

## ***MAY IS BUSTING OUT ALL OVER***

### **May 1-8:**

Showtime.

-As of the 8th, our birdhouses have 21 nests (11 by Tree Swallows, 10 by Bluebirds).

-Eight of those nests have eggs; totals range from two to five eggs per box, so far; last year, our record-setting total for a single box was nine eggs (Tree Swallows, Hole 7).

-Just one nest with hatchlings so far (Bluebirds, Hole 10); at least six on the brink of hatches.

-Only one box has been consistently infiltrated by the bad guys (House Sparrows, Hole 18), and we've thwarted them every time.

### **May 2:**

The Balds arise. Our Bald Eagle nest was in a typical low-activity mode from mid-April as Mom (we hoped) sat below deck sitting on eggs. Then, on May 2, two adult Balds were perched (and photographed) on branches looming above the nest. A great sign. That usually means hatch time, with Mom and Dad gazing down at the crib and admiring the babies. Given their secrecy and elusiveness (and their sheer distance from our prying eyes), we have to piece together their story every year and hope we're right.

### **May 5-8:**

We had our first 2020 sightings of these migrants (among other; many more to come):

Eastern Kingbird

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Baltimore Orioles



Yellow Warbler



Yellow-rumped Warbler

(None of those guys nest in birdhouses, but all are beautiful in their own ways.)

**May 8-9:**

The cold snap (daytime temps in the 40s, nights in the 30s — and the first measurable snowfall for the region since around 2013, depending on which source you like) is a serious matter for our nesters. A small bit of good luck: Moms do better keeping eggs warm than they do fragile and helpless newborns. So the fact that 20 nest boxes have eggs that are still being incubated by moms is a positive — if there were more hatched babies out there when the temperature plunged, we'd be fearing a bad mortality rate. As it is, we're bracing for eggs lost to cold. "Shelter in place" for them has never been more important, while we wait for a real springtime to show up.