

Eastern Screech Owl Fact Sheet



<http://birds.audubon.org/species/easscr>



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Screech_Owl

Distribution: The Eastern Screech-Owl is found east of the Rocky Mountains, where it is a permanent resident of both rural and urban habitats from south of the Canadian boreal forest to near the Tropic of Cancer in Mexico.

Habitat: Found in wooded areas where they can feed on a variety of animals.

Diet: Screech Owls feed on small animals and insects. They are nocturnal but mainly feed at dawn and dusk.

Characteristics: The Eastern Screech Owl is Florida's smallest owl. Screech Owls come in three color morphs: red, brown and gray. They have short ear-tufts and yellow eyes. Their facial disc is pale greyish-brown. Their length is between 18-23cm and wing length is between 145-175mm. Breeding season for Eastern Screech Owls is generally around mid-April, but may range from mid-March to mid-May. Predators of these Owls include Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, Long-eared Owls, Great Gray Owls, Short-eared Owls, Snowy Owls, mink, weasels, raccoons, skunks, snakes, crows, and Blue Jays.

Status: Widespread and locally common.

How You Can Help Protect the Eastern Screech Owl

- * Plant large shade trees to provide hunting perches over open areas below.
- * Maintain native shrubs or bushes to support an array of food sources for owls.
- * Avoid using lawn and other pesticides that kill large insects that owls eat and that may directly poison the birds.
- * Plant native shade trees to provide potential nesting sites for owls.
- * If safety allows, protect snags or dead limbs--especially those already excavated by woodpeckers.
- * Mount nest boxes 10 to 20 feet high in large trees. Box interior should measure at least 8 x 8 inches wide and 12 to 15 inches deep, with a 3 inch entrance hole.
- * Install additional roost boxes, with larger entrance holes, for winter roosting.
- * Plant an evergreen tree with dense branches, and large shade trees for additional roosting sites.
- * Provide a bird bath or shallow pond, and keep water clean and free of mosquito larvae.

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Fun Facts About Owls

- There are around 200 different owl species.
- A group of owls is called a parliament.
- Most owls hunt insects, small mammals and other birds and some owl species hunt fish.
- Owls can turn their heads as much as 270 degrees.
- Owls are farsighted, meaning they can't see things close to their eyes clearly.
- Owls are very quiet in flight compared to other birds of prey.

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/owl.html>