



Birds-I-View
August 2014
Bird Update and News

Cardinals!

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Male Northern Cardinal



It is easy to see why the Northern Cardinal is the State Bird of seven states...what a striking bird! Steve took these two photos (left and directly below) almost 20 years ago outside our dining room window. They are still two of my favorites!

Female Northern Cardinal



Steve took this Pic (BELOW) of an immature Northern Cardinal just this month. Notice the "mottled" bill on this young bird compared to the Pink/Orange bill of the two adult Cardinals (Right and Above). Even younger juvenile Cardinals have solid BLACK bills.

Immature Northern Cardinal



Curious about that "Bald" Cardinal in your yard?
 (Steve calls it "Vulture-head"!)

We do get several questions about that this time of year, AND it frequently happens to Blue Jays as well.
See Page 2 for more info !

In the BIV Bird Garden



Extra Perch area at the Feeder is ALWAYS a great way to attract more birds...Cardinals really appreciate a little more room to stand!

Go to the Educational Page of our website and Download our Our Brochures on "Cardinals" And "Birds: their First Year"

Cardinals!

continued from page 1

Cardinal with “Vultures– head”

(Or, bald-headed Cardinals and Blue Jays, and sometimes Grackles)

MOST of us who notice this phenomenon are just plain interested in knowing what it is in GENERAL terms and if the bird is going to be ok.....but there is a large number of folks out there who seem to be quite *invested* in taking a staunch, definitive position on the cause of “baldness” in Cardinals and Blue Jays.

The Great Mite/Molt Debate

For the most part these folks fall into two camps:

1. Mites (as the cause)
2. Normal Molt, or molt maybe gone not so normal

EXAMPLES:

Bird Banders and rehabbers who state they have had hundreds of “bald” Blue Jays or Cardinals in their hands and never found a head mite. even after extensive searching over white paper/cloth.

BUT...others say the mites are an “imbedding” kind so the banders would not have *seen* the mites under the birds skin.

BUT... others say that based on studies of particular birds in their care, and based on how species-specific the problem tends to be, head molt was the only possible answer to the baldness.

Even as I type this I know there will be people who are going to contact me to say “But actually, of, course, scientifically the CORRECT answer is _____”.

One thing most everyone does seem to agree upon is that the balding effect is generally temporary (usually 10 days to 2 weeks, sometimes longer), AND that it does not pose any real threat to the health of the afflicted bird. That’s GOOD news! If one chooses, there is ample info out there to dig into evidence for possible causes of birds losing feathers on their head and to ex-

plore all you care to know about bird molt and about mites:

- Book at BIV on Molt if you want— great book, I love it and honestly enjoy reading it! (**Peterson’s Reference Guide to Molt in North American Birds**)
- Site–chasing on the internet. (infinite websites and blogs ..some way better than others)
- Books and info on mites...(TYPES of mites and even mite *behavior*)

ALL fun stuff to know (*really*, it is)

.....but HEY!...Bird – lover: There are cute, cute baby cardinals out your window being fed by adults, plus adult Cardinals still courtship – feeding for a last “summer fling”. Juvenile and immature cardinals from earlier clutches are begging to be fed or learning to use your bird feeder and experimenting with different foods (everything from seed to peanuts to suet to jelly and mealworms...almost anything

First Year”. Or just stop by BIV and visit with us!

Note from BIV about Scientific Research: We are SUPER grateful to all those dedicated researchers out there who help us enjoy our backyard birds more because of their wonderful and EXSTENSIVE efforts! Seriously, so much of what makes our backyard birding enjoyable came from sincere folks doing good, thorough investigation. Knowledge and Education are good things! It’s quite obviously important to us here at Birds-I-View...It has been a part of our mission since our inception. (and we



Northern Cardinal with a “bald” head.



