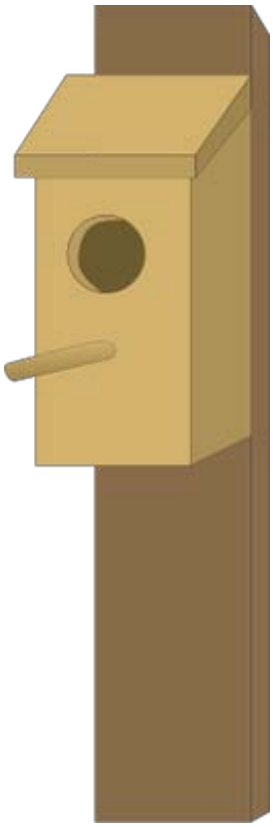
Eastern Screech Owls

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

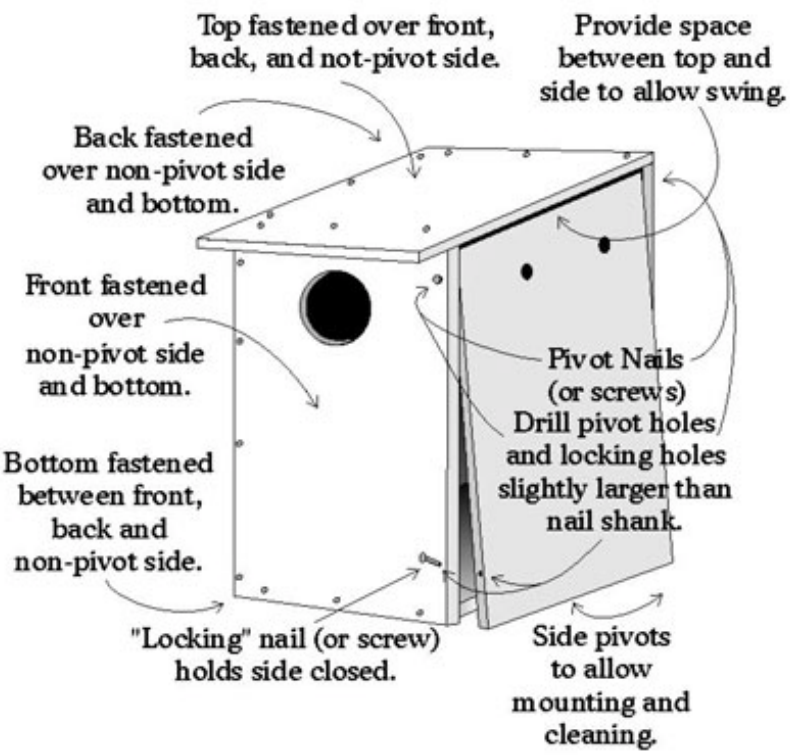
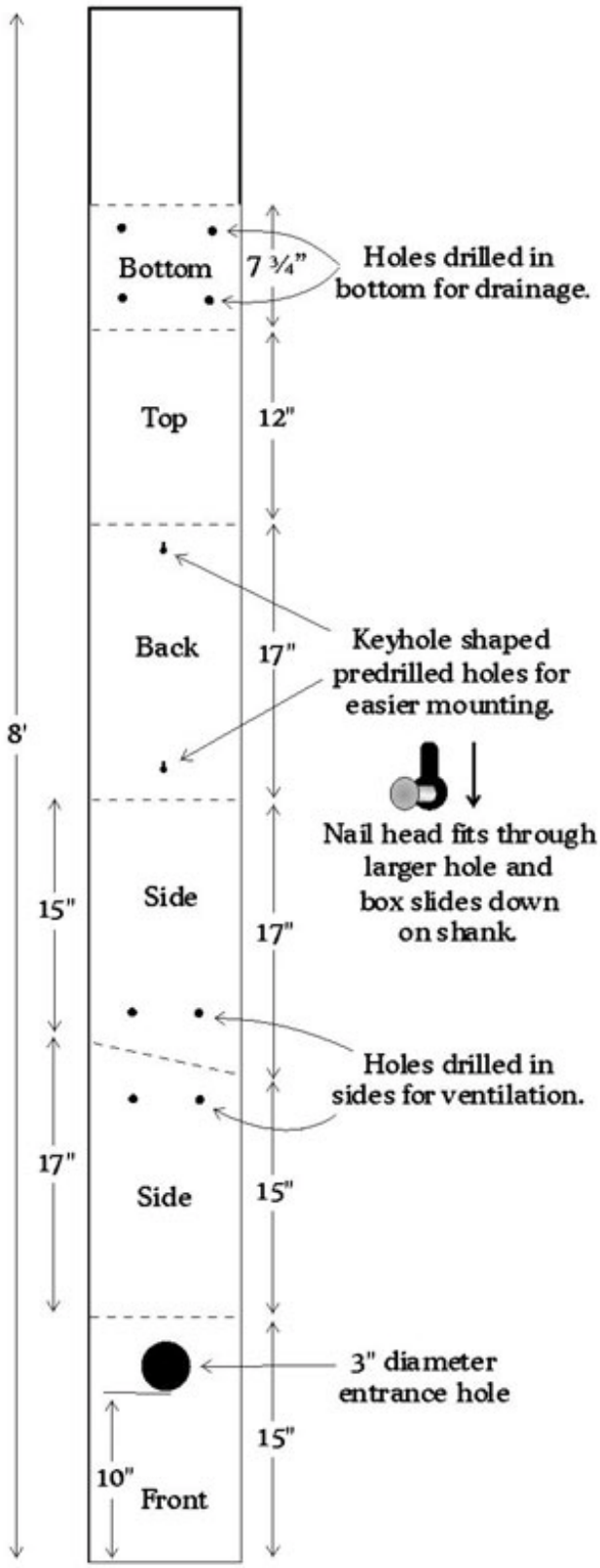
- Use untreated wood as treated wood may cause health hazards to the owls
- Do not paint the interior of the box
- Be sure to provide drain holes at bottom of box
- Mount aluminum flashing on top of the roof and bend over the sides to discourage squirrels and to prevent water from getting in the box
- 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:

http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Habitat/WildAcres/index.asp

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/

Screech Owl Nest Box

Lumber size is nominally 1"x 10" (actual size is 3/4" x 9 ¼").
An 8' 1"x 10" will provide ample lumber for the screech owl nest box.