

Birds-I-View



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January/February 2014 Bird Update and News

Appreciating this “Winter Warbler”

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What a treat to have this special little warbler at our feeders and baths! For the most part **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are our only “winter-time” warbler (some other varieties are inconsistently here in the winter). Many of you are enjoying this little bird at

your feeding stations and water features now and you KNOW what a special bird it is! Often in flocks in winter, but sometimes alone, they never seem to run out of energy. They love mealworms (check out the one on my deck in the picture left as it snags a live mealworm from the mix of raw peanuts and mealworms we placed in the caged feeder). These birds nest considerably north of our



Photo by Steve Garr

area so enjoy them now!



Missouri River Bird Observatory Director, Dana Ripper, poses with a Yellow-rumped warbler she banded at Birds-I-View on Jan 10th, 2014.

Attract Yellow-rumped Warblers to your space!

- **Moving Water!** And dependably non-frozen water of course. They will often **flock** to heated baths this time of year.
- **Food Stuffs they enjoy: Suet, Sunflower Hearts, Peanuts and Tree Nuts (no shells), Live Mealworms, Suet Nuggets, PLUS** many of the home-made recipes you can find on the “Feeding Bluebirds” Brochure on our Website!
- You might try spreading suet on tree bark to attract these little warblers at first... later you will likely want to place the suet in a spot less attractive to starlings.

Come visit Jim Rathert
(and Koda the Yorkie of course!)
at Birds-I-View
Feb 7th & 8th

Jim has decades of experience birding and photographing birds in Missouri ...Come “Talk Birds” with Jim! (Steve and Regina are presenting programs at the Midwestern Herb and Garden Show in Mt. Vernon, IL)

BIV Store Hours:
Mon-Sat: 10 am- 6pm

Upcoming Events for folks who love Birds!!

- **“Adventure Birding” - Winter Birds :**
Saturday, February 8th, 8 am—11 am. Join Runge Volunteer Anne Hutton for a Bird Walk around Runge Conservation Nature Center to identify and watch Winter Birds. Note from Regina: I have birded with Anne on several occasions at Runge and she is a treat to bird with! I always learn something from her. Don't miss this opportunity. **Call Runge to make Reservations and get details: 573-526-5544**
- **The Great Backyard Bird Count!**
February 14th– 17th. Again this year Birds-I-View is proud to be an Ambassador for this FREE and FUN event. It REALLY is easy to participate and it really does help the birds. Go to www.birdcount.org for all the details. You can participate ANYWHERE, counting birds you see for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as you want during the designated days. Of Course, we will be counting the birds in the BIV Bird Garden and you are welcome to help us out. (there could be some prizes in it for you!...and you know BIV, we'll have SNACKS!)
- **Join us in welcoming the Missouri River Bird Observatory back to Birds-I-View for more bird banding in the BIV Bird Garden! *Join us Friday, March 14th from 2-4:30 pm* (no reservations needed— just drop by!)**
- *Check out our Events Brochure: www.birds-i-view.biz*

Sincerely, here at Birds-I-View, we consider the Missouri River Bird Observatory to be one of the best things to happen to Bird Conservation in Missouri! From their dedication to Outreach and Education to the top notch research they employ, this organization adds so much to everything special about native birds in our state. (which naturally, is a great boon to wildlife across the Midwest and beyond!). Please visit their website to learn more (www.mrbo.org) and come meet these special folks **Friday, March 14th at Birds-I-View! (Bird banding will be 2:00-4:30 pm)** No Reservations Required



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Greetings from the Great Smoky Mountains National park!

*Each year for the past 15 years Steve and I have participated in a VERY special event in the Smoky Mountains: **Wilderness Wildlife Week**. We LOVE this event! As we do every year, we presented six programs on backyard wildlife and Steve led four Owl Prowls. (He called up Screech and Barred Owls on two of the four outings, keeping his 50/50 percentage in tact!). And in case you are wondering what that **Black-crowned Night-Heron** (pictured below right) has to do with the Smokies....well ,we actually sighted it hunting the river at night during one of our Owl Prowls and then Steve got some nice pics of it the next day. A wonderful trip to Cades Cove in the mountains provided for great wildlife viewing: Lengthy hunting displays from a **North-ern Harrier** and a quite photogenic **Winter Wren!** Come see more of our pics in the storeand then consider attending next January! **BIG Thanks** to our good friend Jim Rathert for minding our store for us while we were away at this event!!*

Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains



Right:

Black-crowned Night-Heron. See more of Steve's pics on Facebook and in the store in our slide show!



What have BIV friends seen lately? Birds have been very busy in backyards this winter! And we do have plenty to share with regard to birds visiting feeders and baths, however, I am going to begin with a bit of an emphasis on Raptors. Most of our customers have been aware of the **Snowy Owl** sightings from around the country. Long Branch State Park in Macon, MO hosted a pair for weeks and we have really appreciated those of you who were able to go see those birds and report back to us. What a treat! We have received lots of **Bald Eagle** reports this winter and Traci Hoffman took this cool pic (from her house near Jefferson City) of a Bald Eagle. And then check out this great picture sent to us by Ernie Raub in Jefferson City (below Right). It is a **hawk imprint** in the snow from what appears to be a successful catch of some small critter in Ernie's yard. You can see the raptor's wings in the snow as well as the tail outline



