



Birds-I-View June 2017

Bird Update and News

Summer Bird Feeding should include much more than seed!

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What are you missing if you only feed bird SEED during the summer months? Well LOTS of baby birds for one thing! But also many migratory birds and summer residents whose diets consist mostly of insects and non-seed food. Even typical seed-eating birds will flock to food without a shell to feed their babies. Of course nothing tops the list like LIVE Mealworms! (See our SALE on Live mealworms this month on Page 4). Feeding live mealworms to backyard birds can really be quite economical, plus the practice of putting out live mealworms daily almost

always invokes a "close up" experience with the birds not found in other methods of bird feeding. Pictured on this page are a few of the great birds in our area that LOVE mealworms and especially love feeding them to their nestlings & fledglings.



Baltimore Oriole



Summer Tanager



Carolina Wren



Fledgling Eastern Bluebird



LEFT: This pretty and versatile, yet economical dish feeder provides lots of perch area for young birds! (great feeder for mealworms).



NON-SEED Bird Food Options:

- **Live Mealworms!** (Topping the list)
- **No-melt and home-made suet doughs** (in hot weather, only offer enough home-made suet for 2-3 days)
- **Peanuts** (out of the shell)
 - BIV version of "Miracle Meal"
 - Jelly/fruit
- **Dried mealworms**
- **Suet Nuggets**
- **Sunflower HEARTS**
See the "[Feeding Bluebirds](#)" Brochure for more ideas & recipes
Interested in Growing your own Mealworms? Click [HERE](#)



