

Birds-I-View



Inside this issue:

Hummingbird Feeder Comparison!	1 & 2
June Bird Update and Hummer Tips!	3
A Special Request from special "birder friends"	3
NEW and ON SALE in the Store! (Great sales for Fathers Day)	4

NEW!
The BIV
Mealworm Cooler!



Only \$4.95 with purchase of any quantity live mealworms. Comes with a **FREE Ice Pack!**

(\$6.95 if purchased without mealworms)
Birds-I-View has the Healthiest Live mealworms you can buy for the birds at your house! (healthy worms stay alive longer and are a much better value). And now you can keep the mealworms you purchase at BIV cool (and alive) while you run other errands around town. ...making it easier for you to keep "your" birds happy!

Birds-I-View

June 2015

Bird Update and News

Let's COMPARE....

What's the difference between all those various types of
Hummingbird Feeders?

Recently, I had occasion to look through some old photos Steve took of hummingbirds (and thus hummer feeders) in the mid 80's through late 90's. WOW! My, how times have changed some feeder designs. In the early 90's, Steve and I maintained 46 hummingbird feeders in our yard consistently. **Really.** It was during the years Steve was involved in doing Hummingbird Banding research and he banded MANY hummers in our yard. It also gave us an opportunity to try out many, many



styles of hummingbird feeders. Looking over the old pics inspired me to put together this Quick Reference Guide to available styles of hummingbird feeders (see page 2), and hopefully answer a few common questions about hummer feeders. Let's take a look!

Q. Are all plastic hummingbird feeders the same? (or, won't all plastics turn yellow over time ?) *No, not at all! There is a huge difference between feeders made with inexpensive polymers like polypropylene and those made from UV-stabilized polycarbonates. This is the reason some feeders carry a lifetime warranty, while many others have plastic parts that literally break apart while they hang in the sun. Inexpensive plastic hummingbird feeders*

*become brittle and yellow, some in a very short time. Feeders made of UV-stabilized polycarbonate do not. **By the***

way, many folks express that they ONLY wish to use glass hummingbird feeders to avoid plastic—however many of the glass bottle hummingbird feeders use inferior plastic to construct the BASE of their feeders where the hummers actually



*drink. It is best not to place these in direct sunlight. (dark covers are helpful). **One more FYI about "plastics":** Cheap plastic feeders degrade quickly with regard to rendering them useless for feeding hummers—however they then end up in landfills where total deterioration takes a very long time. UV-stabilized polycarbonate feeders however function well for year and years...thus avoiding that trip to the landfill.*

Q. What's the difference between Gravity-fill, basin style, saucer, and top-fill feeders? See Page 2 of this Newsletter!

Q. Can hummers reach the nectar in basin-style /saucer feeders? *Absolutely! (Certainly all the ones we stock at BIV.) Hummers reach the nectar with their tongues which are **considerably** longer than their bills. (like they do in those tubular flowers they work so well). It is an amazing process detailed in the DVD shown on page 4 of this Newsletter!*

Hummer Feeder Comparison *continued*

Naturally, we are limited on space here...so drop by BIV for comparisons on even MORE hummingbird feeders!

“Gravity-fill” feeders: generally a bottle or container where nectar is held **above** the feeding ports and gravity pulls the liquid down to the openings where the birds feed. This keeps the nectar level very close to the surface in most of these styles.



PROS: Probably the most-recognized hummingbird feeder on the planet, this decades –old “four flower” feeder style is very familiar to the hummers.

CONS: Quite difficult to clean, prone to drip in hot weather, and attractive to wasps and bees. The yellow bee guards work better against wasps than Bumble bees. Small sweat bees can easily enter nectar ports. (Yellow actually attracts bees and wasps).



PROS: 32 ounce size for folks with lots of hummers + has 8 feeding ports. The base comes apart for easy cleaning. **CONS:** The glass bottle has a tiny neck that is very difficult to clean. The bottle can block observer’s view of birds feeding on the opposite side.