Photo by Traci Hoffman

and also the large indentation where the massive raptor body dropped into the snow. Spectacular photo Ernie. (Ernie mentioned they had not been SEEING hawks in his yard, but obviously they are there). **On to tamer fare!...** February has produced reports of **Townsend's Solitaires** around mid-Missouri, one report from here in JC just this week of up to five of them! If you are not familiar with this bird check it out in your field guide. Very pretty bird and, while they are really birds found to the west of us, they are known to show up our

way from time to time in winter. Also interesting this month: a **Phoebe** hanging out in St. Thomas, MO. Have had a few reports of **Hermit Thrush** at water and more than a few reports of **Song Sparrows, American Tree Sparrows, and Fox Sparrows**. Our native winter sparrows are wonderful birds— Get to know them! **Eastern Bluebirds** are visiting heated bird baths and mealworms in flocks (as well as coming to sunflower hearts and more). **Juncos** and **White-throated sparrows** have negotiated our caged mealworm feeders and our feasting on live mealworms (good for them!) but also on the millet and safflower we provide. **American Goldfinch** are as sporadic as ever! (LARGE flocks in some areas, none in others!). Come in to BIV and list your sightings so we can share the news.



Photo by Ernie Raub

Starlings & Grackles getting too much of your Bird Food?

Yes, we hear it all the time.... "all the birds need to eat"....HOWEVER, if the starlings and grackles are monopolizing your suet feeders and consuming all the seed at your feeders, all the birds are NOT eating there!

We can help! Here are a FEW great ideas....more in the store:

1. Stock at least one of your feeders with ONLY **Safflower Seed** (do **not** mix it with other seeds!) We do it all the time at BIV and get a great assortment of birds. For the most part, starlings and grackles won't eat the Safflower Seed.
2. Consider **Whole** peanuts (in the shell) fed in a platform or special whole peanut feeders. Starlings and Grackles tend to leave them alone and **Tufted Titmice and Cardinals LOVE them!**
3. Check out the feeders pictured here, and more in the store.

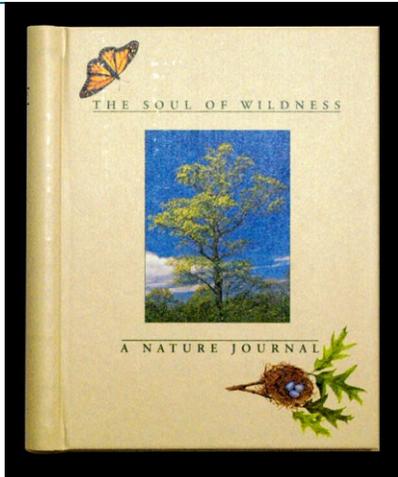


Left: This steel feeder with a cage around it allows the smaller birds like Bluebirds, Chickadees, and Nuthatches to enter but keeps out the starlings and grackles. (also available for suet and mealworms)



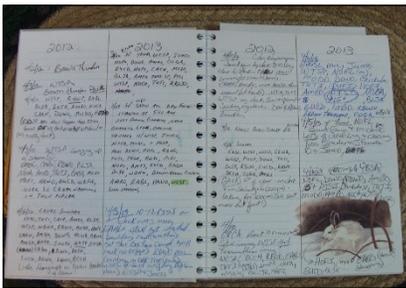
Left: This "upside down Suet Feeder" can really slow down the grackles and starlings from being able to consume SO much while allowing woodpeckers, titmice, chickadees, and Wrens to eat. The **Suet Sandwich (pictured Right)** TOTALLY eliminates Starlings and Grackles from this feeder! Expressly for Woodpeckers





The Soul of Wilderness Journal
By Ken Jenkins

Below: pages from Steve and Regina's journal— we've been using Ken's Nature Journal for years and it is absolutely our favorite. We LOVE the fact that it can lie flat while we record in it. And the photography and illustrations are beautiful!



NEW IN THE STORE!

We now stock our *FAVORITE* Nature Journal at BIV! We have personally been using this journal for years and are now making it available in our store for all our birding friends. Featuring the gorgeous photographs of our good friend and wildlife photographer Ken Jenkins, as well as lovely artwork by Cindy Day Wicks, and even some special insights on nature from Ken. This terrific journal makes recording your Observations easy and fun.

Steve and I use this Journal nearly every morning at breakfast to record the species of birds we see each day out our window as well as making notes about weather, plants, and animal behavior. Great Fun to look back on and compare previous and current year. Easy to use, this journal lays flat when open and in use, making it easy to write and record with one hand (so you can eat breakfast with the other hand!!)

Regular price: \$ 14.95

ON SALE NOW at BIV for \$9.99!

On SALE Now at Birds-I-View!

- **Perfect for Valentines Day:** Purchase ANY Jim Rathert Photography LATTE mug and receive your choice of a Rathert foam rubber coaster for only \$1.50! (reg. 2.95!)
- **Our Top-Selling Cardinal Seed Mix!** All birds LOVE this mix...contains Black Oil Sunfl., Sunfl HEARTS, Safflower and PEANUTS! Works well in most any style feeder. **25# for only \$21.95** (Regular price \$23.50)
- **Those LONG-lasting, Durable Recycled material Bird Feeders are on Sale!** Any brand, any style now **10% OFF** our already low BIV prices! From suet feeders to platform feeders, to tube feeders and even LARGE Hopper feeders,- they are all a Super Value and the ones WE stock are **MADE in the USA!**
 - **20% OFF All Soy Candles!** (starting at \$7.16 on sale)

Expires 02/28/14

Cannot be combined with other discounts/ Discounts valid on in-stock items only