

The bears? They're still out there.

In La Crosse and Monroe county, it's becoming not at all unusual to see a black bear wandering about. And not at all unusual for DNR biologist Ron Lichtie to hear a few complaints about the bears doing damage to bird feeders and crops.

Lichtie figures there's anywhere from 5 to 10 black bears that have permanently settled in the area. Many of those, he guesses, driven out of territory farther north by other bears.