



Duck Chow

No cookies, no crackers,
No pretzels, no bread;
Bakeries make nothing
That ducks should be fed.

Yes to the snails, though,
And weeds from the pond.
Yes to the grasses,
Of which ducks are fond.

Yes to the algae,
And yes to the seeds,
Yes to small insects
That all those ducks need.

Where does this come from?
Ducks find it themselves!
It's much better for them
Than food from our shelves.

"I can't even feed them
Old bread that is stale?"
No, but you might give them
Small bits of kale,
Or maybe the duck mash
You buy in a store,
But let nature feed them.
Please give them no more.



Helping Wildlife

*Cover our trash cans;
Keep pet food inside,
Or we'll attract creatures
From spots far and wide.*

*Fishermen, take home
All fish hooks and line:
Two of the worst
That a critter can find.*

*Street drains connect
Right to ocean or bay,
So let's never use them
To throw things away.*

*When pests swallow poison,
That's not where it stays:
It's passed on to others
Who take them as prey.*

*Sticky traps also
Have outcomes not planned,
With animals caught
Both from air and from land.*

*All those birds nesting
In summer and spring
Means pruning in winter's
A wise and kind thing.*



Helping Wildlife - II

Songbirds are hunted
Near where we reside,
But they can't be captured
By cats kept inside.

Six-pack connectors
Are light and can stray,
So cut them apart
Before throwing away.

Even balloons
That we let go to fly,
Descend and are swallowed
By critters nearby.

Nets in the garden
Should stay off the ground,
Lest they trap animals
Crawling around.

Plastic bags often
(If not knotted tight)
Are blown to the ocean
Where animals might
Think they are jellies
And gobble them up.
So let's keep a note of
Each bag, plate, and cup.



Let's Be Good Neighbors

Let's be good neighbors
To animals wild,
Following rules that
Good sense has compiled:
Pick up our litter;
It might make them sick.
Trash left around
Can be swallowed down quick.
Let's throw away
All the things that we ought,
So curious creatures
Are not hurt or caught.
Let us not touch them
Or capture or feed;
Nature will give them
Whatever they need.
So let us remember,
As wisdom has shown:
Look at them, listen,
But leave them alone.