This is how we PREFER to see Northern Cardinals!

if it appears edible!). DON’T MISS THIS wonderful interaction going on in your yard NOW, because you are chasing down the definitive answer to “Cardinal baldness”! Maybe before you click on that one more link or type in another google search, check out the action in YOUR backyard. Need help creating a “Cardinal –friendly” habitat? Check out **our Cardinals brochure** on our website, as well as our brochure on young birds titled “**Birds: Their**

quote: “Committed to providing products and information that benefit Wildlife”). Hopefully our Educational Seminars and our investment in Educational Brochures/ resources, community projects, and the organizations we are honored to support (not to mention the actual research projects we have participated in and even conducted personally), all speak to our dedication to Education and Research. We are just making the point here that Research and Education which fosters an appreciation for native wildlife, motivates us to conservation efforts, and encourages us to get out and enjoy the special wonders we are blessed to be able to attract to our own “habitats” –that’s the research that impresses us the most.

Now, Everyone go watch your birds!

Comparing Hummingbird Feeders!



*Photos by Steve Garr
August 11, 2014*
**The NEW “HummBlossom”
feeder by Aspects**

- Three nectar Ports
- Available in Rose or “Plum” (shown)
- “High View” Perch...preferred by hummers AND easier for you to see them
- YES!! The ports accept nectar port guards, so can be **TOTALLY BEE PROOF!**



**The
HummBlossom
15% OFF
Introductory
Sale!**

All Hummingbird Feeders at least 10% Off in August!



“The Pixie”
Glass hummer
feeder!
Sale: \$17.96



The
“Sweetheart”
Hummingbird
Feeder!

Made from
recycled
Glass!



No Drip
Window-mount
hummer feeder
WITH an Ant
Moat!



**Top Seller &
Most -
satisfied
Customers!**
Aspects “High
View” Feeders

**“Basin Style”
Hummingbird
Feeders** (pictured
above and on the
left side of the page)
**are generally
easier to clean,
much easier to
truly BEE &
WASP PROOF,
and have almost
NO issues with
dripping.**
**“Gravity-fill”
feeders** (pictured
right) **are prone
to drip, especial-
ly in hot weather
and it is general-
ly difficult to
keep Bees and
Wasps out. They
do tend to hold
much more nec-
tar, however.**



Birds-I-View can
help you with any
problems you may
have with **ANTS or
Wasps & Bees!**

Is there a difference between plastics used in Hummingbird Feeders?

YES!! Some folks are under
the impression that ALL plastic
hummingbird feeders will leach
toxins or become yellow or brittle
when hanging in the sun, filled
with nectar. This is simply not
true of ALL plastic feeders and
has NOT been true for decades.
One of our very favorite feeder
manufacturers, Aspects, uses a
significantly better quality of plastic
(made in the USA!) than found in other
hummer feeders which fall apart in the
sun. Aspects hummingbird feeders
have Lifetime Warranties and are
tested by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
before we see them.
One of our favorite new hummer
feeders is **ONLY \$12.71** at our
introductory special now at
Birds-I-View.
Come see it in action !

8/11/14



Left: An adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird rests in the BIV Bird Gard. Note the deeply “Vd” tail on the bird ...one indication it is a male, even though his “ruby” throat is not particularly red in this shot (due to the lack of sunlight at the time)

A female Ruby-throated Hummingbird at one of our BEE-PROOF feeders



Above Left: An immature male Hummingbird has “splotches” of red gorget feathers on his throat area.

