

Do Not Feed Wildlife

Wild animals have evolved to survive in natural conditions and do not benefit from handouts. Anytime a caller mentions that they are feeding wildlife. Nicely explain to them that this is not a good idea.

“It’s thoughtful of you to want to feed the animals, but it is not in the best interest of the animal....etc.” Most of the time people don’t realize they are doing harm.

Nutritional Problems:

low in protein, calcium and essential vitamins/minerals. Results in Metabolic Bone Disease. Commercial duck/chicken feed may cause Angel Wing.

Dependency:

Birds that are fed in an otherwise unsuitable habitat, can become dependent on humans for food. May become nuisance animals, often become aggressive.

Overcrowding:

Supplemental feeding artificially raises the number of individuals the pond can support, resulting in overcrowding, increased competition for food. Weaker birds often injured by more dominant birds

Disease:

Increased transmission of diseases in dense populations.

Botulism, Avian cholera, Aspergillosis, duck plague.

Scattered food on the ground attracts other wildlife- raccoons, opossums, rats etc. May introduce other diseases.

Habituation:

Lose their fear of people and other predators. More likely to be consumed by predators (cats, dogs, coyotes, raccoons). Attacked by malicious people.

Habitat Degradation:

Excess nutrients cause problems with water quality. Can cause algal blooms- release toxins, fish kills.