PROS: This style has been around for a long time and is familiar to hummingbirds, so they readily find this feeder. Has large 30 ounce capacity and 6 feeding ports for folks with lots of hummers. **CONS:** like most other gravity-fill feeders, this one can easily drip/leak when exposed to high heat. A dark cover (like the one pictured above) is strongly recommended. Inexpensive plastic base is prone to degradation in the sun and yellow flower ports are easily lost or removed by other birds/wildlife. Bottle can block observer’s view of hummers.



PROS: It is a pretty feeder.

CONS: Almost everything else! Even when directions are followed about keeping it full enough to create a vacuum, this style still leaks in heat when nectar expands and /or rubber stopper expands and contracts. Many manufacturers have discontinued all gravity –fill models with any “tube” style nectar port. **They will Drip.** ...and that attracts bees, wasps, and ants.

“Basin” style feeders: Often also referred to as “saucer –style” feeders, these are feeders which hold the nectar in a reservoir **below** the feeding ports and the nectar level is controlled by how full the feeder is filled. (These also have been called “top-fill” feeders, however that term can be a bit confusing now, because some “gravity-fill” feeders now open and can be filled from the top)

Aspects

“HummBlossom” feeder (immediate right) is the smallest in the series of “HighView” feeders by Aspects. Sizes now range from a 3 ounce capacity **up to 16 ounces**. All feature the “HighView” perch for more comfort for the hummers and better viewing for you, and all have the capability to **accept Nectar Guard Tips for TRUE Bee-free and Wasp-free hummingbird feeding!** Better materials than other Hummingbird feeders on the market, along with quality craftsmanship and superior design make for a TERRIFIC feeder line we have been proud to sell and recommend for decades!



PROS: Lifetime warranty, sturdy UV-stabilized polycarbonate construction, **extremely** easy to fill and clean, NO-Drip, does not leak, built-in ant moat, High-view perch allows for better viewing of hummers, rounded basin holds nectar more evenly, **accepts nectar-guard tips** to make feeder bee and wasp PROOF, can hang or post mount, red nectar ports are built into the lid so aren’t lost or removed by wildlife and other birds. View of hummers never obstructed by bottle. **CONS:** The maximum capacity is 16 ounces– smaller than some folks would like if they have lots of hummingbirds.



PROS: Recycled Glass container is no-drip, no leak, has a perch, angled opening makes it easier to clean than if it were on top/center of the bottle. **CONS:** Most of the Parasol Line of Hummingbird feeders range from 3 oz to 4 oz. (quite small by most standards). It IS glass, so it should be placed where squirrels/raccoons can’t break the glass flower (we do sell replacements)





TRULY, Totally Wasp, Bee and Ant PROOFand a Lifetime Warranty! (pic taken outside the front door at BIV, this feeder suction- cups to the window)

Hummer Tips!

- The **BEST** time to introduce a new style of Hummingbird feeder to your yard is July thru September. Babies just coming off the nest don't already have a favorite feeder, PLUS, increased hummer activity causes more "pressure" at feeders and a willingness to try something new!
- Change Feeder nectar **every 2-3 days** now that temps are consistently over 80 degrees.
- Clean Feeders Regularly...see our REVISED Hummingbird Brochure on our website for details!

A Special Request from Birder-friends doing important work!.....

If you have ever needed to locate a wildlife rehabilitator that would accept **wild birds, especially backyard birds**, then you know how very rare a find that is in Missouri! **Wild Bird Rehabilitation** in St Louis is just that type of organization and they do a TERRIFIC job of not only rehabilitating songbirds in need, but also educating the public. One of their Board Members contacted Birds-I-View recently to share the following need: They occasionally need someone to transport injured songbirds from the Jefferson City area to their rehab facilities in St Louis and would like to develop a "Call List" of individuals willing to help out when they can. **PLEASE take a look at their wonderful website:** www.wildbirdrehab.org and then contact them if you think you may be able to pitch in. While at their site be sure to check out their new online Brochure as well as their "Help- I found a Bird!" Page (great info to have on hand).



