

DUCKS

BENEFITS OF DUCKS

Waterfowl, including ducks, play a crucial role in the wetland ecosystem. Their migratory movements promote biodiversity by introducing new plant, invertebrate, amphibian, and fish species from different locations.

For instance, frog eggs may be transferred from one pond to another if they get attached to a duck's foot, or insect larvae ingested by ducks may get deposited in a wetland far from where they were initially eaten. Such activities enhance ecological diversity, helping to maintain a healthy and balanced wetland ecosystem.

NATURAL HISTORY

- The Anatidae family includes ducks, which are found in every state of the United States and are commonly seen in urban areas. Ducks rely on water and can be found in various habitats such as marshes, oceans, rivers, ponds, and lakes.
- Ducks are omnivores and their diet varies depending on their species and habitat. Dabbling ducks mainly eat plants and insects, while diving ducks prefer fish and crustaceans.
- Ducks are social animals and can be found in pairs or larger groups, including both males (drakes) and females with ducklings.
- Ducks are primarily diurnal, meaning they are most active during the day, but some species have been found to be semi-nocturnal and active at night, particularly during full moons or clear nights.

TIPS FOR REDUCING HUMAN-DUCK CONFLICTS:

- **Avoid feeding wildlife.** It can lead to loss of natural fear and increase aggression towards humans.
- **Avoid feeding waterfowl human food** like bread, chips, etc. as it can make them ill, deform, and not provide necessary nutrition and calories.
- Feeding wildlife can lead to **public health concerns** due to increased population and spread of disease.
- **Do not approach** or attempt to pet ducks. They are wild animals and may bite causing injury and disease transmission.
- **Keep your pet leashed** when out for a walk to reduce the chance of a negative wildlife encounter.



City of

Saginaw