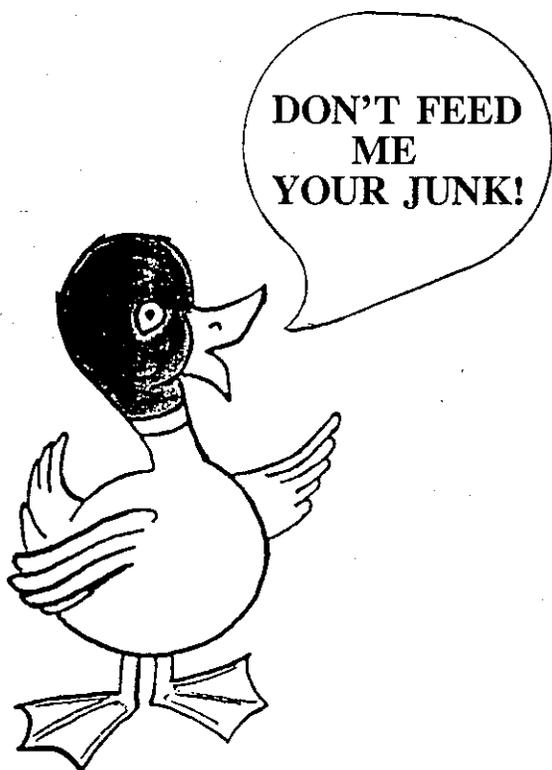


It is understood that these birds are a pleasure to watch, to be close to and to feed. **However, feeding waterfowl is not in their best interest.** By feeding them you may not only be doing short term harm but long term harm to the population as well. The uninformed person wishing to feed the waterfowl will most likely grab the old white bread, popcorn, potato chips or some other junk food. Unfortunately for the birds these handouts, while filling, do little to satisfy their nutritional needs.



Wild waterfowl are a non-point source of pollution. You understand the problem, help us retain their wildness. Controlling pollution is not "somebody else's problem"; it affects each of us. You can help to combat non-point source pollution and protect our precious water resources. Please do not feed the wild waterfowl.

FEEDING WILD WATERFOWL:

- * is not in their best interest
- * may make them depend on people for food
- * interrupt normal migration patterns and may create non-migratory permanent flocks
- * our junk food does nothing to satisfy their nutritional needs
- * may cause them to concentrate in unnaturally large flocks
- * May cause the spreading of disease in waterfowl
- * may be harmful to their health

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RECYCLE THIS PAMPHLET: PASS IT ON

DO NOT FEED THE WILD WATERFOWL

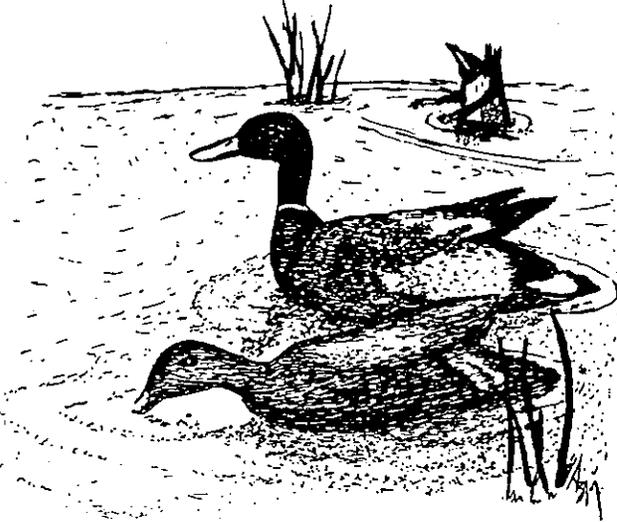
Feeding them is not in the best interest of the waterfowl.

If we care,
we will not feed them.