Wild Bird Rehabilitation

9624 Midland Blvd.
St. Louis, Missouri 63114 314-426-6400 www.wildbirdrehab.org

What have BIV friends seen lately? **Baby Season** is in full swing! Most reported sightings this month are of "a baby this or a young that"! Steve and I are enjoying watching the **Baltimore Orioles** come and carry away mouthfuls of mealworms to feed newly hatched babies. Fledgling **Brown Thrashers** are coming daily for suet crumbles on the deck and in small dishes. (FYI: Immature Brown Thrashers have dark /brownish eyes, while the adults have yellow eyes). Seems everyone is reporting juvenile and **immature woodpeckers** at suet feeders (Downy, Red-bellied, Red-headed and Hairy...still a tiny bit early to see Pileated juveniles at feeders but let me know if you have some already!) Be sure to check out the following brochure on our Educational Page of our website: "**Birds: Their First Year**" for more info and images of immature birds you could see in your yard and garden. Birders are reporting young **Northern Cardinals** coming to feeders on their own (they have black or "mottled" bills as opposed to pink/orange color of the adults). We continue to receive sightings of those awesome **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers!** They have been spotted in some of the same areas as in previous years around JC: along Truman Blvd near Sears and Walgreens plus over near ABB off HWY 54, but also SE of Russellville and the Columbia airport. Earlier in the month we received a report of **Bobolinks** also SE of Russellville. We have NOT received word of the **Western Kingbirds** that often nest in a couple of spots around town...has anyone seen them? Drop by BIV and write your bird sightings on the "Bird Update list"...we'd love to read about it!



A young Bluebird makes its first voyage from the box!



← Adult Brown Thrasher

Immature Brown Thrasher →

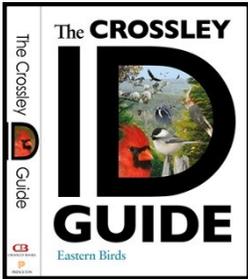
(check out the difference in the eyes)



Steve & Regina Garr BIV



See more Father's Day Gift Suggestions on our Website!
www.birds-i-view.biz



The Crossley ID Guide to Eastern Birds

Always 10% OFF at BIV.
 (only \$31.50)

This one is a BIV Customer Favorite!
 Come see why.



Does Dad like to drink Coffee and watch the birds?? We think we can fix him up! Our **"Birds & Beans" Shade Grown Coffee** is delicious! Maybe he'd enjoy a cup with some Rabbit Creek **"Chocolate Peanut Butter Brownies"**! (we have that too)

NEW!



The "Ferris Wheel" Hummingbird Feeder!

On Sale NOW!

• **15% OFF** Jim Rathert's New Mug "Spring Forest Birds"

• **10% OFF** ALL Bird Feeders made of recycled plastic/recycled Plexiglas!

• **10% OFF** the best-sounding Wind Chimes on the market!

• **10% OFF** All Purple Martin Houses and Martin House Systems

• **The very Best Prices Available on Vortex Binoculars.** Try them out in the BIV Bird Garden!

NEW Edition of the Customer Favorite **"First Flight" Hummingbird DVD!**
 New Remarkable Footage on how hummingbirds *really* eat from your hummingbird feeder and carry nectar to babies. Plus super footage and explanations on the hummers unique and spectacular flight abilities!



NEW Edition!

• **Recycled Plastic Outdoor Furniture! NEW items in super New Colors...at GREAT Sale prices AND assembled at No extra charge!**



Check out our top-selling "Classic Bench" in the store, and ask about the incredible "Two Person Glider"

★ **Coming in July "Made in America" SALE !!**

Here at BIV we make a concerted effort to keep an overwhelming portion of our inventory "Made in the USA". And we mean REALLY made in the USA. At BIV we actually know the difference between "Made in America" and "packaged in America" or "printed in America". Certainly not all of our inventory is USA-made, However, our emphasis is always on quality American -made products, and much of what we sell is made right here in the Mid-West!

Below: Birds Choice WINDOW Feeder. From Recycled Plastic. Made in Wisconsin

