



**Thank you for not feeding the ducks and geese. The friendly gesture protects their health and the environment.**

**1. Embrace their natural diet:**

- Feeding them bread, popcorn, and peanuts disrupts their natural diet. These unnatural foods can lead to serious health issues.
- Birds fill up on the non-nutritional handouts, causing them to feel full and reduces their motivation to forage for nutritious natural foods.
- A consistent inappropriate diet can lead to malnutrition, deficiency and deformities. These conditions can leave waterfowl flightless and dependent on handouts, creating a harmful cycle of malnutrition.

**2. Environmental Impact, Health Risks and Disease Spread:**

- Feeding waterfowl creates crowding and competition for food resources, increasing susceptibility to diseases. They also develop a weakened immune system from the poor nutrition diet, making it difficult to recover from any contracted disease.
- Disease transmission among waterfowl can impact not only ducks and geese but also other wildlife species and even humans through contaminated water sources.
- Overfeeding can cause rapid population growth, leading to fecal contamination and disease outbreaks, particularly in warmer months. Excess nutrients from waterfowl droppings contribute to water quality problems such as algal blooms and pollution.
- Rotting food from overfeeding further degrades water quality, creating unhealthy environments for wildlife and humans alike.

**3. Disruption of Migration Patterns and Behavior of Waterfowl:**

- Habituation to human feeding can deter ducks and geese from migrating, disrupting their natural behavior and population dynamics.
- Concentrated feeding areas can lead to overcrowding and aggression. A once friendly duck can become aggressive to children, adults and pets with the expectation food should be coming. This can lead to human or waterfowl injury.

By refraining from feeding waterfowl, we can help maintain healthier ecosystems, reduce the spread of disease, and promote the natural behaviors of these birds, benefiting both wildlife and human communities.