



# Birds-I-View

## August 2015

### Bird Update and News!

## Take the Feather Quiz

*(Answers on Page 2 of this newsletter)*

**1. The average small bird, such as a House Finch, has 1200 feathers. Larger birds can have ten thousand feathers or more. How many different TYPES of feathers does every bird have?**

- A. six    B. eleven    C. eighteen



**2. It is easy to distinguish between a male and female Northern Cardinal based on their plumage, but both sexes in other birds (like Chickadees, Doves, and Blue Jays) appear to look identical. Birds also**



**distinguish between the sexes based on plumage, so How do birds that look exactly alike distinguish between male and female?**

**3. Which color of feather is strongest?**

- A. Black    B. Red    C. White

**4. Backyard birds will fluff up their feathers to keep warm. How much is heat loss reduced when birds fluff their feathers for warmth?**

- A. 10%    B. 20%    C. 30%

**5. What special feature do Hummingbird feathers and Wild Turkey feathers share?**



*All photos in this newsletter by Steve Garr unless otherwise noted*

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Owlets in Forest Park 5/15  
Photo by Mark Glenshaw

### River Bluffs Audubon Society presents:

**“Forest Park Owls: Hiding in Plain Sight”** by Mark H.X. Glenshaw

*Join us for a detailed look into the “private lives” of a pair of nesting Great Horned Owls! Mark has closely observed and documented the activities of this pair of owls nesting in Forest Park in St. Louis, MO since December 2005. The program will describe how Mark discovered these owls, and will feature a vast range of the owls’ behavior such as hunting, mating, nest site selection and rearing young—all portrayed via Mark’s exquisite photos and video footage.*

Thursday, September 10th, 2015 6:30 pm    **No Reservations Required**

**Runge Conservation Nature Center Jefferson City This program is FREE and open to anyone interested in birds**

*We certainly plan to attend and hope to see you there! Steve and Regina Garr, BIV*

### Looking Ahead.....Mark your Calendar:

- **River Bluffs Audubon Bird Seed Booking** hosted by Birds-I-View: Expect Order forms to be available **Sept 28th– Oct 3rd**. The “pick up days” for folks who book seed will be **Nov. 13th & 14th**.
- **Saturday October 10th: The “Big Sit Bird Count”** at Birds-I-View! It will be difficult to top last year’s record of 43 species, however we ALWAYS have a good time and see plenty of great birds. Join the “Birds-I-View Birders” in the BIV Bird Garden as we participate in this fun international event. In BIV tradition, we’ll have food, games, prizes, and free educational materials for participants. 7 am–6 pm...participate the entire day or only 15 minutes!

## Answers to the Feather Quiz!

Answers taken from the book *Feathers* by Stan Tekiela

**1. A...Birds have Six different types of feathers.** AND, you may be surprised how few of those feather types actually have to do with flight. They are listed and described on pages 23-35 of Mr. Tekiela's book on feathers, with a very helpful photo and diagram on page 34: **Contour feathers, Down feathers, Flight feathers, Semiplume and Filoplume feathers, and Bristle feathers.**

**2.** Well the answer to this one lies in WHO is doing the looking! While adult birds of both sexes of some species may look to US to have identical plumage, we don't have "bird eyes". Most backyard **birds have an extra cone in their retinas which captures ultra violet light.** While birds feathers reflect the light spectrum we do see, they also reflect UV light which we humans cannot see. Birds therefore have no trouble telling the boys from the girls based on plumage! An example given by author Stan Tekiela on page 63 of his book *Feathers* is that of Blue Jays. The large white patch on the wings of male Blue Jays reflect UV light—the females wings do not. Visible to the birds, invisible to us!



**Here's a BONUS story** indicating the importance of feather coloring and plumage markings . On page 74 of his book *Feathers*, Stan Tekiela relates a study in which a female Northern Flicker was captured during breeding season and black marks were glued to her face (mimicking the malar

marks on male Flickers). When she was returned to her mate he chased her away aggressively! When the black facial marks were removed from the female, the male's behavior returned to normal. Subtle differences in plumage appear to be very important!

