



DUCKS

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-DUCK CONFLICTS:

- **Do not feed wildlife.** This increases the chance that the animal will lose its natural fear of humans and become aggressive.
- **No crackers for quackers.** Feeding bread, chips, and other human food to waterfowl can make them ill and cause deformities, as it does not contain the right nutrition or calories needed to stay warm or properly develop.
- **Increased population, increased spread of disease.** Feeding leads to public health concerns. Too many animals in one place increases the chance of disease transmission to people and among other wildlife.
- **Do not approach or attempt to pet ducks.** They seem friendly, but are wild! Duck bites can cause injury and carry disease.
- **A leashed dog is a safer dog.** When out for a walk, keep your pet leashed to greatly reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.

BENEFITS OF DUCKS

Waterfowl, like ducks, are an integral part of the wetland ecosystem. Their migratory movements enhance biodiversity by introducing plant, invertebrate, amphibian, and fish species from other sites.

For example, frog eggs might get transported from pond-to-pond if they are stuck on a duck's foot, or ingested insect larvae might get deposited in a wetland far from where it was eaten.

NATURAL HISTORY

- Ducks are members of the Anatidae family. They inhabit every state in the United States. Ducks rely on water and are found in marshes, oceans, rivers, ponds, and lakes. They are a common sight in urban settings.
- Ducks are omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. A duck's diet depends on a range of factors including species and habitat. For example, dabbling ducks tend to feed on plants and insects, while diving ducks prefer fish and crustaceans.
- Ducks are highly social. Males, called drakes, and females sometimes live in pairs or together with their ducklings. At other times, ducks spend much of their time in larger groups.
- Ducks are considered a diurnal bird species, meaning they are most active during the day. However, studies have shown that many duck species are semi-nocturnal and may be very active at night- especially during full moons or bright, clear nights.