The Eastern Screech-Owl is found in nearly every habitat throughout the eastern United States and southern Canada. It is common in urban as well as rural areas and readily nests in man-made boxes. Throughout the year, Eastern Screech Owls search for nest and roost sites, so any time is a good time to put up a box!

Eastern Screech-Owls have both red and grey color morphs and about 1/3 of all individuals are red. Eastern Screech-Owl pairs usually are monogamous and remain together for life. Eastern Screech Owls nest from mid-March through the early summer and lay 4-6 eggs.

Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Tips

• Use untreated wood as treated wood may cause health hazards to the owls
• Do not paint the interior of the box
• Be sure to provide drain holes at bottom of box
• Mount aluminum flashing on top of the roof and bend over the sides to discourage squirrels and to prevent water from getting in the box
• Place box at a clearing or at the woods edge
• Mount the boxes at least 10ft high and on a tree away from houses and roads
• Once mounted, add 2-3” of wood chips or shavings to the bottom of the box but avoid cedar chips or sawdust
• Rub the underside of the roof with a bar of hand soap to discourage honey bees from taking over the box
• Clean boxes at least once a year and repair any leaks to prevent growth of mold and mildew

For more information on Maryland’s Owls, then visit the Maryland Wild Acres site: dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wildacres.aspx
Screech Owl Nest Box

Lumber size is nominally 1" x 10" (actual size is 3/4" x 9 3/4"). An 8' 1" x 10" will provide ample lumber for the screech owl nest box.

- Top fastened over front, back, and non-pivot side.
- Back fastened over non-pivot side and bottom.
- Front fastened over non-pivot side and bottom.
- Bottom fastened between front, back, and non-pivot side.
- "Locking" nail (or screw) holds side closed.
- Side pivots to allow mounting and cleaning.
- Pivot nails (or screws) Drill pivot holes and locking holes slightly larger than nail shank.

- Bottom 7 3/4" Holes drilled in bottom for drainage.
- Top 12" Keyhole shaped predrilled holes for easier mounting.
- Side 17" Nail head fits through larger hole and box slides down on shank.
- Side 15" Holes drilled in sides for ventilation.
- Front 10" 3" diameter entrance hole

Provide space between top and side to allow swing.

8'