

Birds-I-View Jefferson City, MO 573-638-BIRD(2473)

September 2012 Bird Update & News!



Red-breasted Nuthatch at Peanut/Sunflower heart /Seed Blend

Photo by Steve Garr

What have Birds-I-View friends seen lately?

The most frequent comments this month have been about how much better fall migration has been for seeing both **Baltimore Orioles** and **Warblers**. Within just the last few days we have begun seeing fewer Orioles at the feeders, but overall more folks have seen many more visiting Orioles and Warblers this month than they did any month during the Spring. Here are a few of the warbler species that have been reported around mid-Missouri (from parks to gardens to bird baths): **Back -and-white, Tennessee, Kentucky, Yellow, Wilson's, Chestnut-sided, Palm, as well as Northern Parula and American Redstart.** (By the way, one of our favorite Books for Warbler ID is the small but useful Stokes Field Guide to Warblers, only \$14.99 before the BIV discount). One good birder was still seeing **Gray Catbirds** in her yard as recently as 9/17. Our Bird Cam in the **BIV Bird Garden** has captured some of our visiting migrants of film! We have pics of a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at the Safflower feeder in the garden and have seen both the female and male through the scope. All of the birds we have mentioned so far are on their way south for the winter. Enjoy them now! One bird that can be found generally every month of the year in Missouri is the **Cedar Waxwing**, however populations certainly vary greatly depending on the season Early in the month we had a report of 30-50 Cedar waxwings at Binder Lake, and we have had perhaps a dozen at a time here at the store on the wild grapes and gleaning some insects out of the trees.

Populations of **Cedar Waxwing** usually increase considerably this month- be watching for them at baths (particularly waterfalls). We have also had a very vocal **Great-crested Flycatcher** in the BIV Garden this month as well as adult and immature **Brown Thrashers**. We are getting scattered reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and a few **Pine Siskin**. **Northern Rough-winged, Tree, and Cliff swallows** were reported at Eagle Bluffs, and some one spotted a **Bald Eagle** at Red Field Golf Course in Eugene. **Common Nighthawks** are making there way south and being spotted all around Mid-Missouri. Most people are still seeing plenty of nice fat **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds**. Folks may not be feeding the enormous quantities of nectar they were a few weeks ago, however there are still plenty of hungry hummers out there. **Remember:** Feed without fear! Hummers know when to migrate so leave your feeders out for them (you'll be helping the late migrants)! **What have YOU seen lately?**

Every few years we get a migration of northern birds that usually do not venture as far south as Missouri. This year looks to be one of those years. There have been reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Pine Siskins** already in Missouri. The Red-breasted Nuthatch has also been seen this fall at Binder Lake. I expect many of you to have both of these migrants in your yard this winter. The Red-breasted Nuthatch is smaller than our resident White-breasted Nuthatch - about the size of a Chickadee only slimmer. The Red-breasted Nuthatch also has a white stripe on the side of its head that separates the black cap. You will also notice the blue- gray back besides the reddish breast.

We usually first see the Red-breasted Nuthatch at our birdbath. The Pine Siskins are usually first seen traveling from yard to yard mixed in with the Goldfinches. They are similar in size and are often confused with Goldfinches. Look for a few yellow feathers on their wings and a striped chest similar to the House Finch. The Pine Siskin has a much smaller beak than the House Finch which helps it find seeds in pine cones.

Another bird we hope to see this winter is the Evening Grosbeak. This bird looks like a large Goldfinch with a hefty beak. They love Sunflower seed and are about the size of the Cardinal.



Pine Siskin

American Goldfinch



Male Baltimore Oriole
BIV BirdCam Photo
9/8/12



BIV Garden
"BirdCam" photo
Female
Rose-breasted
Grosbeak
9/12/12

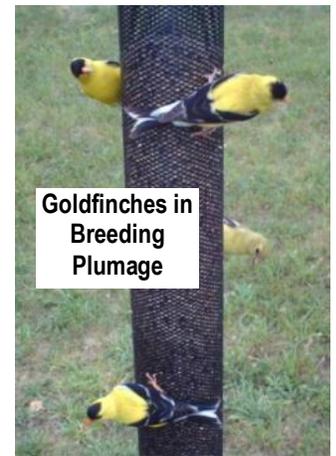


**Juvenile
American Goldfinch**

BIV Bird Garden
(hackberry tree)
9/13/12
Photo by S. Garr

Some birds you can just tell from their actions and their plumage that they are just off the nest. An American Goldfinch still has soft down feathers when it leaves the nest. Often you may not see this plumage because they do such a good job hiding themselves amongst the weeds and leaves. When the Goldfinch leaves the nest it already has its adult colors unlike the Northern Cardinal that is more brown than red when it leaves the nest. The Cardinal changes colors as it replaces its first feathers. There is also a change in beak color as the Cardinal ages. In the fall taking a good look at the beak is the best way to tell if a Cardinal hatched this past summer or if it is an adult Cardinal.

While the American Goldfinch is considered a late nesting bird and we are just seeing its young now, the Northern Cardinal is not only a late nester it is also an early nester. The Cardinal may start its first nest in February and raise multiple clutches of young until late summer or early fall. This year has been an exceptional year for our open nesting birds and expect to see an abundance of your favorite birds at your feeders this winter.

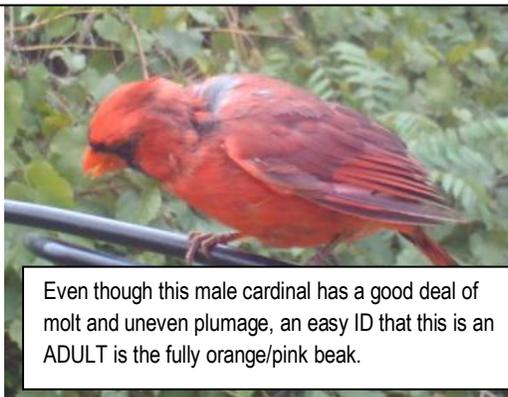


**Goldfinches in
Breeding
Plumage**

These Cardinal images were taken by our "BirdCam" in the BIV Bird Garden this month



Immature Northern
Cardinal - note "mottled"
bill and plumage



Even though this male cardinal has a good deal of
molt and uneven plumage, an easy ID that this is an
ADULT is the fully orange/pink beak.



Adult Female
Northern
Cardinal

09/13/12 11:50 AM

Download our **Cardinal Brochure** and **"Birds: their first year"** Brochure on the Educational Page of the BIV website.

Hummingbird migration is in full swing. The hummingbirds you see this week will probably not be the hummingbirds you see next week. The hummingbirds we are seeing now are *mostly birds that hatched this year and adult females*. We keep a record of when the last Ruby-throated hummingbird is seen each year. It is also good to keep up with when the last **male** Ruby-throated hummingbird is seen each year. The adult males start their migration a week or two before the females on their trip to their winter feeding grounds in Mexico. Please, let us know if you are still seeing adult male hummingbirds and keep a record of when you see the last Adult male Ruby-throated hummingbird along with information of when you see the last hummingbird for the season.



Female
Ruby-throated
Hummingbird

9/16/12

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Every purchase benefits our local River Bluffs Audubon Society chapter!

Deadline to order on the Booking Program is October 15, 2012. See our website for details.