The bat then uses his tongue and a tube located at the back of the tongue, sipping the blood through the tube like a straw.

Bats face many challenges including habitat loss, extermination, predation, hunting, wind turbines, poisoning from pesticides and other chemicals, climate change, and white nose syndrome (WNS). WNS has decimated bat populations in the eastern and central United States. The fungus causing WNS has recently been detected in Colorado bats for the first time.

Since bats are fascinating and beneficial, we would be wise to encourage their success and survival by avoiding using pesticides, attracting insects by planting night blooming flowers, flowering annuals and perennials, fragrant plants, herbs and shrubs, and providing a water source. Bat houses are a great option to



Here are some resources if you want to learn more about bats:



**Little Brown Bat, species: *Myotis lucifugus***

Photo courtesy of Colorado Bat Crew

Contact Colorado Bat Crew or Colorado Parks and Wildlife if you find a bat.

[Colorado Bat Crew](#)

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#)

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Wild Aware encourages, supports and enhances the healthy, safe and rewarding coexistence of humans and wildlife.

## Yard Signs Are Here!



**IMPORTANT NOTE:** In keeping with our mission, we hope to place as many signs as we can throughout the community. We are a small nonprofit and have very limited funds and therefore we ask you to [please cover the cost of the signs you receive through a tax-deductible donation.](#)

The cost to Wild Aware is [\\$25 each](#) which includes a 2-sided sign and stand.

-- Please consider sponsoring an extra sign or two as well! --

**To donate to the Wild Aware Yard Sign Project:**

**Visit [www.wildaware.org](http://www.wildaware.org)**

**and click on the donate button**

*We recommend taking signs down periodically throughout the year to make them more noticeable when they are up.*

We want to wave a paw to our sponsors, donors and partners! Thank you for supporting Wild Aware and our mission of coexistence with wildlife.



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Please donate now to help us produce quality programs for our community.

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