

## Birds-I-View



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## April 2017 Bird Update and News

### It's Nesting Season for.... Almost everyone!



A Chickadee watches as we inspect it's nest on one of our nest box trails in Jefferson City.



Another Chickadee has 6 eggs in the Great crested Flycatcher nest box at Birds-I-View! We have several active Chickadee nest boxes on our trails around town, at the store, and at home!



The BIV Purple Martins are busy at all three houses (both colonies: Ellis Blvd and Missouri/Stadium Blvd)

Tis the season for nesting activity! And our native cavity-nesting birds are no exception. In the BIV nest boxes, as well as those of MANY of our customers and birder friends...birds are busy building nests, setting on eggs, and hatching babies! To all of you who give our native cavity-nesters a helping hand by providing safe nest sites; We THANK YOU!

Which native cavity-nesters might be found in nest boxes right now? Here's a few: Bluebirds, Tufted Titmouse, Chickadees, Carolina Wrens, Tree Swallows. Depending on their location, some nest boxes might see Prothonotary warblers before long. And of course Martins in many Purple Martin Houses. House Wrens have arrived and are checking out boxes. And a few lucky souls will likely be seeing White-breasted Nuthatches nesting soon.

**This is a good time to remind everyone** that when we choose to provide nesting boxes for native cavity nesters, what we are really doing is **providing an OPPORTUNITY** for that bird to nest. We are not trying to provide an "irresistible nest box" that lures specific birds to nest there! The cavity itself is the draw to the birds and so we want to make that cavity as SAFE and beneficial to the birds as possible. Please take some time to read an article we wrote for the Missouri Bluebird Society about [What Bluebirds Like](#).



**Above: Birds-I-View "Sparrow Spooker" Kit. \$19.95 intro price** (that's \$17.96 after a senior + cash discount, by the way).

Sparrow Spooker designs abound...Steve has taken one of the best ones and made some very helpful improvements to make it easier to use effectively. **Not to be used year-round**, there are some very specific directions for using "sparrow spookers" on nest boxes successfully. We include those instructions with our Sparrow Spooker kit. **Especially important** is the practice of not installing this device on a nest box until the native bird has laid at least one egg. **FYI: Of Course**, the purpose of this device is to discourage House Sparrows from nest boxes already occupied by native birds; it has nothing to do with our native sparrows that come to our yards and feeders. These species are not cavity-nesting birds so would likely not even be interested in the nest box. Stop by BIV to learn more!

**What have BIV friends seen lately?** Hummingbirds are here!

Brown Thrasher



Put out your feeders! We started getting calls on the 10th about **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** sightings at feeders and have received at least one every day since. These will be mostly the adult males appearing now...generally females will follow along in a few weeks. **Brown Thrashers** are gorgeous birds. We watched a pair today foraging and singing. Good to see them back. They can be lured to suet (esp in platforms), to peanut halves, Sunflower hearts and of course live meal-

worms. They also enjoy a nice "sand bath" in the warm sun! **White-throated Sparrows** can still be seen and especially heard now. They'll be leaving us for parts north soon, so enjoy them now. Several **Eastern Towhee** have been reported. Early in the month a **Hermit Thrush** made an appearance in a birders backyard. After hearing **House Wrens** for a few days I finally spotted one today. Brush up on your Warblers and Vireos...it is time!



Adult female Ruby-throated hummingbird (note white tips on tail and white throat).



Adult male Ruby-throated Hummingbird. (Note Red gorget plus a very deeply "v'd" tail compared to female.)

Nesting season has just started, however "baby season" is just around the corner. For wild bird Emergency care/info visit: [www.wildbirdrehab.org](http://www.wildbirdrehab.org) Or call 314-426-6400

**Coming Soon!**

These are birds which have shown up the 3rd or 4th week of April in years past...grab your favorite field guides and learn more about them now!



Nashville Warbler



Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Baltimore Oriole



Orchard Oriole

Photo by Don Kurz



Here are a couple of interesting pics from our good friend Don Kurz: It looks like a titmouse has taken over a chickadee nest in the photo on the left and a Phoebe decides to nest on the roof of a roosting box instead of on one of the nesting shelves Don has provided (image right). Don also takes care of the shore bird area at Binder Lake and he has just adjusted the water level to expose the mud flats for the migrating shore birds arriving this month. Thanks Don for what you do!



Photo by Don Kurz

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