

# 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 **REALLY** 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 2017

### Bird Update and News

## Q & A... Cleaning Bird Baths and Nest Boxes!

*Splish Splash— it is a great time of year to provide WATER for birds. What's the best way to keep baths clean (AND Safe for you and the birds)? And how about those well-used Nest Boxes? Time to clean them too!*

**Question:** "Why can't I just drop a handful of pennies into my bird bath to keep it clean?"



**Answer:** Copper has long been recognized for reducing algae growth in water. **Also** long-recognized is the **TOXIC** effect copper has on fish and marine life. But how about it's effect on

be toxic to birds, - especially chronic exposure to Zinc. Bottom Line: Just leave the pennies out of the bird bath. Even if you were to choose truly copper metal pieces to put in your bird bath to help reduce algae, there are far less expensive and more effective ways to accomplish that goal. (AND by the way, methods that do more than just reduce algae—they also combat specific harmful bacteria which like to grow in water



Photo by Warren Bielenberg

cessories (such as waterfalls, drippers, misters, or attachments to circulate the water) are best cleaned every day by changing the water and using a BRUSH or similar tool to scrub or wipe the surface of the bowl, thus dislodging any mosquito larvae or eggs. Moving water in a bird bath will discourage mosquitos from laying eggs there. Even if your bird bath has a waterfall or provides other forms of movement, it is still best to change the water and clean every two to three days. In summer heat, most of us have to add water to our baths every day or two anyway.

For advice on what cleaning products to use to clean your bird bath (and Nest Boxes) options abound. We'll discuss the popular ones on Page 2 of this newsletter....Read on!!



birds? Well... while studies vary on the effect of copper in drinking water for birds, HERE is the real issue: U.S. pennies minted post 1982 are **mostly ZINC....**and that most certainly can

features.) **Question:** "How often should I clean my Bird Bath?" **Answer:** Much depends on the type of birdbath you have. Baths with no moving water ac-

## Cleaning Baths & Nest Boxes (from Pg 1)

**Question:** "Can't I simply use a Bleach or Vinegar solution to clean bird baths and nest boxes?"

**Answer:** Well, certainly you can, we did that for years. Recommendations vary, but most reliable sources call for about a 10% bleach solution or call for one cup of vinegar to a gallon of water. (make sure to let products cleaned with bleach dry completely before use). There are also other "recipes" for cleaning with baking soda. All of these products are good **Broad Spectrum**, general purpose cleaners/disinfectants which do a good job combatting several types of bacteria and germs. Bleach in particular can make a very "visual" difference in appearance on surfaces.

One of the reasons we at BIV use natural Enzymes to clean our baths, feeders and nest boxes has to do with the **specific nature** of the product to **target** the types of bacteria and problems which occur in the situation for which it was designed. (for instance, E.coli and parasites in nest boxes, and sludge and water-borne bacteria in bird baths.) In the CareFree line of Enzyme cleaners/protectors, combinations of **27 different natural enzymes** are used depending on the situation being addressed. We believe this is the reason most of the folks using enzyme cleaners find they produce increasingly good results the longer they are used.

And, of course, the natural enzymes are not as harsh as other methods can be (particularly bleach). If we can reduce the amount of bleach and other chemicals we use we prefer to do so.



**ABOVE:** Steve demonstrates cleaning a well-used nest box after the nestlings have fledged and the nest material is removed. Keys to using the enzyme cleaners effectively are to let the spray "set" on the box or bath for a few minutes (B) before applying friction (C) and then if you do rinse, be sure to respray the surface with the enzyme product to allow it to keep working! Remove nest and clean nest boxes after **each** nesting.

### TIPS for Successfully using Natural Enzymes

1. **PROTECT** the product from excessive heat! Do not store it in your car or a garage without controlled temperature. Any length of time exposed to 100-120 degree temps can render the product virtually useless.
2. **SHAKE WELL** before spraying or diluting

3. Allow Enzyme to soak or "set" on surface before cleaning with a brush or cloth. (length of time depends on amount of debris)
4. If you rinse surface after cleaning be sure to reapply with a coat of Enzyme so the product can continue to clean and protect!

Drop by BIV for more tips...

Steve and Regina Garr  
Birds-I-View  
www.birds-i-view.biz

## What have BIV friends seen lately?

Here's a terrific picture of a **Common Nighthawk** enjoying a peaceful afternoon in a friend's backyard here in Jefferson City. Somehow this bird just doesn't look nearly as camouflaged sitting on this chain link fence as they do when they perch in trees! Great photo.

**Mississippi Kites** have been busy around town again this month. They have been spotted 7/20 and 7/21/17 again circling over the BIV Bird Garden and also perched in trees off West Main.

