

## In the News

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### Mountain lion killed after mauling 5-year-old child

A California woman fought off a juvenile male mountain lion (*Puma concolor*) upon finding it attacking her 5-year-old son in their front yard in the Santa Monica Mountains, according to the *LA Times*. The child was taken to the hospital and survived the attack. A wildlife agent searched the property and surrounding terrain, where he found and shot the cougar. He then found 2 other cougars, one collared and the other not. The agent tranquilized and relocated one cougar while the other fled from the area.



**Figure 1.** Two coyotes (*Canis latrans*) in the snow (photo courtesy of L. Edfelt).

### Coyote bites child in a Canadian park

A family visited Stanley Park in Vancouver, Canada. While running ahead, the 5-year-old child was attacked by a coyote (*Canis latrans*; Figure 1) and bitten on the leg, according to the *New York Post*. The animal was immediately chased off by the parents, and the child was taken to the hospital and released with minor injuries. The animal was not found immediately after, and countless other attacks have been reported. Due to a rise in coyote attacks, the park has taken further steps with closing the area at night as well as beginning to capture coyotes and either remove them from the park or be euthanized.

instead. There was no further action taken with the moose, as moose attacks are common when the animal is not given space.

### Elephant behavior adapting to limited land access

Recent data have indicated that more African Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*) are crop-raiding due to limited access to resources and changes in migration routes due to farms. While there has been less crop damage, data have shown a continuous increase in raids. *The Conversation* reported that as this continues, the human–wildlife conflict becomes extreme, as elephant deaths are based on starvation as well as farmers hunting and killing the animals that raid their crops.

### Video captures bull moose charging at a hiker

A hiker came across a bull moose (*Alces alces*) heading toward a lake in Colorado. Instead of giving the animal space, he followed and recorded the animal. According to the *New York Post*, the moose's behavior changed, and it charged at the hiker. The man was not injured as he hid behind a tree, which the moose struck

### Crocodiles defend territory from locals

This summer, the Philippines continued to see an increase in crocodile (*Crocodylus* spp.) attacks and encounters as housing spread further into wildlife habitats. People have begun to inhabit mangrove swamps, where 2 types of crocodiles reside. The saltwater crocodile

(*Crocodylus porosus*) has been faulted for attacks, but public misunderstanding about species distinction has also looped the critically endangered Philippine crocodile (*Crocodylus mindorensis*) into the problem. *Mongabay News* reported that due to the government’s help being human-based, locals have taken matters into their own hands and started removing crocodiles themselves. This act is illegal under the Philippine Wildlife Act.

### Woman attacked by deer in backyard

The *Detroit Free Press* reported that while checking her chicken coop, a woman was attacked by a mule deer buck (*Odocoileus hemionus*; Figure 2) wearing an orange collar. She managed to hold the buck’s antlers away from her until her son was able to scare the deer away. The deer continued to try and attack as the woman and her son headed inside. The Department of Natural Resources noted the collar and believed that someone may have tried to domesticate the animal, resulting in its lack of fear of humans.



**Figure 2.** Mule deer buck (*Odocoileus hemionus*) with other mule deer in field (photo courtesy of Mike W. Matthews).



**Figure 3.** Mother grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) with cub (photo courtesy of K. Bleier).

### Grizzly bear rushes woman standing too close to cubs

Recently, multiple park attendees at Yellowstone National Park reported a woman standing within 3 yards (approx. 2.75 m) of a mother grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and her cubs (Figure 3), according to the *Washington Post*. Videos showed the woman taking pictures, which then led to the woman being charged by the mother bear. No injuries were sustained, and additional reports stated the woman proceeded to interact with and harass other wildlife while visiting the park. Due to the collected information, she is now facing federal charges.

*Disclaimer:* The findings and conclusions in this article are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of Utah State University or the Jack H. Berryman Institute.

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Information from In the News can be cited as: Ionel, I., and J. Tegt. 2021. In the news. *Human–Wildlife Interactions* 15:239–240.