



Pictures courtesy of Bet Zimmerman: <http://www.sialis.org/sparrowspooker.htm>  
 Assembly directions by Paula Ziebarth: contact [madamewingnut@yahoo.com](mailto:madamewingnut@yahoo.com)

Materials Needed:

- 1 foot section of ¾ or 1” diameter PVC pipe
- (2) 9 inch long sections of ¼” diameter wooden dowel rods or 2 chopsticks from your favorite Chinese carryout :)
- Mylar banner (Happy Birthday banner from Walmart)
- Wood screw to mount spooker (1 ½” works well)
- Hot glue gun
- Power drill
- Scissors

Assembly:

- Drill two ¼” holes near top of PVC pipe as shown in above picture to insert wooden dowel rods. (If you want to improve the look of the PVC, spray paint it glossy green or other color.)

- Drill smaller hole at base of PVC pipe for mounting screw.
- Cut mylar banner to make (8) 1 foot long sections of about ½” wide mylar streamers
- Hot glue mylar streamers onto wooden dowels.
- Apply some hot glue along top of PVC pipe where wooden dowels have been inserted to keep them steady.

Installation:

Sparrow Spooker should be installed on the nest box of a native cavity nesting bird **after the bird has laid its first egg**. Use mounting screw to screw through base of Spooker into back of nest box. Mylar streamers should barely brush the top of the nest box, but should not hang down in front of entry hole. If streamers are too long, trim them with scissors.

In public park systems, I thumbtack a small laminated sign onto the side of the nest box so that interested people will know what the Spooker is for and to decrease vandalism.

Suggested text:

**The mylar “Sparrow Spooker”  
above this box is meant to  
keep nonnative House  
Sparrows from killing the  
Eastern Bluebird  
adults/eggs/nestlings that  
occupy this nest box.**

Once the chicks have fledged from the nest box, remove the Sparrow Spooker and sign.

This passive House Sparrow management technique is very effective for keeping House Sparrows from killing native birds in the nest box on which the Spooker is installed. Nest boxes without Spookers may attract House Sparrows and if a native cavity nesting bird is in residence there, they are often killed by the House Sparrow. House Sparrows will destroy eggs, young and adult birds.

I recommend a two pronged approach to House Sparrow control in areas where they are prevalent. All my nest boxes have mounting screws installed on the inside so that I can quickly install a Van Ert Universal Sparrow Trap. Trap can be ordered from manufacturer at: <http://www.vanerttraps.com/> or purchased at some local Wild Birds Unlimited stores. Trap should be inserted in nest box when a House Sparrow is seen in or on a the box. This active House Sparrow management technique makes an area much safer for all native cavity nesting birds.

Questions? Contact Paula at [madamewingnut@yahoo.com](mailto:madamewingnut@yahoo.com)