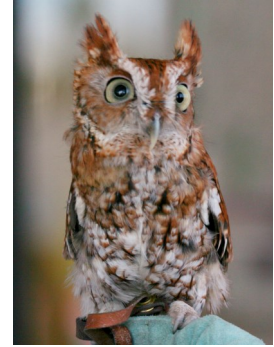




# American Kestrel/ Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box



Both the American Kestrel and the Eastern Screech Owl prefer to be on the edge of mixed stands of deciduous woodlands adjacent to fields and wetlands.

## **MOUNTING AND LOCATION FOR AMERICAN KESTREL:**

- Place the nest box on a pole, post or tree between 10-30 feet high (remember you will need access to clean out the nest box).
- Place the nest box approximately 75 feet from a human dwelling.
- Place the nest box facing east or southeast and preferably where it offers shade and easy flight access.
- Nest boxes should be at least 1 mile apart but no closer than a 1/2 mile.
- Breeding is April-June.

## **MOUNTING AND LOCATION FOR EASTERN SCREECH OWL:**

- Screech owls use a nest box for nesting and as a winter roost.
- Place the nest box on a deciduous tree 10-20 feet high, in dense shade facing south.
- Place the nest box on the edge of woodlands in late winter (February) when they are looking for a nesting site.
- Look for a site that has easy flight access.
- To increase your chances of attracting a Screech Owl, hang two houses. The reason for this is that during mating and nesting season, the male stays near the female to help feed her, but he occupies a different house/cavity. Having two houses makes it a more attractive location. You can hang the houses in two different trees near each other.
- Breeding is March-July and they pair for life. Eastern Screech Owl has two colors, they are either red or grey.

## **MAINTENANCE:**

- Nest boxes should be checked several times a year.
- The first check should occur in late winter before they arrive in order to clean out and make any repairs.
- During this check you can add 1-2 inches of wood shavings
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- During the early spring check, if you find that nest material is being brought in, chances are it is not being used by a Kestrel/Owl. They do not bring in nesting material but other birds or squirrels do.
- Because Kestrels/Owls are especially sensitive to disturbance during incubation, avoid visiting the nest box during this time; but monitor the nest box from a distance.
- Visit the box in late summer after nesting to remove old nesting material and to do repairs.

### **DO'S AND DON'TS:**

- **DO** be a good landlord and check nest boxes several times a year, clean them out and repair as needed.
- **DO** place nest boxes where predators cannot access from below or above. Use PVC pipe or metal predator guard if mounting on a pole or post. If mounting on a tree use metal flashing that is at least 30 inches.
- **DO** use nesting material of 1-2 inches of wood shavings.
- **DON'T** use sawdust or **cedar** shavings in the box—it will harm the babies.
- **DON'T** paint or stain the nest boxes.

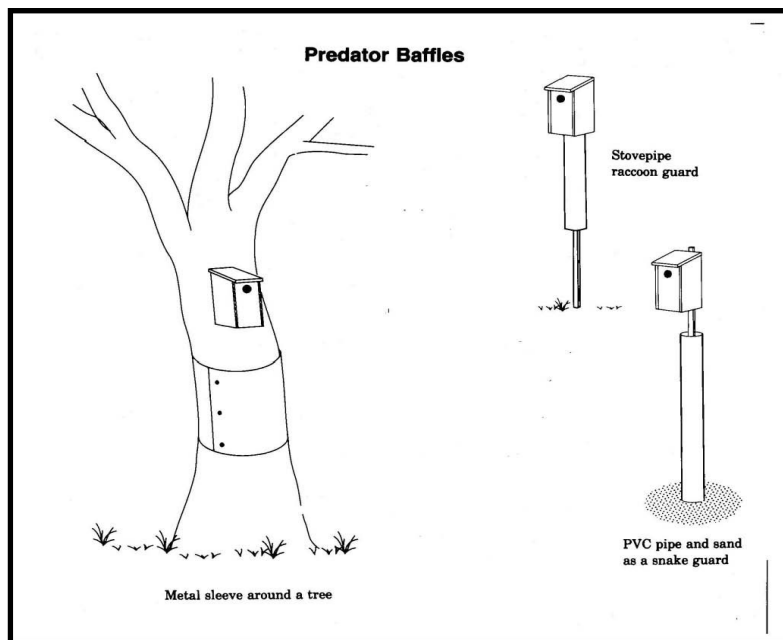


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