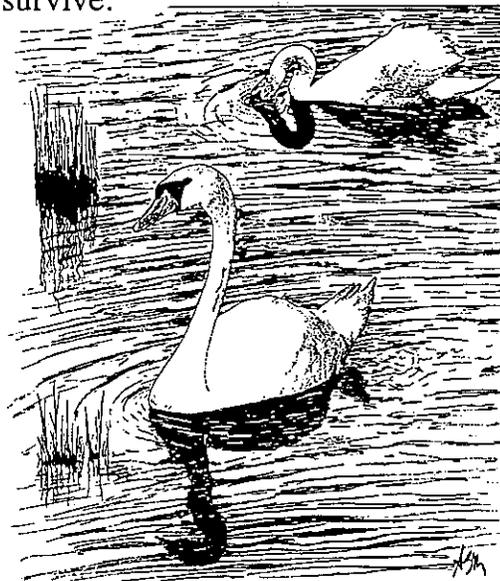
Contact your local officials; several towns have passed local bylaws with fines prohibiting the feeding of waterfowl.

DO NOT FEED THE WILD WATERFOWL



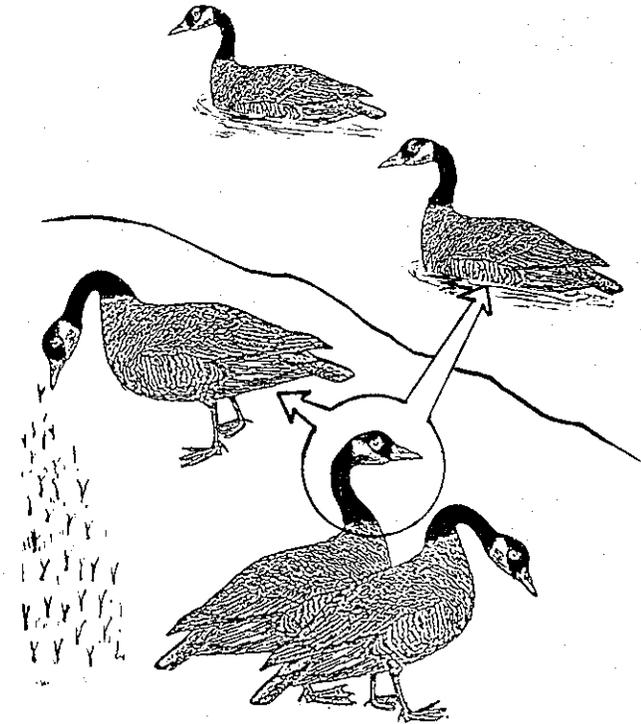
Shellfish areas are being closed. Swimming areas are being closed. Federal, state and local environmental agencies have identified non-point source pollution as a major cause of the unacceptable levels of fecal coliform bacteria in our water bodies. Fecal coliform bacteria comes from all warm blooded animals including man, dogs, horses, cats, deer, skunks, muskrats and birds. **Wild waterfowl are unmistakably one of the non-point sources of pollution.** Wild waterfowl produce incredibly high numbers of both fecal coliform and fecal strep bacteria. While exact populations for wild ducks and geese vary from place to place, these birds can have a major affect on the water quality. One goose can contribute over three pounds of manure to a system in a twenty-four hour period. An abundance of waterfowl means too much waste contributed to our waterways.

The beauty of our wild waterfowl in their natural surroundings can not be understated. These waterfowl ultimately depend for their survival on their ability to find and make use of sufficient food and habitat to maintain healthy populations. Each year most waterfowl migrate great distances south in search of food and habitat to carry them through the winter months. In the spring they migrate north along the Atlantic flyway to their breeding grounds. Massachusetts and Cape Cod are key components of the Atlantic flyway. In nature, an abundant source of food always leads to an increase in the population. But when food is artificially provided, populations may attain numbers that the natural habitat cannot support. If they are fed, waterfowl may linger past their normal migration departure time and find winter too severe to survive.



As a result of these concerns several communities have passed bylaws prohibiting the feeding of waterfowl.

DISEASE TRANSMISSION BY THE CONGREGATION OF GEESE:



Do not feed the wild waterfowl, it may be harmful to their health. Waterfowl that are fed may become non-migratory and this may cause an unbalance in nature. In addition to the unnatural non-migrating flocks of waterfowl, the Atlantic flyway hosts naturally migrating waterfowl that over-winter here. Both populations compete for and consume vegetation for food that in winter is naturally reduced in quality and quantity. Both populations may become stressed as their habitat shrinks. When waterfowl are fed they will congregate in unnaturally large flocks. This may place additional stress on the population and ultimately may leave the waterfowl susceptible to potentially life threatening disease.