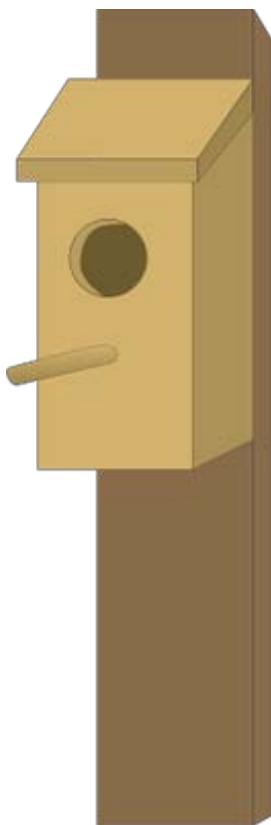
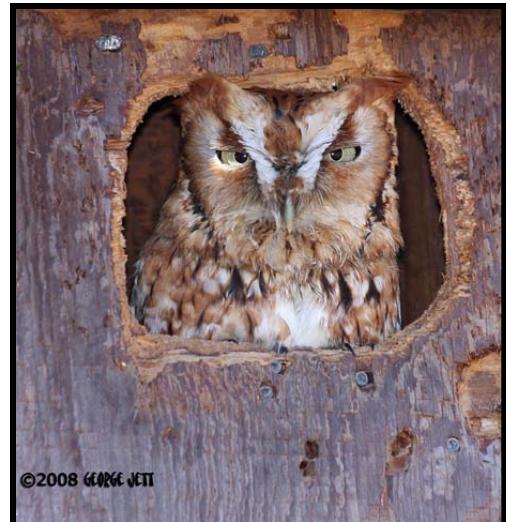


Eastern Screech-Owl

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 or two! Multiple boxes, with the holes in sight of each other, may increase your chances of attracting owls.

Eastern Screech-Owls can be rusty-red, mottled grey, or an intermediate grayish-brown. 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.
- An exterior perch is not needed, but a small interior ledge an inch or two below the hole can help young reach the opening.
- Be sure to provide drain holes at bottom of box.
- It can be helpful to 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 near a clearing or the woods edge, away from roads.
- Mount the boxes at least 10 ft high on a tree or on a pole with a predator guard.
- Once mounted, add 2-3" of wood chips or shavings to the bottom of the box, but avoid fresh cedar chips or sawdust.
- If needed, rub the underside of the roof with a bar of hand soap to discourage wasps from nesting.
- Repair and clean unoccupied boxes annually 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 1/4"). An 8' 1"x 10" will provide ample lumber for the screech owl nest box.