**3. A. Black feathers are stronger.** Melanin, which gives black /dark feathers their color, also gives them strength. Nearly all woodpecker species have black tails— which comes in handy since very strong tail feathers are needed for support as woodpeckers balance on trees and excavate cavities in the wood! (page 85)



**4. C. 30%** When birds fluff their feathers to keep warm they are reducing heat loss by approximately 30%! (page 81, *Feathers*, by Stan Tekiela)

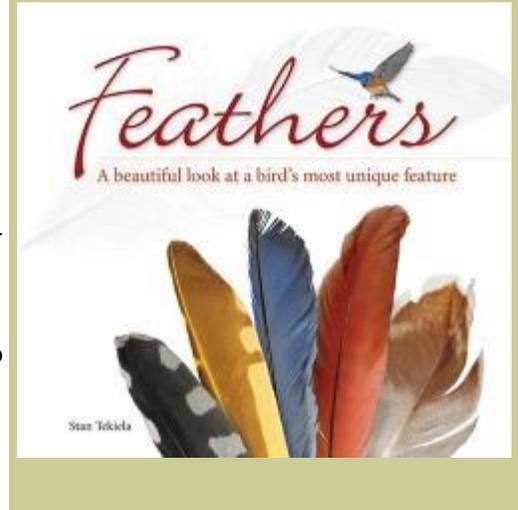
**5.** Hummingbirds and Wild Turkeys ( among other birds) possess some feathers which appear one color in one light and another color in a different light. **...Iridescence.** Or as author Stan Tekiela refers to it on page 60 of his book on feathers: "Shimmering Iridescence"! While the light refraction in the feathers of these two species may not be derived in exactly the same way, the iridescent results are equally gorgeous!



**FYI: Please Note** that special federal and state-issued permits are required to possess or collect feathers of any native wild birds.

Answers to the "Feather Quiz" taken from the wonderful information in Stan Tekiela's book *Feathers*! We have only scratched the surface here —there are hundreds of more fascinating "feather facts" to explore in his book. ( Remember: all Books, CDs, and DVDs are always 10% off regular retail price at Birds-I-View!)

**Info for Feather Quiz Answers** taken from the new book *Feathers* by Stan Tekiela  
Regular price: \$14.95  
**Only \$13.46 at BIV!**



### Seasonal Reminders from Birds-I-View

- Remember to **clean bird baths, feeders, and hummingbird feeders regularly!** This is a great time of year to use the all natural Enzyme Cleaners.
- **Birds are already on the move! Migration is upon us at the end of August /first of September: Protect Birds from Window strikes with Window Alert Decals**
- **Moving water attracts migrating birds!** With their spectacular eye sight and hearing, one of the best ways to attract migrating birds to your yard is via a recirculating waterfall, or a dripper, or mister.
- **Remove Nesting material from nest boxes and clean them after all babies have fledged .**

## One of the Toughest Challenges in Bird feeding? Raccoons on the deck!

For those of us who love to feed our birds off our second story deck area, where we can watch them up close and consistently, raccoons who also find their way to our deck can be particularly challenging!

Steve has a suggestion or two that have proven helpful —come see him.



Pictured Left: **Jar opener** by Jim Rathert Photography

We have received great comments about our latest Educational Brochure: **Stopping Unwanted Guests at your Feeding Stations!**

Download it above or go to our website

# T-Shirt Sale!

## \$1.50 off

**ANY T-SHIRT IN STOCK!**

No need to print this coupon—simply mention it to us!

Expires 9/12/15 while supplies last

Birds-I-View Jefferson City, MO [www.birds-i-view.biz](http://www.birds-i-view.biz)



13 different T-shirt designs in stock!

