

DON'T FEED BREAD TO WATERFOWL!

WHY?

When young ducks and geese are fed bread, they do not get proper nutrition, but they still get full. This makes them stop looking for food that will help them grow properly. It is not a bad thing to feed waterfowl – however, if human-fed birds are going to remain healthy, it is important that they are fed food items that will keep them properly nourished. A young duck or goose living off of bread is like a human child living off of candy - they may enjoy it, but it will not help them grow.

ANGEL WING

When growing waterfowl are fed too much bread, it begins to affect their development. The lack of nutrition impacts their wing and feather growth. They have too many carbohydrates and sugars and not enough vitamins or minerals, so their wings begin to develop outward and their feathers grow incorrectly. This makes it impossible for the affected birds to fly, which is necessary for migration during the winter. This condition is incurable, which is why it is important!

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- Instead of bread, try giving them a treat they will enjoy just as much without the negative impacts! Some examples include waterfowl feed, bird seed, oatmeal, and frozen peas.
- When feeding waterfowl, throw the food onto the shore to avoid dirty water. Don't leave uneaten food to rot, because this can result in algae growth that hurts other local wildlife.
- Educate others! Tell your friends and family about what you have learned.

