

don't do it!



[resources]

» for more information

APA Visitors Interpretive Centers www.adkvic.org

Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program
www.adkscience.org/loons

Adirondack Mountain Club www.adk.org

Ducks Unlimited Canada
www.ducks.ca/resources/general/faq/faq2.html

Live Ducks www.liveducks.com/bread.html

The Wild Center (The Natural History Museum
of the Adirondacks) www.wildcenter.org

The Nature Conservancy www.tnc.org

» sponsored by

Mirror Lake Watershed
Association www.mirrorlake.net



» partially funded by

Lake Champlain Basin Program www.lcbp.org

» don't feed
the **wildlife!**

Everybody likes to feed the ducks. After all, they're so cute and they look so needy. They must be hungry! Who knows when they had their last meal, or when they'll have their next one? Aren't we helping the ducks when we feed them?

Wrong! Resist that temptation to feed the ducks. We know it's hard, but feeding the waterfowl is harmful to them...and harmful to humans, too.



[the main problems]

» for waterfowl

Ducks, geese and gulls have a natural survival rhythm. Our interruptions of their routine creates a destructive cycle which breaks the animals of their instinctual habits. By feeding the waterfowl things like popcorn, bread, crackers and potato chips, we make them dependent on our handouts and provide them with less nutritious foods than they naturally would find for themselves.

Our feeding them also hurts their chance of survival by encouraging them to lose their natural fear of us. Their close contact with humans leads to more aggressive behavior as they grow accustomed to us, an increased susceptibility to disease, and higher levels of accidental death.

» for humans

Feeding waterfowl puts us at risk for "Swimmer's Itch," a skin rash caused by parasitic flatworms. Carried by warm-blooded aquatic animals such as ducks and geese, these flatworms are one part of a cycle and can penetrate our skin when we are in close proximity to waterfowl.

Although the parasite dies immediately after penetrating the skin, many people are allergic to these parasites and develop a rash at the point of entry. Repeated contact can intensify outbreaks of the rash, and the itching can last as long as a week.

[a few solutions]

» become aware of artificial feeding

By becoming aware of artificial feeding we can safely "stop feeding the ducks, geese and gulls" and allow these animals to be wild forever. Those waterfowl which have become accustomed to our human ways will readapt to their natural habits if we stop feeding them. And as they return to their natural environs, keeping their distance from us, we face a far lesser risk of contracting "Swimmer's Itch" – and that's a good thing!

» view animals in their natural environs

Plan outings to visit the Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Centers, the Adirondack Museum and The Wild Center (the Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks) to learn about these animals in their natural habitats. Each month the local chapters of The Adirondack Mountain Club and The Nature Conservancy offer a variety of lectures and programs, many of which are about the area's wildlife.



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