A photograph showing a person's hand holding a piece of bread, which a male mallard duck is pecking at. Several other ducks are visible in the water around the pond's edge.

Negative Impacts of Feeding Waterfowl

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

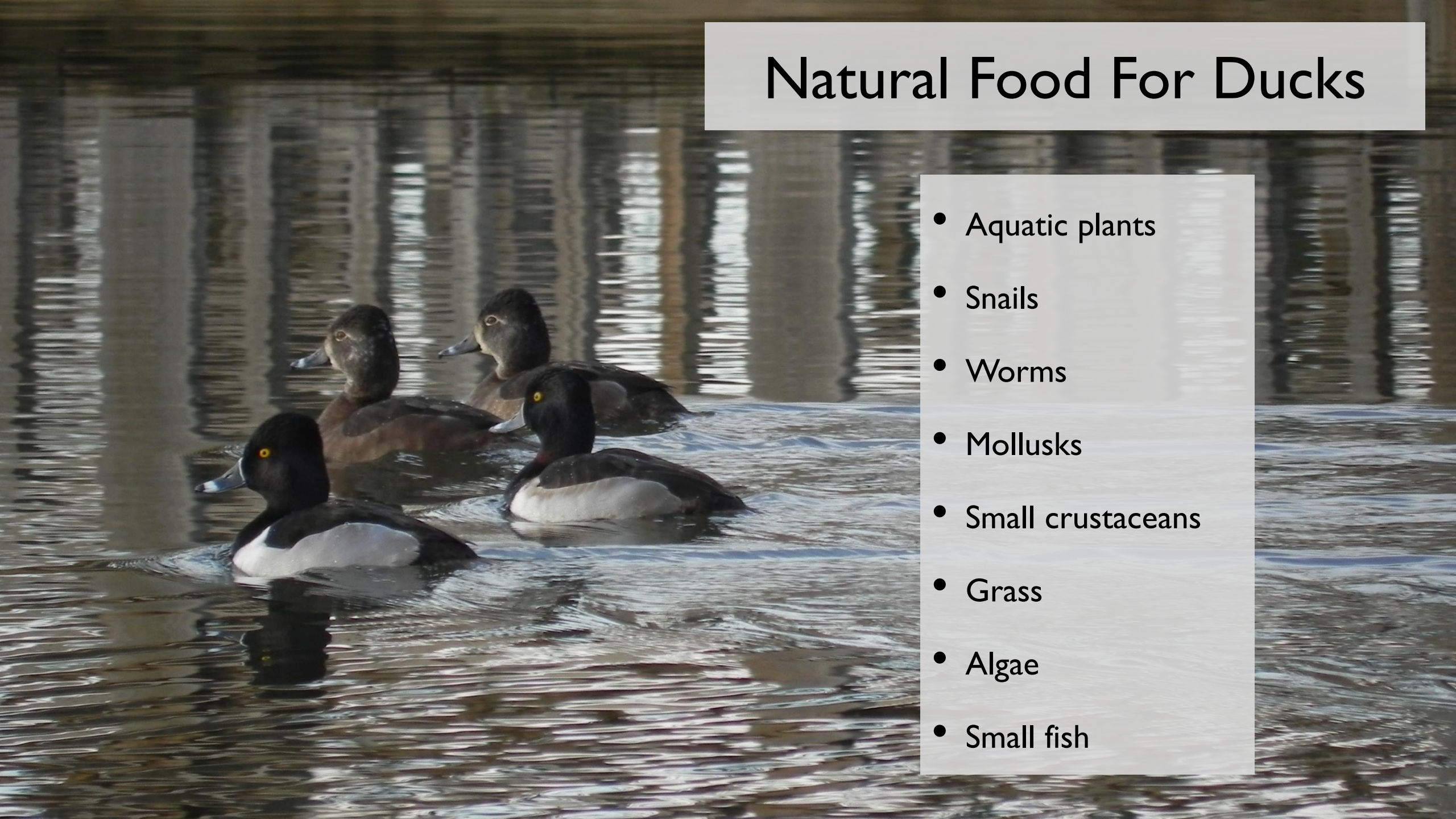
Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife

Ducks and geese should NOT eat...



