

Birds-I-View



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Special Note about those Mealworm Containers from BIV.....

The Rebate we offer on returned empty containers (with lid) is now up to Sixty cents per cup!

Our "Regular" Mealworm customers all know taking advantage of the BIV rebate program RE-



ALLY helps keep down the cost of feeding live mealworms to

your birds. And 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).

Birds-I-View

July 2014

Bird Update and News

Q & A....Offering Suet to Birds in Summer

(Following is a question recently emailed to us - along with our answer. While this question is quite specific, the general idea of feeding suet in summer is something we find many folks are curious about).

Question:
" Is it harmful to offer Suet Products to Birds in the Summer or during nesting season? I have read that woodpeckers which eat at suet feeders can actually suffocate the eggs in their nest by transferring suet they have picked up at feeders (collected onto their belly area while feeding)."



Woodpeckers reach the suet deep inside this Suet Sandwich with their long tongues

Answer: We are indeed quite comfortable offering MOST suet products to wild birds year-round, and that includes woodpecker species. We do recommend that suet offered be protect-

ed as much as possible from heat (using dark covers etc if needed) and that "soft" and most home-made suets only be offered in quantities which will be consumed in a day or two once temps reach a consistent mid to high nineties. **There are several great "no-melt" suets on the market now which do fine in 100 plus degree temps.** (These



are often designated on their packages as "Suet Doughs" or no-melt suets/doughs or nuggets into [small hanging dishes](#) or covered trays.

A few practices

which will go a long way towards reducing the "body -contact" a bird will have with suet in spring and summer: **1.**wipe excess suet from "suet logs" and place smaller pieces of the suet plugs INSIDE the feeding ports instead of stuffing them full.

2. In hot weather, perhaps do not use suet "bags" or spread tree bark with suet butters.

3. Exclusively for woodpeckers, the "[Suet Sandwich](#)" keeps suet in the center area of a suet feeder so woodpeckers must reach it

"Delights", while softer suet is frequently labeled "suet" or "suet Treat"). Actually, one of our favorite ways to provide suet to wild birds is to crumble chunks of the

with their long tongues.

Most suet products are such great sources for carbs and energy for migrating birds (ie Orioles, warblers, tanagers, catbirds, etc) we would certainly hate to see folks not offer it at all in the spring. And since it is one of the first food stuffs to which birds will bring their fledglings to find food, we feel it is a valuable summer-time addition to a feeding station as well. As with all food stuffs, some methods for offering it are better than others, and some products are better than others.

As avid "cavity-nester" conservationists, Steve and I are actually quite familiar with concerns about practices which may negatively affect eggs etc. For decades we have researched questions about nest box monitoring practices as well as poured over studies from the North American Bluebird Society and many state Bluebird Societies. NO doubt our cavity-nesters face many perils, and I certainly do not doubt there have been cases of eggs not hatching due to suet (or other food stuffs or materials) clogging pores. At this point, we can say we personally would not stop feeding suet to birds because of this possibil-

Feeding suet in summer (continued)

*There were actually THREE Pileated Woodpeckers on our deck at **the same time** this day and ANOTHER one waiting in line on the tree adjacent to the deck!*



The two Pileateds pictured here were sharing Hot Pepper Suet Nuggets and some homemade "Miracle Meal"

ity any more than we would stop providing water sources for birds because people have found a dead bird in their bird bath. **A GENERAL look at altering presentation can certainly be a good thing, however a wholesale abandonment** of providing suet (or water!), to us, seems unwarranted.

We certainly share your concern that what we do in our feeding stations is not harmful to the birds we so enjoy watching.

Over the years (since 1979 for Steve) in the Wild Bird retail industry we have dealt with a myriad of questions and concerns about how our activities may or may not negatively affect wildlife. Some concerns are new and some seem to resurface every few years, however in the end, we have found a few tried and true concepts that now guide our decision-making process with regard to the practices we employ in bird feeding. **Clean feeding stations, maintained in a manner offering a safe place to find food (in particular, safety from man-made or introduced perils such as cats, cars, window-strikes, non-native species, etc)** is really where our philosophy centers. AND we always bear in mind that most backyard birds actually eat in several locations each day in a variety of habitats. (unlike we humans who often become dependent on one meal- ticket and are unable to cope when it goes away!).

Thanks again for caring about the birds, and for allowing us to share our thoughts with you!