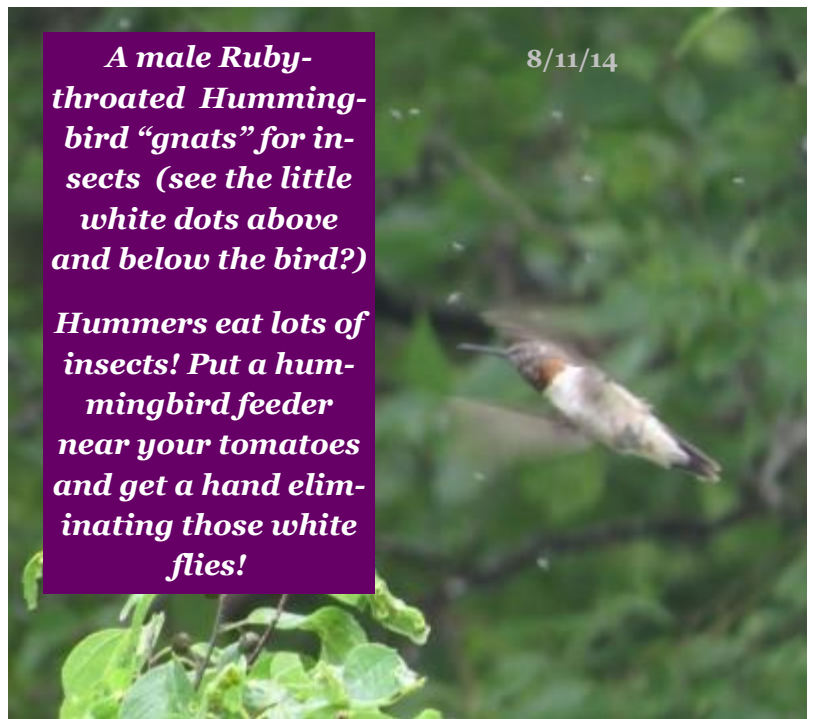
Above Center: An Adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird sports a full throat of red gorget feathers! (some feathers appear darker, some brighter, depending on light)

Above Left: Adult female Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Note her white throat, but also her long body and wings.

A male Ruby-throated Hummingbird “gnats” for insects (see the little white dots above and below the bird?)

Hummers eat lots of insects! Put a hummingbird feeder near your tomatoes and get a hand eliminating those white flies!

8/11/14



Be sure to check out our “Other Hummers” Brochure on the Educational Page of our Website for pics of Hummingbird Species OTHER than Ruby-throated which have been documented in Missouri!

Hummers CERTAINLY will migrate when it is time to go...Please DO leave your feeders up into the Fall!
(the change in length of Daylight Hours actually has much more to do with initiating the migration urge than available food source does)

Remember.....

- **Make Home-made Nectar by mixing 1 cup Sugar with 4 cups Water.** (this is the avg of the ratio in most flowers hummers visit, so we are following Mother Natures recipe!)
- **Change Nectar every other day when temps reach 90 degrees or more!**
- **Refrigerated Hummingbird Nectar** will frequently appear cloudy in feeders when you initially fill them. No cause for alarm! This is simply the effect of very cold nectar as it is exposed to the summertime heat. (the cloudiness should dissipate as the nectar warms)

ENZYMES!

Cleaning and Protecting Naturally. But what are these “Enzyme Cleaners” and how do they work?

BIV stocks CareFree
Enzymes :

- Bird Bath & Fountain Protector
- Hummingbird Feeder Cleaner
- Hummingbird & Oriole Feeder Cleaner Spray
- Bird Feeder Cleaner
- Seed & Hull Digester
- 3B Protector Spray (Bird House, Bird Feeder, & Bird Seed).



From the CareFree Enzymes website:

Enzymes are part of a group of organic proteins known as amino acids and are found in all living things. They are ‘**activists**’. The greening of leaves in spring, the ripening of foods, the digestion and absorption of food – all require enzymes.

Enzymes are the “take charge” catalysts. Processed enzymes are able to exert a unique reaction that does more than dissolve accumulated toxins and prepare them for elimination. With the use of enzymes, you can **stimulate** and improve water’s appearance naturally. In the pond industry, enzymes attack waste materials such as slime, sludge, algae, dead plants, insects, fish food, waste from pond creatures and other organic contaminants. **Enzymes turn them into a form that can later be eliminated by natural bacteria.** Enzymes help decompose toxic hydrogen peroxide and release healthful oxygen from poisonous waste. When enzymes and natural indigenous bacteria are through diminishing water-born contaminants, the by-product becomes nitrogen and water providing a naturally clean and clear environment!

For all of their usefulness, it is important to be clear on what enzymes are not.

They are not fast acting, all-purpose clarifiers, nor are they anti-foam agents. However, they can clarify water, and sometimes remove foam, as long as the contaminants are of organic nature.

