

Steve & Regina Garr are the owners of **Birds-I-View** and have spent many years committed to helping others enjoy and learn more about the Native Wild Birds that can visit their "space". They have been presenting programs on attracting Backyard Wildlife for decades, **with a special emphasis on attracting desirable wildlife to almost any setting.**

Over the years, Steve & Regina have tended Wildlife Gardens of their own in a diverse range of sizes and habitat settings.—from rural acreage, to suburbia, to city. During their "more extensive" gardening years, their personal wildlife gardens were featured on such television programs as the PBS program "Volunteer Gardener", "Talk of the Town", and others. The Garrs are former President & Secretary for the Horticultural Association of Tennessee and, as a Tennessee Master Gardener, for many years Steve presented the Training program on "Wildlife Gardening" for the Master Gardener Certification Program. He spent 9 years as a monthly columnist for the **Nature Society News**, and has been a frequent guest on many radio and television programs promoting birding and wildlife gardening. Steve & Regina are also co-founders of two separate State Bluebird Societies, and Steve is a past President and Life Member of the North American Bluebird Society. Together they are Lifetime members of the Hummer/Bird Study Group and Birds-I-view is a proud Contributor Member of the Missouri River Bird Observatory. The Garrs are proud to be members of their local Audubon Society Chapter:



River Bluffs Audubon Society. This organization is a great asset to their community and Steve & Regina strongly encourage you to check them out! The info for their organization is always on display at Birds-I-View.

Attracting Wildlife to your Space!



Tips for making the most of what you have!

- Take inventory of what your Space has to offer : sunlight, natural food, shelter, perch area, soil conditions, etc.
- What type of wildlife is currently visiting your space?
 - Place Feeding Stations & Water Sources where you can see them often!
- Keep Records of what you see in your yard and compare from year to year
- **Provide a "safe approach" to the feeders in your yard, by offering several perch areas at varying heights to birds on their way to your feeder. For example: an assortment of trees, shrubs, plant stands, or patio furniture, where birds can gather, view the feeders, and navigate a comfortable path to the food!**
- Plan your habitat to cater to Wildlife **Year-Round!** If you discontinue feeding in the Spring, you will likely miss out on migratory birds passing through your yard. Choose plant groupings that provide a variety of food stuffs in a variety of seasons.

Only a Few of our favorite Wildlife Plants:

- **Coral Honeysuckle:** long -season blooms for hummers plus berries later for other birds
- **Native Coneflowers** for Butterflies , later seeds for birds
 - **Sumac:** great food and shelter for wildlife
- **Dogwoods**— particularly native varieties-food & shelter

Birds - I - View

Creating a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife



Committed to providing Products & Information that Benefit Wildlife

573-638-BIRD(2473)

888-270-VIEW(8439)

www.birds-i-view.biz

Essential Elements

Provide Food

The right food in the right feeder: Match a Bird's favorite food to the style of feeder in which that same bird is comfortable using.



Do the birds you want to attract normally feed from the ground or do they usually find their food in trees and shrubs? If we know their preferred habitat we can place our feeders there to attract the birds we want quicker and then move the feeders to where we can observe them easier.



Food stuffs for wildlife include a variety of Seeds, seeds that have been shelled, Peanuts and Tree Nuts, Suet Products, Fruit, Berries, Jelly, Nectar, and Live Food (ie meal-worms). The greater variety of foods offered, the greater variety of birds you'll see & enjoy!

Supply birds with **Plant Food Sources**, too. (for nectar, seeds, fruit & insects) Avoid invasive , non -native species.



Coral Honeysuckle

Great Resources for learning more:

Native Landscaping for Wildlife & People
by Dave Tylka
Bird Watcher's Digest Booklet: Creating your Backyard Bird Garden
Building a Backyard Bird Habitat

by Scott Shalloway

Ozark Wildflowers by Don Kurz

Missouri Wildflower Nursery at:

www.mowildflowers.net

Please also check out the other Birds-I-View Educational Brochures for more details on specific topics mentioned in this brochure!

Provide Water

There is probably no better way to expand the variety of desirable song birds to your space than the addition of fresh, clean water - particularly moving water. Whether it is

waterfalls, drippers, misters, or "wiggers", moving water is a real boon to any Wild Bird Habitat.



Provide a dependable water source all year long- water in the winter time can be particularly difficult for birds to find.



Did you know birds need clean feathers to keep warm? Don't forget to provide winter water!

Cleaning Bird Feeders & Baths

We are very pleased with some of the **Natural Enzyme** Products that are currently on the market for cleaning bird feeders and bird baths. Most come in ready to use spray bottles or concentrates and do an excellent job. They contain natural enzymes specifically chosen to target bacteria and organic problems that could be an issue in feeders and baths.

Safe for the feeders and safe for the birds! Another option : Some organizations recommend using a solution of 1 3/4 cup of bleach per gallon of water. It may be advisable to test areas of certain decorative feeders/baths, such as glass or ceramic , or feeders/baths with glazed finishes, before immersing the entire feeder in a bleach solution.



This Eastern Bluebird comfortably incubates her eggs in a nest box built with her needs in mind! (good ventilation & drainage, plenty of roof-overhang, & mounted to allow for predator control)

Provide Nest Sites & Shelter

Providing nest sites and shelter are ways to truly give a helping hand to the native birds around us. Most of our



fine feathered friends really are quite adaptable to coexisting with us and several even seem to prefer to seek out nest sites close to human activity! Research the nesting requirements for various species and do your best to

provide those elements. Due to the introduction of non-native House Sparrows and European Starlings, many of our native cavity nesting songbirds particularly need our assistance. **Please do not allow House Sparrows and Starlings to nest in your yard.** Don't forget to provide nesting material for the birds! Natural fibers are best— short strings/strips of cotton, plant material, and animal fur (ie the photo above left of the chickadee taking dog fur for use in it's nest). Make every attempt to keep nesting material dry (cover with baffles, etc). We encourage you to read our other brochures on nest boxes and caring for nesting birds!

Shelter: Wildlife need shelter from weather and predators. This can mean trees and shrubs, and nest boxes in winter, but do not discount the protection provided by deciduous trees , plants, and even "hardscapes" and in your landscape...these can be shelter in the form of windbreaks and even protection form predators.! We can't stress enough the importance of "perch area" for birds.



Steve & Regina Garr
Birds-I-View

512 Ellis Blvd/ Jefferson City, MO 65101

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