Steve and Regina Garr
Birds-I-View

Pileated Woodpecker being fed "Mealworm Delight Suet" by an adult





Nesting Mississippi Kite

What have BIV friends seen lately? Many, Many thanks to Tom and Cindy Reichard for alerting us to the **nesting Mississippi Kite** in their Jefferson City yard!! Most folks believe this to be a Cole county record for a documented nesting Mississippi Kite. Steve took these pics 7/15/14 and on 7/23/14. The bird appears to be feeding at least one nestling. Sightings of Mississippi Kites have been reported for the last few years in mid-Missouri (we had three fly over Birds-I-View just last week) and it was suspected that Kites were nesting in the area. However there has been no other documentation of the bird nesting in this county. Mississippi Kites are much more prevalent in SW MO and esp along the Mississippi River such as the Cape Girardeau area. **Other Bird happenings...** well, there are abundant juveniles and immature birds out there! Young **Blue Jays** at feeders are putting on an awkward (noisy) show these days. **Northern Flicker, Pileated woodpeckers, Brown Thrashers,** and more have all been reported feeding young birds at feeding stations this month. Of course,



All Photos this page by Steve Garr

Hummingbirds are pouring off the nests now and at most feeders in FORCE! The Hummer/Bird Study Group always reminds us that we are indeed seeing some southward migration already from hummers that nest north of us and are in our area now. Don't Forget: Missouri actually gets another "peak" of **Baltimore and Orchard Oriole** populations about August 10th. Other birds being reported around mid-Missouri: **Dickcissel, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Buntings, Western Kingbirds, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary warblers, Gray Catbirds,** and earlier this month River Bluffs Audubon members saw approx **550 Red-winged Blackbirds** at Eagle Bluffs!



Dickcissel 7/13/14

News from the BIV nest box Trail! **Bluebirds** are still nesting (eggs still in a couple of boxes) and adults are feeding fledglings from other boxes on our trails. **Active nest boxes are already experiencing a good deal of HEAT** and needless to say there's more to come. We made it a point to take some "heat precautions" this week on one of our nest boxes containing bluebird eggs (pictured left). This box is one that is in a very sunny area, so some extra insurance against high temps inside the box will likely prove to be a very good move. Research shows that when Eastern Bluebird eggs reach a temp of over 105 degrees for any length of time it is likely that the eggs will no longer be viable.



Heat protection for BOX #103 on our Hyde Park Trail. 7/22/14

There were apparently abundant **Tufted Titmice** nestings, although none in our nest boxes! We have sometimes 6-7 young titmice at a time at the feeding stations begging for the adults to feed them mealworms, suet and chopped nuts. The Ellis Blvd. **Purple Martins** have all fledged, but we still have a nice flock at the house each evening. Our Wal-Martin Colony on Missouri / Stadium Blvds still has a few birds to fledge and you can see the adult Martins circling the houses encouraging the young ones to take the plunge. We are hoping to enjoy their presence well into the first of August!



A young Bluebird makes its first voyage from the box!

are hoping to enjoy their presence well into the first of August! **Steve & Regina Garr BIV**

Don't miss out on the Last Few Days Of our Made in America SALE!

Ends July 31, 2014

Because we support USA products all year long, OUR Made in America Sale includes **over 70% of our store's inventory!**

(includes Live Mealworms, Suet products, feeders, gift items, nest boxes, wind chimes and more...minimum 10% discount)



NEW!



Just in from the pretty line of Alice's Cottage products, this bundle is a perfect gift for someone who loves bluebirds!

Contains: a pretty Bluebird Flour Sack Towel, Magnetic Notepad, and Pen. All tied up with a pretty blue ribbon.

TAKE 15% OFF this item until 7/31/14... nearly all other products in this line are **10% OFF** until the end of the month! Check out the new Alice's cottage designs on our website's Gift Page.

Best Sale EVER on CareFree "Bird Bath and Fountain Protector" Enzyme Cleaner: **40% OFF!!** And that's off the Economical 16 ounce concentrate size...hurry in! We've also restocked on the other great Enzyme cleaning products for Bird Feeders, Bird Houses and Hummingbird feeders. Clean with products safer for you AND the birds! **40% OFF through August 9th.**

Hummingbird Feeders

We have feeders from 2 ounces to 48 ounces in stock! Remember: baby hummers are just now coming off the nests AND we have migrating hummers from the north...so look for **HUNGRY** hummers at your feeders for the next 6-8 weeks!! Come check out our Bee-Proof options, and wonderful WINDOW feeders.

Summer T-shirts

for folks who love birds. Come see new styles sporting birds that actually look like they are supposed to look! Some of our very favorites are a limited edition – so hurry in before they are gone.

★★Coming in August★★
"Recycled Materials"
SALE !!

Many of the great items we sell at BIV are produced from Recycled Plastic, Plexiglas, Glass, Aluminum and more...they'll all be on sale in August!



SALE PRICE! \$15.00
Regular \$19.95

Below: Birds Choice WINDOW Feeder...from Recycled Plastic

