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A bobcat dines on a deer carcass in the Goldhabers' backyard on Stonewall Road. To see a video of the encounter, go to the blog section of our website.

Rare sighting of a bobcat in Claremont Canyon by Marilyn Goldhaber

ONE MORNING LAST DECEMBER I awoke to witness a bobcat scavenging a deer carcass right outside my upstairs window. At first glance, I noticed just the carcass, then, doing a double-take, saw a large bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) slinking up from our agapanthus bed toward it's meal. With my smart phone nearby, I giddily began filming as the scene unfolded.

Three days in a row the cat returned to the spot and my husband and I watched fascinated. On day three we managed to get some help and carted the carcass down to the street for pick up (that's another story). It was then that we realized the deer was probably a juvenile and the cat was not so terribly big after all. We don't know whether our bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) or some other animal (a coyote or cougar) made the kill. We kept our dog inside for a while.

Sightings of bobcats are rare, however, these shy animals are common in the Bay Area. Our bobcat appears to be a resident of Claremont Canyon. Other neighbors along Stonewall Road where we live likely saw the same animal. Two years earlier, my next-door neighbor filmed a bobcat

sunning itself on top of a log, contentedly licking its paws. We were very excited at the time. Stonewall Road borders the Claremont Canyon Regional Preserve and many of us, especially on the uphill side, witness wildlife in our yards. No need to go on Safari.