Left: a **Gray Catbird** collects mealworms to take to nestlings

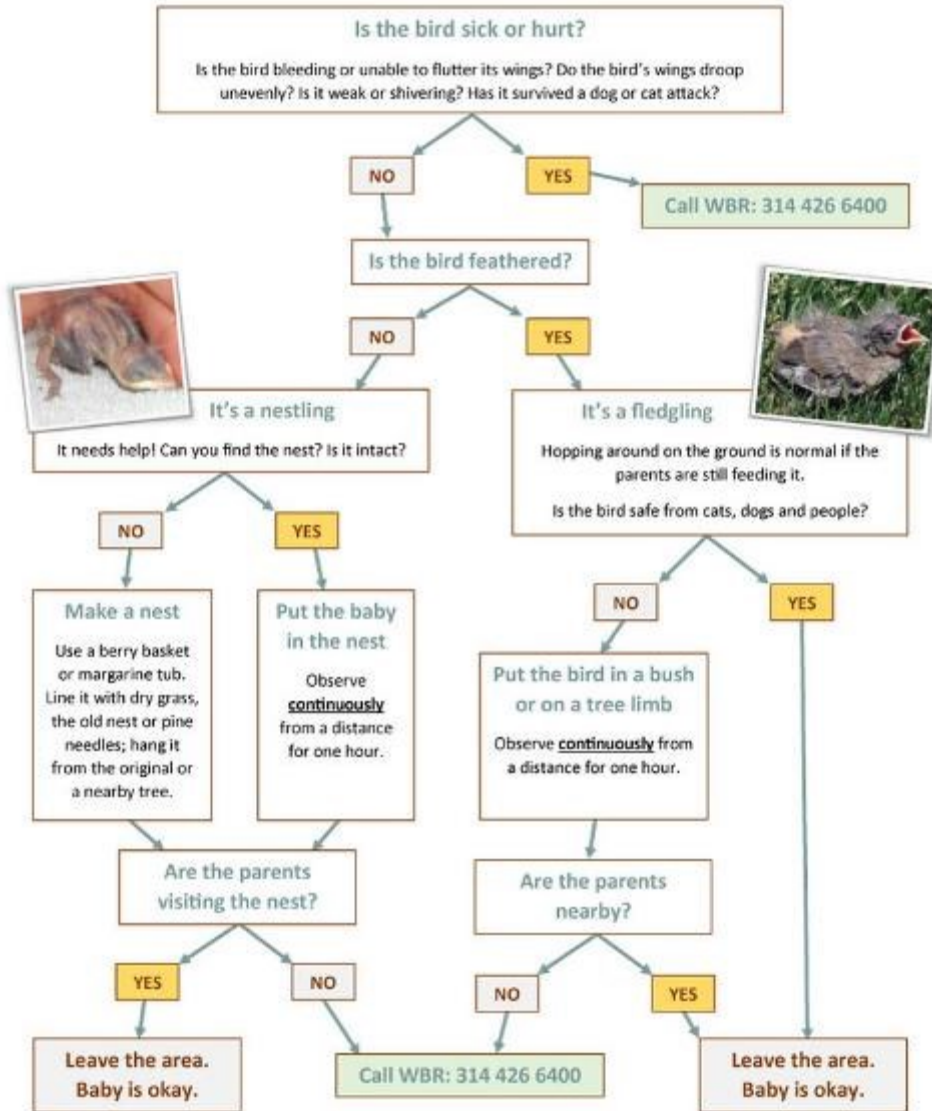


Red-headed Woodpecker

You are Invited! River Bluffs Audubon Society cordially invites you to be their guest at a fun **Picnic and Bird Walk at Memorial Park, Sunday, June 11th at 5 pm.** It's FREE! Chicken and soft drinks will be provided as well as side dishes provided by RBAS members. We will be there and are looking forward to seeing you there also! We are bringing a couple extra pair of binoculars to share and will be **giving away a NEW Field Guide** to one lucky attendee as a door prize. Did you know over 50 species of birds could be seen at Memorial Park? Wonder how many we'll see on Sunday? (FYI it is a great place to see Red-headed woodpeckers– pictured left). **Look for our group** at the picnic tables near the parking lot. You may wish to bring a folding chair and comfortable shoes. While an RSVP is not officially required...we'd love to know if you think you might join us! (It helps us plan food). Please give us a call at BIV if you have any questions. Or email steve@birds-i-view.biz.
See you at the Picnic! Steve and Regina



Our thanks to the folks at **Wild Bird Rehabilitation** in St. Louis for all they do to help our native songbirds. Please consult their chart below (and their website) the next time you are faced with determining whether or not your intervention with a baby bird might prove helpful...or harmful. www.wildbirdrehab.org Please consider a donation to their cause while on their website.



Seasonal Reminders:



- Remember to **change** Hummingbird and Oriole nectar every 2 days once temps reach the high eighties and nineties. See our educational brochure on [Hummingbirds](#) on our website.
- EXPECT a drop** in hummingbird activity at feeders this month ...female hummers are on the nest and typically snag insects near the nesting area, making fewer trips to the nectar feeders. (happens every year at this time) Don't worry: Hummers will be back with a hungry vengeance come the first and second week in July!



Don't forget to visit the **Missouri Bluebird Conference Page** on our website– get there from the **BIV Home Page**: www.birds-i-view.biz and then be sure to click onto the **2017 Missouri Bluebird Conference** link. This is one of the most **economical**, informative events available to birders!

July 14th– 16th, 2017 Warsaw, MO Includes Field Trips, Educational programs, a “Bluebird Banquet” and more!

Could that Woodpecker at your feeder have hatched just this year?

Take a closer look this month at the woodpeckers coming to feeders (with adults AND on their own) at bird baths, hopping around after adults and begging for food at feeders and in trees and shrubs. Seems juvenile and immature woodpeckers are everywhere right now! We mention it often but it bears repeating: Be sure to consult a variety of field guides to brush up on identifying some of your favorite backyard birds in their immature plumage. For starters, check out the [“Birds: Their First Year”](#) Brochure on the Educational Page of our website. Then take advantage of our **“Always 10% OFF”** pricing on all books at BIV to freshen **your** collection of Bird Field Guides. Below is an example of why it is so helpful to have access to more than one reference



Above: Adult male Hairy Woodpecker at Suet Log— note the bright red patch on the back of the head area.

Above Right: Immature male Hairy Woodpecker—note the pale red patch near the Top/Front of the crown.



book (or website or app). Both of the images below are **Hairy Woodpeckers**. The one on the far left is an adult male Hairy (in the BIV Bird Garden—note the leg band). See the bright red patch on the back of his head? Well compare that to the bird in the pic next to it and note the faint red patch on the front crown area of his head. That mark helps to distinguish it as an immature bird, yet several of the field guides we consulted made NO mention of this field mark, and only a handful showed a picture or drawing.

