

# PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS

Bread and birdseed do not contain the nutrients required to keep native birds healthy. They do contain additives that are not part of the diet of our indigenous birds. The wrong types of food and a lack of required nutrients can cause birds to become sickly, less resistant to disease and less able to escape predators such as cats and foxes.

Birds become dependant on handouts and will no longer forage for their "natural" foods.

Bread attracts other pests:

**Foxes:** which prey opportunistically on local native wildlife.

**Birds:** Starlings, Mynas and Turtledoves, which aggressively compete for available food and nesting sites, forcing more timid native birds out of the area.

**Fish:** Feral fish such as carp and mosquito fish, which can cause conditions which lead to destruction of habitat for native water-life by muddying the water and eating the larvae of beneficial insects and crustaceans.

**Other pests:** Whatever is left over becomes food for vermin such as mice, rats, flies and European wasps.

**Biodiversity:** Food handouts attract Domestic feral ducks which can, and do, cross-breed with native ducks. In New Zealand, for instance, the population of native pure-bred Black Ducks is under serious threat due to cross-breeding with feral ducks.

**Disease:** Rotting food scraps and build-up of faecal matter can cause botulism, the cause of death of many Pacific Black Ducks at our waterways.

**Snakes:** An increase in vermin can also cause an increase in snake numbers as they breed when there is more food about.