From Steve & Regina at BIV :

We have actually been quite familiar with products containing Enzymes for decades. From Pet and Horse Care products to laundry detergent, adding natural enzymes to enhance the efficiency

of products has been around in some cases for thirty years! Each of the various CareFree Enzyme products we carry here at Birds-I-View is specially formulated to address the issues for the situation it is designed. For instance, the Hummingbird Feeder Cleaner and the Bird Feeder Cleaner have different goals so are made up of different natural Enzymes. The hummer feeder cleaner has enzymes targeting bacteria which grow in a sugar water environment (as well as other bacteria) while the Bird Feeder Cleaner targets e-coli (among other things). This makes these products so much **more specific** (which means **they actually clean more thoroughly**) than broad-spectrum cleaners like bleach or vinegar. This is also why natural enzyme cleaners are considered safer to use than bleach—safer for you and for the environment. **Natural Enzymes are a great Value!**

Please note that it is very important that CareFree Enzymes NOT be exposed to excessive heat (for instance inside a hot car)

Your Favorite Peanut Butter Suet is NOW in Stock at Birds-I-View!

We are so pleased to announce
that the **40% Fat, High
Calorie**

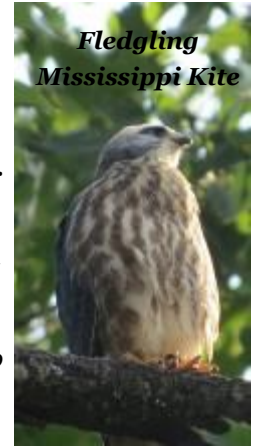
peanut butter
suet we’ve all
been missing
is **back in
stock**, for
sale by the
case or by the
individual cake!



**AND...the cakes are one ounce
LARGER** (12 ounces instead of
11), so purchasing it by the
case is like getting an **extra
cake** over the cases we
previously sold.



What have BIV friends seen lately? What a pleasant relief bird watching this August has been compared to summers of the past! We can remember many Augusts where backyard birding simply amounted to watching birds “pant” from the heat! Not so this August and we are so grateful—and hoping it continues. A great start to the month was news that **Mississippi Kite** nestling (on Fox Creek Rd in JC) had fledged! The fledgling was perched in a tree near the nest and BOTH adults were seen feeding it. Steve also saw another Mississippi Kite fly over BIV on the 3rd of the month. Other birds reported the first week of August: male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** just west of downtown JC, young **Baltimore Orioles** at Binder Lake (also spotted an Oriole nest there), **Summer Tanagers** were still coming to mealworms and suet in Holt’s Summit, and **Purple Martins** were still hanging out at both Birds-I-View Martin Colonies. (Steve counted **18 Martins** at our colony on Stadium Blvd.) Mid month now we are still having a few Martin visitors. Starting the 10th of the month we began receiving



Fledgling Mississippi Kite

reports of both Baltimore Oriole and **Orchard Orioles** returning to feeders (mealworms and jelly). Of course, **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** are still very busy at feeders—folks are still seeing plenty of males, females, and young hummers, meaning we should still have **a good six weeks of hummer season left!** August 9th good birders reported a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Cole county on HWY50E. On August 14th Steve spotted an **Eastern Kingbird** on the Pokeweed in the BIV Bird Garden, plus another good birder sited TEN Eastern Kingbirds together in Miller county as well as a pair with young in Cole county. Juvenile **Northern Cardinals** reports arrive daily! (From very young ones with solid black beaks, to older “mottled beak” birds). AND some adult Cardinals are still seen courting! We’ve had



BIV Purple Martins (Walmart Colony) 8/1/14



Fledgling Northern Cardinal



Brown Thrasher eating Suet Nuggets.

adult and immature **Brown Thrashers** coming to mealworms and Hot Pepper Suet Nuggets (see pic this page) for weeks. **Red-headed Woodpecker** reports are always a joy to receive...we’ve had a few this month, including a sighting in the BIV Bird Garden on 8/14/14. A **Bluebird** pair on the NEW section of our BIV trail in JC has eggs ready to hatch any day. So many of you have reported much more successful third nestings of Bluebirds compared to previous (hot) summers!



