

Steve & Regina Garr are the owners of **Birds-I-View** and have spent many years committed to helping others enjoy and learn more about the Native Wild Birds that can visit their “space”. They have been presenting programs on attracting Backyard Wildlife for decades, with a special emphasis on attracting desirable wildlife to almost any setting. Steve & Regina are co-founders of two separate State Bluebird Societies, and Steve is a past President and Life Member of the North American Bluebird Society. They are recipients of awards acknowledging their contributions in the areas of conservation and environmental stewardship from the River Bluffs Audubon Society, Bluebirds Across Nebraska, the Tennessee Dept of Environment & Conservation, the North American Bluebird Society and other organizations..

Steve spent nearly 9 years as a monthly columnist for the **Nature Society News**, and he and Regina are President and Secretary, respectively, for the **Missouri Bluebird Society**. For 14 years, they were bi-monthly featured guests on the “Around the House” gardening themed radio program.



We can't say enough about providing clean water year-round for the birds.

Not only does it give them a source to drink from when other water sources are frozen, but it also enhances your opportunity to see birds that may not otherwise visit your yard—birds like Cedar Waxwings, Bluebirds (pictured above) Pine Siskins, Hermit Thrush, and more!

Bird Baths Year-Round!



Bird baths: The traditional pedestal bird bath is a great way to begin supplying water for the birds. We recommend that the “bowl” part of the bath not be too deep. A depth of 1 1/2 - 2 inches is ideal. Even more effective is providing varied levels of depth (achieved by placing a stone(s) or decorative object in the bath). From this point, adding moving water, such as **re-circulating fountains**, can be a real benefit especially when providing a new water source. There are some **solar options** available in fountains now but quality issues abound; Birds-I-View can help you determine the best option for your habitat. Backyard birds will often locate moving water very readily - they have excellent eyesight and superb hearing. Also, moving water freezes less quickly than still water. **Heated Baths are a real plus.** In addition to bird bath “heaters” (really “de-icers”), many baths are now sold with the heating unit inside the bath itself. Fortunately today, most all heated bird baths or bird bath heaters are **thermostatically controlled**. They will generally only turn on when temps are low and will shut themselves off at approximately 42 degrees or in the event the bath runs out of water. Bluebirds, doves, cardinals, chickadees, native sparrows, finches, jays, woodpeckers, robins, juncos, and many others will frequent this style of bird bath.

BIRDS-I-VIEW
Jefferson City,

Water Sources to attract Wild Birds!



Committed to providing information & products that benefit wildlife.

573-638-BIRD(2473)
www.birds-i-view.biz



**LEFT:
A Chickadee
enjoys a bath
from a
Misting
System**

Many desirable wild birds do not routinely visit bird feeders. ALL birds require water. We can enhance our opportunity to view a **greater variety** of birds by providing appropriate water sources for them and , at the same time, we are providing them with a very important biological requirement. Dependable water sources are important all year long. Birds require clean feathers in order to keep warm in the winter time.

A greater variety of water sources will provide a greater variety of backyard birds! Be certain to locate baths and fountains 10 –15 feet from the shelter of trees or shrubs - nothing too close, but adequate as to provide a quick escape from predators (like hawks and cats) if necessary. Please use discretion when placing baths on the ground if cats are a consideration.

Cleaning Bird Baths & other Water Features:

*In the past we have recommended using a bleach solution or vinegar to clean bird baths. Now however, recent developments with **Natural Enzyme products** available to clean baths **And** to keep them clean longer, provide a better choice. We believe these products to be safer for the birds, better for the environment, and safer for humans to use than other cleaning options, particularly if you have several baths , feeders, and houses to clean.And they do a better job!*

Drippers & “Wigglers”:

Drippers, whether attached to bird baths, or “ground” drippers used in conjunction with rocks, stone walls, or numerous natural surfaces, provide an excellent and simple way to provide fresh water for the birds. Most bird bath drippers on the market attach to an outside faucet with fairly inconspicuous tubing (generally 50’) and often have a control valve to adjust water flow. The benefits of these types of drippers are that they can be easily moved from site to site and the flow can be adjusted to a steady stream initially (to catch the bird’s attention) and then reduced to a drip. One of the most enjoyable aspects of bird bath drippers is that, inevitably, birds will prefer to drink the water as it drips from the dripper, hanging upside down from the “source” of the water. Drippers also tend to draw a great quantity of birds quite quickly - perhaps because, in nature, there is no guarantee how long a drip will continue to flow! The birds take advantage of it right away. Battery-operated “**Water Wigglers**” are a good option for bird habitat with no access to electricity or an outside water faucet. The device holds D-Cell batteries which power an agitator causing water in a bath to “ripple” and move gently and consistently, catching the attention of wild birds. Now available in **solar options** as well. Water Wigglers are also easily moved from one water source to another . Because they are battery-operated, cold weather can effect their operation– and while they won’t prevent a bath from freezing, Water Wigglers can be a great addition to a heated bird bath except in extremely cold temps. They are an easy method for adding moving water to most backyard bird habitats!



The addition of **Moving Water** to any bird bath or water feature will inhibit Mosquitoes from laying eggs—a healthy benefit to birds **and** people!

Great Resources for learning more :
Bird Watchers Digest Booklet: **Creating your Backyard Bird Garden**
Native Landscaping for Wildlife & People
By Dave Tylka

Misters & Misting Systems:

One of the most enjoyable water features in our own “backyard habitat for wildlife” has been our shade garden, complete with a misting system for the birds. Approximately 70 feet of tubing (covering a 600 square foot area) was draped through tree limbs and hangers over columbine, jack-in-the-pulpit, may apple, shooting star, blood root, azalea, bleeding heart, golden wood poppy, and coral bells. The tubing had nozzles which misted water into the trees and onto the rocks and plants below. From late May until early October our “Cedar Glade” provided a cool refuge for birds (and **people** in the hammock). Set on a timer to come on daily from noon until 2:00 pm, the mister would lower the temperature in the misting area about 20 –25 degrees!

We have seen Kentucky warblers, black and white warblers, yellow-breasted chats, vireos, Wood Pewees, black-throated green warblers, and even an American Woodcock in the yard as a result of installing the misting system—none of which were previously noted. Chickadees, titmice, buntings, downy woodpeckers, cardinals and **hummingbirds** used the tree leaves below the misting nozzles to “shower” and doves, towhees, robins and yet more cardinals gathered in the puddles on the rocks beneath the misters. Hanging lots of hummer feeders from the tubing , allowed the hummingbirds to come to nectar in the mist .

A misting system does not need to be this elaborate to be effective. There are some “do it yourself” kits (like ours) on the market, but there are many more complete units. Most are designed to clip or hook to shrubs or trees to mist water onto the leaves and branches. Like the drippers, they attach to an outside water faucet with narrow, inconspicuous tubing. **Whatever system you choose, prepare to be completely entertained and delighted by the feathered visitors to your “backyard habitat”!**

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512 Ellis Blvd. / Jefferson City, MO 65101
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