

LEARN. ACT. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Feeding waterfowl is often done with good intentions. Choosing appropriate foods helps protect birds, water quality, and the surrounding ecosystem.

EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE FOOD

Thawed frozen peas, cracked corn, halved seedless grapes, bird seed, oats, leafy greens, chopped lettuce



Formulated waterfowl feed



WHY IT'S A PROBLEM WATER QUALITY

Food that isn't eaten doesn't just disappear—it breaks down in the water. As it breaks down, it adds nutrients that feed algae and bacteria. This can lower oxygen levels in the water, which can stress or harm fish and other aquatic life. Over time, repeated feeding can lead to poorer water quality and unhealthy pond conditions.

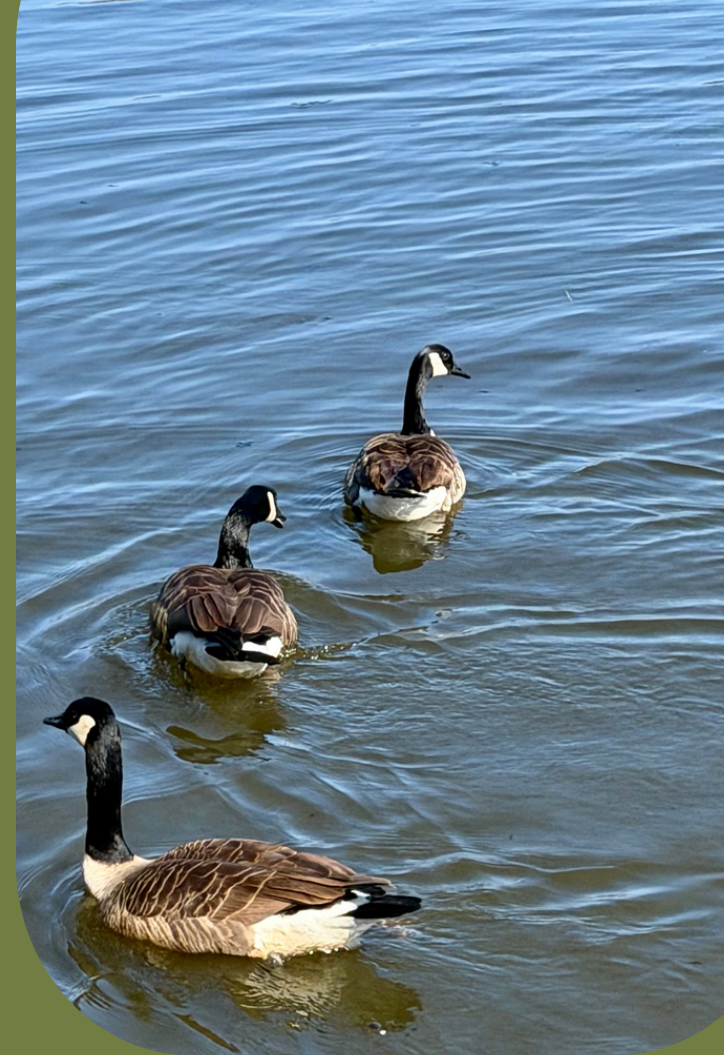


RODENTS

Rodents are drawn to easy food sources and may begin to gather in the area, which can create sanitation concerns and disrupt the local environment.

ILLNESS

Botulism can develop in certain environmental conditions. It attacks the nervous system, leading to weakness and paralysis. Birds may have trouble holding up their head, moving, or swimming, and severe cases can be fatal.



PLEASE DON'T FEED US BREAD

A small action that
impacts wildlife health
and water quality



HEALTH

Bread provides very little of the nutrients waterfowl need to grow and maintain healthy bodies. When birds regularly eat low-nutrient foods, they may feel full and reduce their intake of natural foods that are essential for proper development. One concern associated with long-term poor diet is Angel Wing.



WHAT IS ANGEL WING?

Angel Wing is a condition where the joint of a wing twists outward instead of lying flat against the body. This occurs when the wing develops abnormally, often in young birds.

Birds affected by this condition may be unable to fly properly. In the wild, this can affect their ability to migrate, escape predators, and access food sources.

While multiple factors can contribute to Angel Wing, diets high in processed or low-nutrient foods—such as bread—are associated with an increased risk.



WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM?

In some cases, wildlife rehabilitators may attempt treatment if the condition is caught early. However, when the deformity is severe or permanent, birds may not be able to survive in the wild. In those cases, humane euthanasia is sometimes considered to prevent prolonged suffering.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE WILDLIFE IN NEED OF HELP:

Contact a local Wildlife Rehabilitator. You can find one using [AnimalHelpNow app](#) or by contacting someone directly by scanning the QR Code Below.



Long Island Facilities:

SSweetbriar: 631-979-6344

WINORR: (516) 293-0587

Wildlife Center of LI: (516) 674-0982

STAR: (631) 736-8207

Evelyn Alexander Wildlife Center: (631) 728 9453



FEED RESPONSIBLY

- Offer small amounts
- Scatter food
- Avoid crowding
- Support natural feeding behavior

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
EFFORT TO KEEP OUR
WILDLIFE HEALTHY!**