

KINGBIRD OPTIMIZES FORAGING

JANET HECKER, Buena Vista, SK.

We live at the lake and have a couple of Western Kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) nesting in our yard. Our house eaves overhang our deck by four feet, which makes a wonderful place for spiders to spin their webs and catch insects. We have an ongoing battle with spider webs in our head space on our deck. On Tuesday July 8, 2014, I was sitting and reading just inside the picture window when I saw a Kingbird approach an insect-loaded spider web right up against the glass, hanging

down from the soffit. He hovered almost like a hummingbird, and picked his favourite bug from the smorgasbord offered, and very quickly flew away, *taking the whole loaded web with him*. It was speedily done, and if the web survived the flight he and his family had a real feast that afternoon.



Western kingbird chicks

- Lowell Strauss