

Black Bear Spotted Just North of Darien — Beware, the Males Travel Extensively in Search of Females

Author : Darienite.com Staff

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New Canaan police say residents in that town reported a black bear Tuesday morning, just north of the Merritt Parkway in the area of Old Stamford Road (Route 106), which becomes Hoyt Street in Darien.

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Black bears typically breed in late June or early July, [according to the state](#). During that time, males travel extensively in search of females. In New Canaan, bear sightings are reported to police all throughout town.

Multiple residents began calling in reports of the bear starting around 8 a.m., according to New Canaan Animal Control Officer Allyson Halm.

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Halm has said New Canaan is seeing an [increasing](#) number of black bears appear each spring. The animals often are drawn to bird feeders on residential properties. Halm encourages residents to haze the bears away.

"Do your homework, know they are here and be prepared to haze them," she said.

Halm noted on a recent [podcast](#) about spring wildlife in New Canaan that black bears were sighted in town last month. And in February, a black bear had been [seen](#) on [Smith Ridge Road](#) near the New York State line, likely roused from its winter slumber by a string of unseasonably warm days.

In Darien, a black bear was spotted [in Tokeneke](#) in May 2020.

In November, a black bear [broke](#) into a chicken coop in northeastern New Canaan and killed chickens inside it, officials said. The prior month, a resident of the same area [photographed](#) a mother bear and two young cubs on their property.

Last year, the first [reported](#) bear sighting didn't come until June, on [Briscoe Road](#). That same week, a black bear showing state tag number "211" on his ears could be seen [devouring](#) a young fawn near a [Logan Road](#) bus stop.