

It's The Law

The feeding of migratory and resident waterfowl is detrimental to the waterfowl and may result in:

- ⇒ Damage to flora, fauna and property
- ⇒ Harm water quality
- ⇒ Increase the potential to spread disease
- ⇒ Cause a public health nuisance and safety hazard that is detrimental to the general welfare of the public and the lake

*West Milford Ordinance
2001-006 ~ Amended*

Definitions

WATERFOWL

Any bird that frequents the water, or lives about rivers, lakes, etc., or on or near the sea; whether migratory or not, including but not limited to ducks, geese, swans, heron, and egrets.

FEED

To give, place, expose, deposit, distribute or scatter any edible material in a location accessible to waterfowl any type of food, including but not limited to corn, wheat or other grains, bread, popcorn, salt, scraps or any similar nutritive substance to be eaten by waterfowl.

WATERWAYS

Lakes, ponds, streams, creeks, rivers and storm water basins.

For more information and to contact us,
please visit our website at

www.gwlc.org



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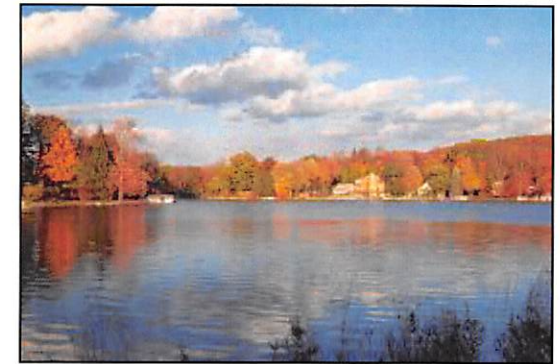
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NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Representative

Keep The Wild In Wildlife



Please...

Do Not Feed The Waterfowl



Greenwood Lake Commission

Education Series

www.gwlc.org

What's The Big Deal?

Artificial Feeding of Waterfowl Causes...

POOR NUTRITION

- The foods that are normally fed to waterfowl by humans include bread, chips, and popcorn. These processed foods contain little nutritional value and just fill the birds' stomach
- Malnutrition leads to low energy, muscle deterioration, development of deformed wings in young birds, loss of flight later in life, decrease in successful reproduction, lowered ability to avoid predation and lowered overall life expectancy

ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

- Artificial feeding causes a high concentration of birds leading to:
 - ⇒ Overgrazing of vegetation
 - ⇒ Landscape degradation making it undesirable for other species
 - ⇒ Unsanitary feces concentration

DELAYED OR NO MIGRATION

- Birds become reluctant to leave in the winter and may not survive the sudden cold

WATER POLLUTION

- The abundance of birds causes an unnatural amount of droppings, the nutrients of which can enter the waterways and cause:
 - ⇒ Summer algal blooms
 - ⇒ E-coli
 - ⇒ Swimmers Itch
 - ⇒ Disease
- The result is high bacteria levels and the closing of bathing areas



**Birds Have
Amazing
Survival
Skills**

SPREAD OF DISEASE

- At artificial feeding sites, birds feed in the same place they defecate which is not healthy
- Large concentrations of birds facilitate the spread of disease, such as Bird Flu, Avian Botulism, Avian Cholera, Aspergillosis and Duck Virus Enteritis, etc.

OVERCROWDING

- Attracts birds to unnatural areas such as near highways, parking lots, golf courses and fast food restaurants where they are subject to accidental death
- Can go from pleasure to nuisance in very little time as more birds flock to the area
- High concentrations of birds and an abundance of food scraps, can lead to large numbers of scavengers moving into the area, such as rats and raccoons
- Interbreeding of domestic and wild birds causes species degradation

UNNATURAL BEHAVIOR

- Loss of fear of humans can cause unusual and unpredictable aggressive behavior, including knocking down a small child or adult
- Dependency on human handouts causes the loss of ability to compete and ultimately survive

The allure of wild waterfowl hinges on the fact that they are wild creatures. Once you begin to feed them unnaturally, they lose that wild feel and become nothing more than pests.