## What have BIV friends seen lately?

From August 5th throughout most of the month, two to four **Mississippi Kites** routinely flew over the N. Circle Drive area of Jefferson City, frequently perching in a few favorite trees. Reports of Kites come much more frequently than they did a couple of years ago. Did you take your Oriole feeder down? Well put it back out! Many, many of you have reported you are having several **Baltimore Orioles** coming to jelly, nectar and mealworms. The two pictured here visited the **BIV Bird Garden** on 8/25/15. Orioles see many more hummingbird feeders than oriole feeders during migration— so don't be surprised to see them at your hummer feeder ...it's just a bit more difficult for them to eat from hummingbird feeders. Steve removed one yellow flower from the port of this feeder to make it easier for the Oriole to get to the nectar. Another interesting visitor was the **Red-shouldered Hawk** pictured below left sitting on the Bird Bath in the BIV Bird Garden on 8/21/15 and a vocal little **Eastern Screech Owl** was seen and heard late on 8/25. Young **Brown Thrashers** are a routine sight in the garden this month (note the brown eye on the one pictured below—an adult Brown Thrasher would have a gold/yellow eye). **Purple Martins** routinely visited our martin houses and circled the BIV parking lot until mid month. On the 20th a good birder in JC reported a **white Blue Jay** (wasn't a true albino, but VERY white) on her deck, followed by a **Yellow-throated warbler** on her deck the same day! **Summer Tanagers** have been reported at mealworm and jelly feeders in Holts Summit and JC. **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** are just everywhere and really tanking up now on nectar. West of JC comes a report of 50+ **Northern Rough-winged Swallows**. A bit farther from home, a **Neotropic Cormorant** was spotted at **Eagle Bluffs** on 8/20/15! Mid month **Binder Lake** produced reports of assorted **Sandpipers**, several **Killdeer**, and **Lesser Yellowlegs**. Do you have your favorite **Warbler Field Guide** handy?? It's about that time!! Drop by BIV and write your recent sightings on the monthly Bird Update list.

Mississippi Kite



Orioles in BIV Bird Garden 8/25



Red-shouldered Hawk



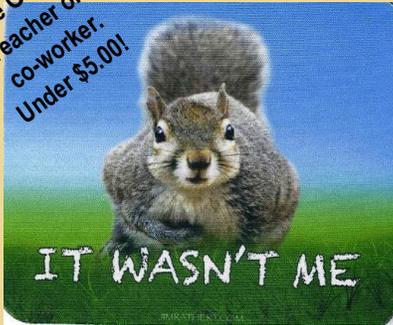
Brown Thrasher



08/25/2015

# NEW and On Sale at Birds-I-View!

Cute Gift for Teacher or co-worker. Under \$5.00!



This sneaky little Squirrel claims "it wasn't me"! (HA!) Limited time Special Savings on this mini- Mousepad and 11 oz mug by Jim Rathert. **BUY them NOW** on the Rathert gift page at: [www.birds-i-view.biz](http://www.birds-i-view.biz) **SAVE \$1.50 on the Mug, and \$1.00 on the small Mousepad!** Order them now online at the sale price or drop by BIV as soon as possible! (coasters also available)

FYI: We added nearly 20 new items to the [Jim Rathert Photography](#) Gift Page on our website...you need to check that out right away! [www.birds-i-view.biz](http://www.birds-i-view.biz)



## Our Top-selling Handbag?? Anything with Sea Turtles!

(Although those cute Owls and the little Fox are still going strong). Come check out our newest "mid-size" hand-bag (getting RAVE reviews) AND...for a limited time **SAVE 15% on ANY Coin Purse/key fob in stock!** Reg. \$12.95 Sale Price \$11.00!



With names like "Sprinkles" and "Pixie" these humming feeders are naturally adorable! Sale price \$17.96 and up.

**Blown Glass Hummingbird Feeders (recycled glass!) Get a jump on Holiday Gift shopping.**



A sampling of **Fall mailbox covers and flags** are in stock NOW! (more in Sept)

# Arriving Soon!

Look for the **LATEST** in chala "pals" ...**raccoons & squirrels!** (we hate them in our bird feeders, but they seem to be a wildly popular gift item!)



**FALL designs** in the wonderful Alice's Cottage line of giftware are on the way to BIV!



BIV has a few **NEW Bird Seed Blends** in stock! Come check them out and try something new.

