

Nest Box Building Instructions

1. Cut pieces according to the plan drawing. Measure from the bottom of the front piece 11 ½” up and cut out the 3” entrance hole with the center of the hole lining up with the 11 ½” mark.
2. Measure and drill four ¼” drainage holes in the floor piece.
3. Place the sides on the back piece for assembly. Mark and pre-drill pieces. Attach sides to the back piece with wood screws.
4. Recess the floor piece ½” from the bottom to reduce wicking water infiltration. Pre-drill holes for the floor piece, then screw to the sides.
5. Attach the pre-drilled front piece to the sides and to the floor. Be sure that the front piece is aligned with the angle of the sides at the top, as this allows for a tight fitting roof.
6. Place the roof piece on top of the sides and make sure that it is centered. Attach the hinges to the roof so that they are equal distance apart from the edge, approximately 1” from the edge of the roof. Attach the hinges to the back piece.
7. Install spring-loaded hook and eye closure (as pictured in the diagram). The hook is attached to the upper left side of the box, and the eye is attached to the left side of the top so the hook fits into it.
8. Drill two mounting holes in the back piece (as shown in the diagram) so the nest box can be attached to a pole.
9. Finish the exterior with a low-to-no VOC exterior water-based semi-transparent light-colored stain or paint. Do not stain or paint the interior areas. Apply two coats on the roof. Allow stain or paint to dry before installing nest box.
10. Using the two pre-drilled mounting holes, attach the nest box to a wooden pole with screws or to a metal pole (with matching spaced pre-drilled holes) with bolts.

credits:
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text editing and graphic design: Bruce Ehresman, Julia Badenhope, Chad Schultz.
nestbox design by Marleen Kemnect and technical drawings by Roxy LeMoine.
images by Wolfgang Wander - Own work, <http://www.pbase.com/image/58326162>, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=2191737>

Published with the support of:
Iowa Ornithologists' Union, iowabirds.org
Bird Friendly Iowa, birdfriendlyiowa.org
& Iowa State University

Eastern Screech Owl *Megascops asio*

If a mysterious trill catches your attention in the night, bear in mind that the spooky sounds may be coming from an owl no bigger than a pint glass. Commonly found east of the Rocky Mountains in woods, suburbs, and parks, alike, the Eastern Screech-Owl is found wherever there are trees, and they're even willing to nest in backyard bird boxes! In recent years this little owl has been declining in numbers, and it is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Iowa. These supremely camouflaged birds hide out in nooks and crannies of trees during the day, so train your ears for their songs and listen for them at night.



Habitat Needs

Best Locations for Nest Boxes:

- prefer edge habitat –especially shaded areas in sparse woods, near streams, farm woodlots, city parks and quiet wooded backyards
- hollow tree cavities or nest boxes provide nesting sites, conifer trees are favored daytime roost sites
- nearby vegetation that harbors small mammals, beetles, grasshoppers, katydids, and frogs provide a food source for this nocturnal hunter
- place the nest box on a pole or post 8-10 feet above ground
- place a metal predator guard beneath the nest box
- orient the nest box opening toward the east or southeast, if possible
- Add 1-2 inches of wood chips inside the nest box to provide nesting material, since screech owls do not carry nesting material.

Nest Box Locations to Avoid:

- noisy neighborhoods
- high vehicle traffic areas