Cardinals!  

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!

Male Northern Cardinal

Female Northern Cardinal

In the BIV Bird Garden

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!

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

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!
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 “balding” birds.”

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 explore all you care to know about bird molt and about mites:
• 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 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 First Year”.

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 EXTENSIVE 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 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!

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**All Hummingbird Feeders at least 10% Off in August!**

“**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, especially in hot weather and it is generally difficult to keep Bees and Wasps out. They do tend to hold much more nectar, however.

**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!

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**Birds-I-View**

Jefferson City, Mo

573-638-BIRD(2473)  www.birds-i-view.biz
**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 “splashes” 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.

**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)

**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)

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

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)

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**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).

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**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 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 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!

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!

Birds-I-View Jefferson City, MO 573-638-BIRD(2473) www.birds-i-view.biz
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 back-yard 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

Birds-I-View  Jefferson City, MO  573-638-BIRD(2473)  www.birds-i-view.biz