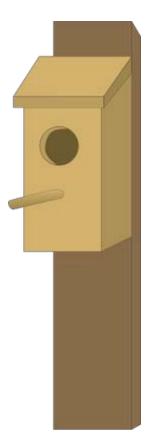
## **Eastern Screech Owls**

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: <u>dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wildacres.aspx</u>



dnr.maryland.gov

## Screech Owl Nest Box