They are BACK!! Reports of Orioles at Jelly, Suet, and Mealworm feeders have been coming in since August 10th. Don't miss out on this “fall” migration!



Adult male Baltimore Oriole

Seasonal Backyard Checklist:

- 1. Keep Bird Baths filled and Clean and ready for those “Fall Migrants” to drop in!** (remember for birds, Fall migration starts in August for many species as they start to travel to wintering grounds.) Water is often one of the first things to catch their attention and draw them into your yard. If you are able **Add moving water** to your water sources. This time of year there are many more options for moving water than if you wait until winter. From Bubblers, to “wigglers” to drippers and misters, we can show you GOOD options!
- 2. High Fat, High Energy Suet available:** Again, those special birds on the move and passing through (Orioles, Tanagers, Grosbeaks) could all use the extra calories and energy to help with their migration. PLUS, there are still so many young birds out there who are taking advantage of the high fat , high calorie suet products . We are seeing many juvenile Cardinals, Bluebirds, Gray Catbirds, Brown Thrashers, Woodpeckers, Titmice and MORE chowing down on suet right now. Crumble Suet cakes or Nuggets into dishes or platforms to make it even more available to a greater variety of birds! (and NATURALLY, mealworms are a great way to attract migrants)
- 3. Go ahead and take another peak in Nest Boxes.** We still have some nesting birds out there! Make sure their nests are free of ants or parasites and that you are prepared for protecting them against heat issues. ASK us if you need to know what to do.



On Sale the entire month of AUGUST: ALL products made of Recycled Materials!!

INCLUDES PATIO furniture (lots of great choices!), hummingbird feeders made from Recycled Glass, Bird feeders made from recycled plastic and Plexiglas, Recycled Glass Oriole and Bluebird feeders, and the best Purple Martin Houses on the Market!

All 10% OFF All Month Long!

(Extra 5 % off Patio Furniture over our regular 10% discounted price!)

You can have Great New Patio Furniture for Labor Day Weekend!

On SALE

Now at Birds-I-View!

10% OFF All Hummingbird Feeders in Stock...AND a SPECIAL 15% OFF
Introductory offer on the adorable NEW "HummBlossom" Hummingbird Feeder from Aspects! (SALE only until the end of August or While Supplies Last)



Regular Price: \$14.95... **NOW ONLY \$12.71!**

As long as you are Entertaining outdoors this summer...Don't forget to stop by BIV for great, easy to fix Gourmet Foods! ALL 10% OFF!



ASK US...

About NEW Tropical Colors in our ECO-TOUGH Recycled Plastic Patio Furniture!

BIV always has super prices on this terrific Patio Furniture...In August you get to take an ADDED 5% OFF over our regular 10% discount on Perfect Choice Patio furniture.

NOW is the time to buy the patio furniture you have always wanted!

**On Sale the entire month of AUGUST:
10% OFF ALL products made of Recycled Materials!!
EXTRA Special Discount on Great Feeders for Cardinals...
Take 15% OFF any Platform Feeders, including Fly-thru feeders, post
mount or hanging style, AND even Ground or **Window** Platform feeders!**



This durable Platform Feeder is great for Cardinals (and other backyard birds) and will last a Lifetime! STEEL hanger, tough recycled material construction, and a quality screen bottom that doesn't sag or fall apart! Made in Wisconsin of Recycled material so, ON SALE now at BIV.



Pictured here (Left and Right) are two of our favorite feeders for attracting Cardinals... Both are Made in the USA, both are incredibly weather resistant, and both are made of Recycled Materials so are ON SALE NOW !

**10 % OFF Feeders made of recycled materials
15% OFF ANY Platform or Fly-thru Feeders (regardless of construction)**



We stock DOZENS of bird feeders that are great for attracting Cardinals...and most of those are ON SALE right now! Come see.

Sale Ends August 31, 2014