
Keywords: 8AT/habituation/human-carnivore interaction/Malme/public attitude/Ursus arctos

Abstract: I analyzed 515 reliable reports of bear (Ursus arctos) observations and encounters in Austria during 1990?96 with respect to season, time of day, profession and activity of the observer, distance to the bear, reaction of the bear, and reaction of humans. Most commonly, bears were observed by hunters or foresters at dawn or dusk, when observers were driving a car on a forest road or hunting from a blind. Tourists and mushroom pickers seldom met bears. Bears normally fled or slowly withdrew when they encountered humans, but in about 25% of the cases bears acted indifferent or curious. Ten percent of the encounters were potentially dangerous. Three females with cubs, surprised at close distance, and 2 subadult bears, harassed at a feeding site, started false attacks. Two radiocollared females were seen more often when they had cubs than when they had not, and a higher percent of sightings with cubs were during the day.
Type of observers:
1. Hunters (professional hunters, hunters of a hunting club, farmers on the estates).
2. Woodworkers (foresters, forest managers, woodcutters, etc.).
3. Researchers (and Alpine hermit).  
4. Locals (other than hunters, woodcutters, and farmers).
5. Tourists.
7. Others (guesthouses, reports).

Activity of observer:
1. Hunting (usually from a moored blind, but including still hunting and deer (Cervus elaphus) feeding in feeding site, searching for carrion, and shot deer).
2. Driving ('car, bus, tractor, van, motorcycle).
3. Housework (working or sitting at home, but, of course).
4. Hiking (or mountain: e.g., walking, jogging, skiing).
5. Farming (or field: e.g., feeding, to maintain a forest).
6. Research (radioactivity, searching for bear signs, snow research).
7. Bear watching (bearwatchers going or lying at attractive sites such as feeding sites or hills).
8. Others (in a boat, in a tree, etc.).

The reaction of observers was classified as (1) Right, (2) Interest, (3) No interest, (4) Approaching, (5) Approaching (rushing or open approach), (6) Stacying (staying, waiting, clapping, watching, drawing, watching, watching), (7) Shirking shell by shell into the car), (8) Chasing (following by car a feeding bear on a forest road, and (9) Counseling.

The reaction of the bear was classified as (1) Flight, (2) Remain, (3) Cross the road (the bear either fleeing in or in the presence of people), (4) Passage (by bear keeps its way after observing the observer), (5) Staying (to reach a desired position), and (6) Approaching (including hours before the observer and the bear at a distance of 60 m).

There were 511 bear encounters, 511 observations, and 511 data collection points (111 reports) were discarded because of low reliability or poor documentation.

The second observation was analyzed with respect to date, time of day, distance to the bear, type and activity of the observer, reaction of the observer, reaction of the bear, the type and activity of the observer were divided as follows:

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Table 7. Reaction of bear to rabbit-human encounters in Australia, 1980-96. (N=120). It is not clear if the bear was aware of human presence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Encounter</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Rabbits killed</th>
<th>Rabbits injured</th>
<th>Rabbits unharmed</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
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<td>30</td>
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in the activity measurements during feeding: 48% and 75% of bears from the two populations were active for 50% with and without cubs, respectively. Racine and Gorb (1987) in 30% behaviors. It is estimated that of the most paternally dangerous segment of the bear population is the most visible during the day in the landscape devoid of wilderness and close to humans.

The special behavior of females with cubs and the trend toward reduced activity of the bears in general are crucial problems regarding the existence of man and bear in the Austrian landscape. Management has to focus (1) on the education of the people, providing information about the appropriate reactions in bears and about the danger of feeding bears, and (2) on actions to help the bears to maintain their dynamics in an uncontrolled population.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED


