

## CONTROL OF DOGS

Even well behaved dogs can scare wildlife so please keep all dogs out of the lake and on a lead when walking around the lake. Disturbance during the breeding season for nesting birds can lead to eggs not hatching. By keeping your dog on a lead you can help protect our wildlife. You risk prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 if your dog is seen attacking wildlife of any kind.



Braybrooke Pond

### Found a sick or injured bird?

**Swan Lifeline** is a local charity providing rescue, treatment and shelter for sick or injured swans.

**Swan Lifeline: 01753 859397**

The **RSPB** does not run bird hospitals or a rescue service but they can offer advice.

**RSPB: 01767 693690**

If you require further information, please contact our Environment Warden on  
**07714 481535**  
or e-mail  
**Environment.Warden@bracknelltowncouncil.gov.uk**

## Caring for our Wildlife in Lakes & Ponds



*Geese & goslings at North Lake*

## Bracknell Town Council

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Bracknell  
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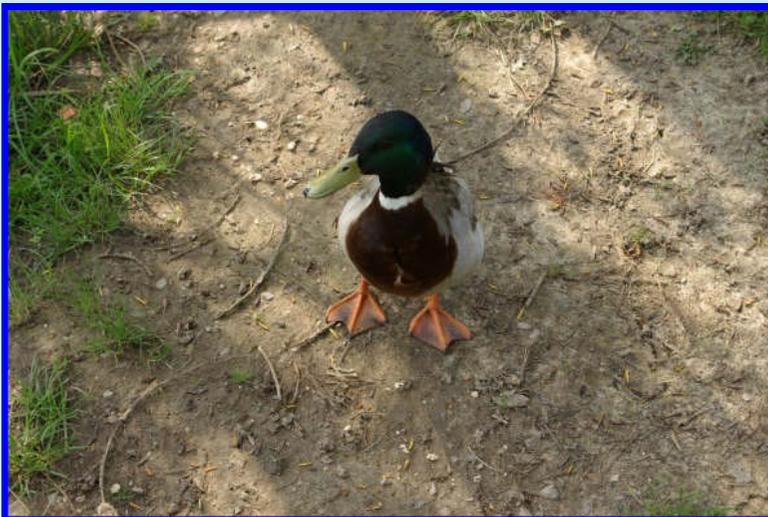
# FEEDING THE DUCKS

We all love feeding the ducks. In order to keep the wildlife healthy and the lake clean we would prefer you not to use bread—but to feed the birds with maize or seed.

Bread does not contain all the vital ingredients to provide birds with the energy they need. It is like junk food that tastes good but has no nutritional value. In addition, mouldy bread will make the birds ill.

Provision of unlimited quantities of food can attract more and more birds to the site, which can cause overpopulation with its associated impact on health, water quality etc. Uneaten food is often left to rot. Decaying food pollutes the water and land and encourages pest species such as rats which could cause a public health problem.

Build up of uneaten food and bird droppings may cause a problem with nutrient enrichment in the water. Usually moving water bodies such as rivers are OK but enclosed water bodies such as ponds or lakes overpopulated with sedentary birds can suffer from algal growth which smothers aquatic plants and can deprive the water of oxygen.



# WHEN FEEDING THE BIRDS

## PLEASE DO:

- ◆ Give bird-seed or duck pellets—if these are not available try brown rice, lentils, pearl barley or split peas. However they must all be cooked first
- ◆ Note that birds don't naturally eat bread—they are more used to eating seeds, berries and pulses
- ◆ *Lettuce*—as a nation we are guilty of throwing away a vast amount of lettuce, especially the bagged variety. Instead of consigning it to the bin, rip it into pieces and treat your local ducks. *Frozen peas and sweetcorn*—there is no need to cook them but defrost them first! *Oats*—flapjacks, rolled oats and even instant porridge oats will be a huge hit with ducks. *Seeds*—whether you buy bird seed or seeds from the healthy aisle in the supermarket—the ducks will be very grateful for these nutritious nibbles.
- ◆ Avoid feeding in areas where the grass is showing wear or damage
- ◆ Throw food into the water rather onto land. This helps to reduce mess on land and stops birds associating every human with food
- ◆ Feeding in the water reduces the chance of conflict between humans and birds and can help reduce the chance of birds become injured or distressed, especially near roads
- ◆ Only give as much as the birds eat while you are there, as uneaten food left in the water can lead to pollution and disease
- ◆ Dispose of empty feed bags correctly—they can be dangerous to the birds and other wildlife

## PLEASE DO NOT:

- ◆ Feed with bread
- ◆ Feed with mouldy food of any type
- ◆ Feed cooked food (other than pulses and grain)
- ◆ Feed cheese or meat
- ◆ Feed on flower beds and other planting, or where the grass is worn
- ◆ Leave food behind as this attracts rats and vermin