

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

## July 2012 Bird Update & News!

Sunday, July 22, 2012

Jefferson City, MO Greenways

Wears Creek Frog Hollow Branch

(the Greenways Trailhead off Dunklin Street)



Steve and I watched these **Cliff Swallows** feeding flying insects to the nestlings still in many of these mud nests which lined the underside of the HWY 54 overpass. It was a feeding frenzy!



Left: Clean water is always import for the birds, however when temps are this extreme, and many of our feathered friends are still nesting or tending to juvenile birds, anything we can do to reduce stress counts even more! Talk to us about your options for water.

**Wow! It is HOT out there!** The birds are sure feeling it, too. AND YET....so many of them still attempt nesting even in this unbearably hot, dry weather. One of our wonderful speakers at the recent Missouri Bluebird Conference emphasized the point that nothing appears to supersede our native birds' desire to reproduce...not food, not protection, not anything. Well we have certainly seen evidence to support that this summer! From Goldfinches to Cardinals to Bluebirds we are seeing so many birds nesting right now—even birds on their second or third nesting cycle for the season. **With things so hot and dry, is there anything we can do to help our feathered friends? Well yes!** We still have some active nests in some of our nest boxes and we are doing all we can to keep their nest boxes protected from over-heating. You can read more about it on our website and on our facebook page.



**Above:** One of the Nest Boxes on the BIV trail gets an Extra Long Roof plus reflective aluminum flashing on the front to help protect against the unusually hot temperatures. This Box has five healthy Bluebird nestlings inside...**read more (with more pics) at: [www.birds-i-view.biz](http://www.birds-i-view.biz)**

We have some “how-to” steps on the website. **Plus: don't forget about water now for all of the birds.** Keep it clean and fresh and moving is always better. There has never been a better time to “schedule” your moving water for your birds ( ie a dripper or mister for 20-30 minutes at the same time each day) so the birds get accustomed to it. **This will help to conserve water and actually produce more birds at once for you to see!**

### What is wrong with this picture??!

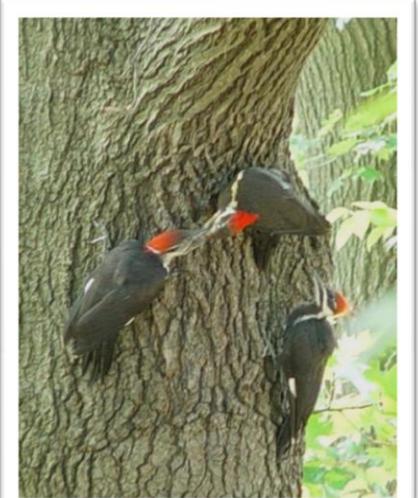
Well of course this Baltimore Oriole didn't actually nest in this nest box ( they build unique interesting nests which hang from tree branches)

However the juvenile oriole shown here sure doesn't mind following its parent over to this nest box in our yard to beg for food! (FYI: the nest box was unoccupied, and the juvenile was doing just fine getting mealworms on its own from our deck five minutes earlier!)





Like so many other birds right now the **Pileated Woodpeckers** in our yard are busy feeding fledglings. Already these immatures are making trips on their own to the **suet and peanut** feeders to figure out the mechanics of eating from backyard bird feeders! The juvenile and immature birds are basically the same size as the adults, just watch for “unfinished” plumage and of course that begging /excited young bird behavior! **This time of year we really appreciate having a variety of good field guides on hand to turn to.** Not all books show every species in an immature state and just googling a species name doesn’t always provide enough detail. ....the Field Guides ( and all books and DVDs at BIV) are  
**ALWAYS 10% of regular retail price.**



**What have Birds-I-View Friends seen lately?** Well, for some “out of the backyard” News... the **Brown Pelican** at Binder Lake is still hanging out! And a bit of a drive, but very cool, are the **Wood Storks** reported (Sumner, MO) at Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Jim Rathert has taken some great pictures of these birds...stop by BIV to see them on the show room monitor. **A little closer to home:** a good birder over in St. Thomas has reported that many species are taking advantage of her water sources: **Summer Tanagers, Chipping sparrows, a Yellow-throated vireo, Kentucky warbler** and even the **Ruby-throated hummingbirds** are enjoying the water. We have had three separate reports of male **Scarlet Tanagers** in tree tops in areas west of JC. Immature **Brown Thrashers** are making appearances under and on bird feeders and also to some bird baths. We get reports daily now of the large number of immature **Blue Jays** coming in groups to feeding stations! (Loud and a tad goofy looking). Early in the month we received a report of a **leucistic Goldfinch** (**irregular** pale or white plumage) at a backyard feeder in town. It is always interesting to see and hear about these unusual plumage patterns in backyard birds ( not to be confused with immature birds sporting plumage which just is not “finished” yet). Most **Purple Martins** have fledged but some are still seen hanging around houses. **Hummer** numbers are increasing and will only get better through next month!

## Upcoming Events for Birders

- **Birds-I-View’s first-ever Nest Box Trail Tour! Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30 am- 8:00 am**  
**ADVANCE Reservations Required.** Steve and I have never led a Trail Tour of our Jefferson City BIV Nest Box Trail and have always wanted to do so! We know it’s hot, however we have scheduled the tour for early morning hours. We can only take a VERY limited number of folks on this tour so we promise to have another tour in the future for people who cannot make this one. This will not be a “Bird Walk”. We will take time to show you our predator control, our record-keeping, and how we are addressing the heat issue. We will open some active boxes and answer your questions. (We remind you to PLEASE not open or approach our nest boxes on your own- it really does negatively impact our record-keeping and frequently the birds!) **Please Call 573-638-2473 to make reservations and get the details.**(call 10-6 M-SAT). If you are not certain you can attend, we ask you to please leave the position open for some one who can. BIV will provide bottled water and a few snacks at the trail site. Most walking will be along paved paths and will be very minimal. We will have handouts and information for you to take home. Hurry and Call! **Reservations will close at 5 pm on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** (unless the tour is full prior to that time). We look forward to sharing our Birds-I-View Nest Box Trail with you!
- **“Cardinals & Coffee” Bird Walk** at Runge Conservation Nature Center in Jefferson City. **Thursday, August 2, 7:30 am – 10 am.** Join us for a walk around the nature center trails with naturalists who do an outstanding job of showing us birds and interesting things in nature we’d have missed on our own. I love this walk and try to attend every chance I get. I hope to see you there! **Call 573-526-5544 to make a reservation** (ages 18 +).
- **“Hummers of Summer”** Join Birds-I-View at the Runge Conservation Center **August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 pm** for an evening dedicated to the Ruby-throated Hummingbird! Runge has lots of wonderful activities planned and Birds-I-View will have a booth there....no reservations required! We will see you there. **Steve & Regina Garr, Birds-I-View**