Natural Food For Ducks

- Aquatic plants
- Snails
- Worms
- Mollusks
- Small crustaceans
- Grass
- Algae
- Small fish



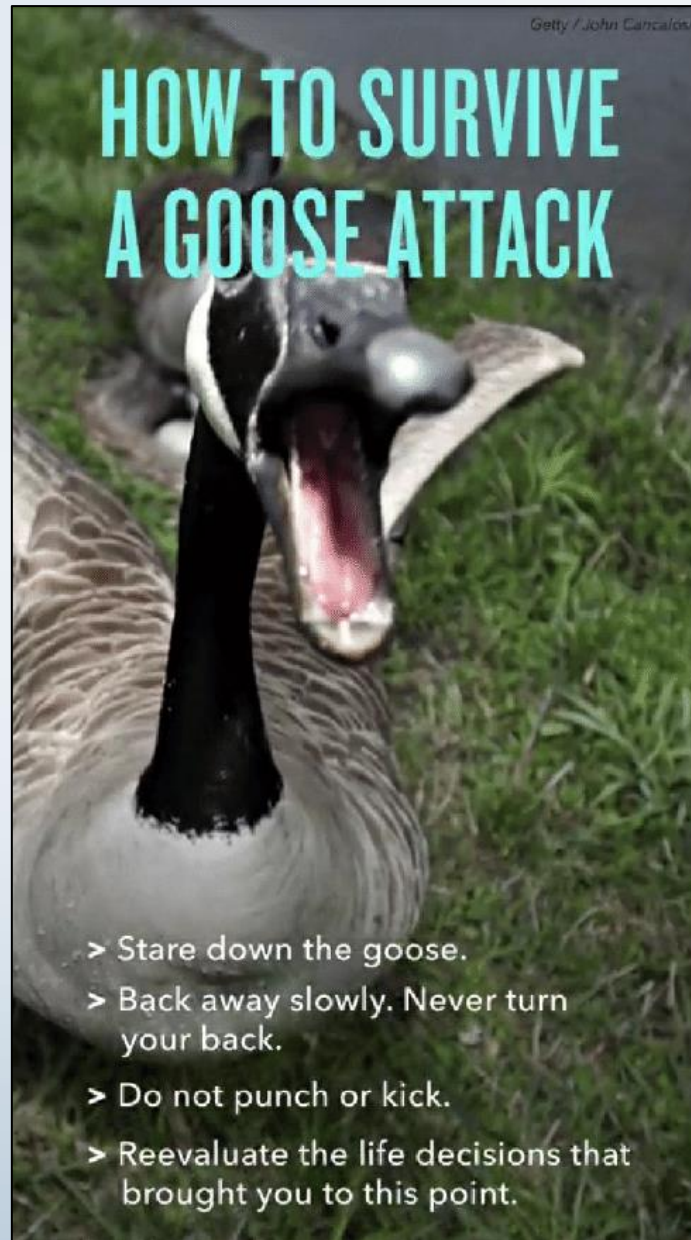
Human food is not
healthy for wildlife



Increased Disease Spread



Habituation





Invasive Species



Non-target Species

Habitat Degradation



Water Quality



Photo Credit: KSAN



Management Options

- Outreach and education
- Feeding ordinances



But what about “healthy” foods?





Management Options for Non-native Waterfowl

- No state regulations for non-native waterfowl
- Oiling or addling eggs
- Trap and remove

Alternatives

- Birdwatching
- Contribute to citizen science projects
 - iNaturalist, eBird
- Photography
- Learn about wildlife
- Improve your local park



Promote Healthy Habitats



Questions?

TEXAS
PARKS &
WILDLIFE

Rachel Richter
Urban Wildlife Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife