Please don’t feed park wildlife

How “handouts” hurt

As you hike through a natural setting, you may be tempted to think the squirrel staring back at you from the brush, or the bird peering down at you from a tree limb, is begging for a handout. Feeding wild animals is unhealthy for them, can be dangerous for you, and is strictly prohibited.

The success of any species depends on its natural diet. However, the adaptable creatures you are likely to encounter in the park will happily feast on “people” food, garbage, and anything else not locked away. Unfortunately, animals that become dependent on “handouts” do not get the nutrients they need. They may become aggressive and will be unprepared for times when the people are gone and food is scarce. They may range out into neighborhoods, looking for trash cans or pet food dishes.

Help California’s wildlife by not feeding them and by keeping your stored food and trash out of their reach.