Immature and juvenile birds abound in backyard right now! We hear reports daily of immature **Pileated Woodpeckers** and other woodpeckers coming to suet feeders on their own. Juvenile **Northern Cardinals**, with their solid black beaks and brown/gray plumage are at feeders



being fed by adults, while slightly older ones (with "mottled" beaks) are venturing to feeders on their own. **Baltimore Orioles** and **Summer Tanagers** are also showing young birds where the jelly, live mealworms, and suet are to be found. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** are back at the feeders again after a short "disappearance" from our feeders while they nested. Expect to see their numbers build through August and well into September! **Remember to change hummingbird nectar in feeders at least every other day during this heat.**

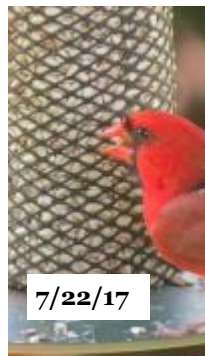
Start watching for young hummers off the nest—they are not that hard to ID

by their shorter tails, "fluffy" plumage and especially by their "young bird" behavior!! (FYI: actually "baby" hummingbirds are as large as the adults).

Have you noticed **Common Grackles** increasing in number at your feeders? (They have offspring they are feeding!) Steve just implemented the "super **grackle and starling control plan**" in the BIV Garden again! It has really cut the number of these two species dominating feeders. Most all of our seed feeders have been changed to straight Safflower Seed, some whole peanuts (with shell) and suet **only** in the caged feeder and "suet sandwich"! What have YOU spotted lately? Drop by and write your sightings on the Bird Update List at BIV.



**RIGHT:**  
**July 22, 2017**  
A gorgeous male Cardinal munches on Safflower seed in the BIV Bird Garden



7/22/17

Just a reminder that, yes, Bluebirds do frequently nest in July and August and they often need a little help dealing with extreme heat... a little extra protection now can make the difference in how many eggs hatch and how many babies fledge! **What can you do?**

[Learn more....](#)

**RIGHT:**  
A hatching year Downy Woodpecker enjoys "Grackle-free Suet" at the Suet Sandwich!



7/22/17

BIV Bird Garden

**BIV Purple Martin Colony House C**  
Busy Birds! Martins are feeding nestlings, some have fledged, and some have just hatched...Come visit!



**\$5.00 OFF!**

**Special Birds-I-View Coupon!** 512 Ellis Blvd/ Jefferson City, MO 65101  
www.birds-i-view.biz 573-638-BIRD(2473)

**Take \$5.00 Off a Purchase of \$30.00 or more!**

OK to combine items for qualifying total/ Excludes Black Oil Sunflower Seed and Coffee  
Cannot combine with other discounts One coupon (one use) per household

Thank You for reading our Bird Update and News!

**Expires 8/5/17!** (No need to print this coupon —just mention you received it!)

# What's NEW and On Sale at BIV?

Free 16 ounce CareFree Birdbath Statuary Cleaner with Purchase of ANY Recirculating waterfall at Birds-I-View (a \$12.95 value!)

Keep your bird baths and waterfalls clean with natural enzymes that are safe for you and the birds!

BTW: Take 10% OFF All our CareFree Enzyme cleaners thru August 5th

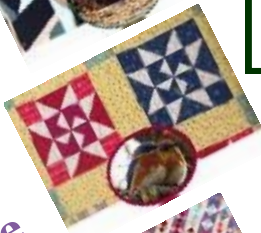


# FREE

# NEW!

**Bluebirds & Quilts**

Note Cards!  
Sold Individually or packaged in Sets of SIX for gift-giving.



**One of this Season's most-requested items: Bee Proof Hummingbird Feeders!**

Put the FUN back in feeding Hummers this time of year: Aspects and Droll Yankee Bee-proof Hummingbird feeders are made in the U.S., have Lifetime Warranties, AND they keep out the bees, wasps, and yellow jackets! Remember: baby hummers are still 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 WINDOW feeders.



★★NEW Shipment★★  
**Sienna Skies Jewelry**

Made in Colorado, this line is now officially a BIV "Customer Favorite"! Our top sellers in this line start at only \$13.95, with quality that matches much more expensive jewelry.



**BUY them Here**

**BUY 6 get one FREE** in the store!

**Another Customer Favorite....** Of all the delicious gourmet food we stock from Cherchie's, the **Lem'n Raspberry Marmalade** has truly taken off to the top of the best-seller list! (second only to Cherchie's **Champaign Mustard**) We do love to "Eat while we watch Birds Eat" at BIV!! Check out Recipes and Order [here](#).



**Noticing some "youngsters" at your bird feeders?** Well, it is certainly the time of year for that and aren't they fun to watch?! See them "up close" with one of our favorite Window Feeders. Steve and I have used this feeder for years and LOVE that it **keeps out** the Starlings and Grackles yet gives the BEST view of our favorite birds! See it in action on our [facebook page!](#)

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