Isn't it interesting how, as the young bird matures, this top red patch disappears and the bright red mark on the back of the head appears?! This is just one of the things that makes bird watching during the summer so fun. (FYI...the immature Hairy Woodpecker

is gratefully eating suet from the “suet sandwich” since it is totally startling and grackle-free!)

Check out the other “Hatching Year” and Adult Woodpeckers on this page

Below: immature Red-bellied Woodpecker (L) and Adult male Red-bellied Woodpecker (R)

Below: Adult Red-headed Woodpecker (L) and Immature Red-headed Woodpecker (R)



All photos by Steve Garr

See our Educational Brochure [“Birds: their First Year”](#) for info and pics to help you identify OTHER species of backyard birds as juveniles or immature birds.



A pair of **Mississippi Kites** have been spotted routinely perching in tree tops and even carrying nesting material west of Memorial Park and near Riverview Cemetery. Maybe that is close enough to get a fly-over at the **Audubon Picnic on Sunday 6/11/17?! See page 1**



All Photos by Steve Garr

What have BIV Friends seen lately?

Well in addition to the abundant "baby birds" already mentioned in this update, there have been some great bird finds out there recently. Several folks have reported seeing the **Scissor-tailed Flycatchers** near the Walgreens on Truman Blvd or near the Mall. Check out the info about the **Mississippi Kites** sightings (left). Seems **Western Kingbird** sightings (and nestings) are more prevalent every season. We've had sightings at the intersection of West Main and HWY 179 as well as on Industrial Blvd and a nesting pair in the parking lot of the JC Airport Café. Compare the Western Kingbird to the more commonly seen **Eastern Kingbird** (pictured below— nesting again in the BIV parking lot!). Following up on a **Painted Bunting** report off Missouri Blvd (behind the Howerton bldg.), Steve and I came across a first spring/summer male **Blue Grosbeak** (pictured below, compared to an adult). Occasional **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** at feeders are still being reported and lots of **Baltimore Orioles**. **Summer Tanagers** are also visiting Oriole feeders and mealworm feeders. A recent great find at Binder Lake: a **Common Gallinule**

(thanks Jane!). A **Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher** and **Orchard Orioles** have also been reported at Binder. Steve and I were very thrilled to have **THREE** very vocal **Great crested Flycatchers** in the BIV Garden recently!

Eastern Kingbird (L)
Western Kingbird (R)Adult male Blue Grosbeak (L)
First Spring male Blue Grosbeak (R)

Check out our Father's Day Gift Ideas!

On SALE Now at Birds-I-View!

10% OFF All Jim Rathert Photography products **INCLUDING** his new "Car Coasters" and Can Koozies -perfect for summer and for Fathers Day!



SAVE on Live Mealworms! This month ONLY. Just in time for "baby bird season" SAVE an **ADDITIONAL 5%** on live mealworms, above and beyond your 5% senior discount if you qualify. Remember, we also offer a 5% cash or local check discount ...so you could save **up to 15% OFF!** We have the **BEST**, healthiest mealworms at the **BEST** price, and offer you a **REBATE of sixty cents** per cup and lid when you return your mealworm container to us. *Now you just saved even MORE!!*

Coming Soon to BIV: New "Kingbird" Espresso style coffee!

(From Birds and Beans collection of truly *Shade-grown coffees* of course)

SPECIAL pricing on our new "Sparrow Spooker" Kits. Trouble with House Sparrows bothering your Bluebirds or other native cavity nesters? We can help! Bluebirds will nest one or two more times before the end of the season. Let us help make them successful nestings! (new Special pricing on the Three Pack Kit)

SAVE on our popular **Rabbit Creek Dip Mixes!** Perfect for Backyard gatherings this time of year. Customer favorites include "**Roasted Red Pepper & Garlic**" and "**The Pigs are in the Spinach Patch!**" (as in Spinach and Bacon dip). Regular Price: \$3.49 each **SALE Price: Only \$2.99 each!**