

THREE REASONS WHY NOT TO FEED THE BIRDS

1. ANGEL WING

The Canada goose pictured is afflicted by Angel Wing, which causes the ends of its wings to poke out at an odd (and useless for flying) angle. You may see birds like this in local parks where they're fed bread. One theory is that the disease is caused by that artificial diet, that causes the wrist joints to develop poorly in the young birds. A competing theory is that it is a genetic disease, though in one Swedish experiment, putting an end to feeding resulted in no Angel wing in the next year's offspring which seems quite compelling.



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2. RATS & DISEASES

If food turns mouldy or stale, too much food is being put out for the birds to eat in one day. Always remove any stale or mouldy food promptly. Stale food provides a breeding ground for salmonella bacteria, which can cause food poisoning. At least one type of salmonella causes death among such species as greenfinches and house sparrows. Large quantities of food scattered on the ground will attract rats and mice. Rats can carry diseases that affect humans.



Rotting food pollutes the water and breeds deadly diseases and parasites...

- Uneaten food quickly forms a deadly mould called ; *Aspergillus fumigatus* fatal to ducks without early diagnosis and expensive treatment.

<http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/s/00dis/fungalalgal/aspergillosis.htm>

- **Avian Botulism** (caused by artificial feeding) can kill entire waterfowl populations

<http://wildpro.twycrosszoo.org/s/00dis/toxic/biotoxin/botulism.htm>

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3. GULLS

There is no legislation which specifically prevents people from feeding gulls; however, it is very undesirable to do this. Attracting gulls encourages them to foul the immediate area, causes disturbance from noise and encourages gulls to nest in areas they would otherwise not colonise. Gulls mainly forage in agricultural areas but will take discarded food in urban areas too. Please dispose of unwanted food responsibly in a wheelie bin or bin with a lid. Avoid leaving bin bags out which contain discarded food. Gulls will travel up to 35 km per day in their search for food and don't necessarily feed or nest in the same area so cutting off their food source, e.g. from local hot food takeaways, will not necessarily prevent nesting nearby.



POSTERS

Please . . .
**don't feed
 waterfowl.**



REGULAR FEEDING CAN CAUSE:

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Unnatural behavior
- Pollution
- Overcrowding
- Delayed migration

Many people enjoy feeding waterfowl, but the effects of this seemingly generous act can be harmful. If you care about waterfowl, please stop feeding them . . . allow them to return to their natural habits.



Please don't feed the geese.

Geese and other local wildlife may seem tame, but they bite hard. Also, people food just isn't good for them.

