

FEEDING WATER BIRDS



Many people enjoy feeding water birds in parks, gardens and wetlands. This may appear kind and helpful...but is it?

6 GOOD REASONS NOT TO FEED WATER BIRDS

1. Supplementary food may be nutritionally inadequate and result in health problems to the animal and its offspring. Each species requires nutrients from its own natural food sources.
2. Wildlife may become dependent on this supplemental food and subsequent generations will lack the skills necessary to recognise and find their own natural food sources.
3. The number of animals in an area is controlled by the availability of food. By introducing a source of additional food more young will be produced.
4. An increase in the number of animals leads to competition for natural food sources and increases aggressive behavior both within and among other species.
5. Uneaten food fouls the water causing levels of bacteria to rise and increases the incident of diseases like **botulism** which can quickly spread and kill if untreated.
6. You may not be the only one feeding the birds. This can create opportunistic feeding patterns and lead birds to become a nuisance.

IF YOU'RE STILL NOT CONVINCED...

1. Feed only **occasionally** to prevent them becoming dependent.
2. Feed a more natural-like diet, consisting of shredded spinach, lettuce or seeds. Failing this, only **good quality duck pellets**.

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Black Duck

Do **NOT** feed **BREAD** or food scraps. These have little or no nutritional value for any of our wildlife species.

Join a Friends Group or LandCare Group to help care for your local wetland.

Call **AWARE** if you see any injured or orphaned water birds.



Purple Swamphen

Black Swan

Wood Duck