

American Kestrel Eastern Screech Owl Nest Box Plans

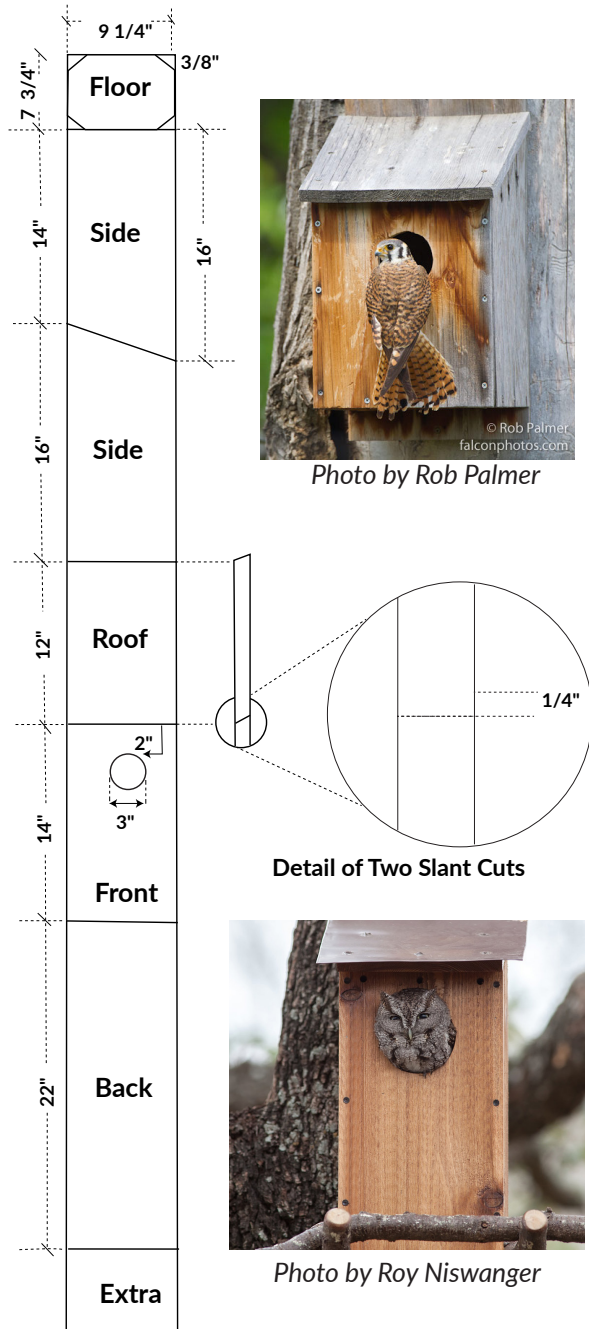
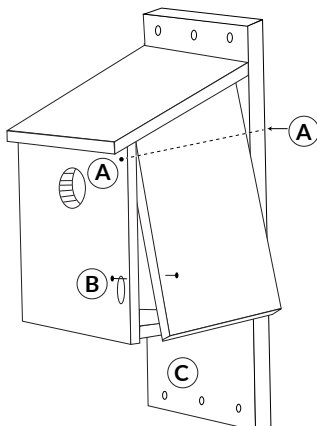


Materials

- One 1" x 10" x 8" piece of unpainted / untreated wood. Best choices: cedar, cypress, or redwood. If you use plywood, exterior grade is recommended.
- 1 1/4" outdoor wood screws.
- Wire to keep side door shut.

Tips

- Do not mount your box where you will be using pesticides, insecticides, or herbicides.
- With a chisel or knife, make horizontal scratches on the inside of the front piece, from the bottom up to the entrance hole (so the young birds can climb out).
- Make sure there are no nails or screws in the wood that could cause injury to the bird.
- Do not paint the inside of the box. Do not paint or treat with a wood preservative.
- For Kestrels - Best to place on a pole, side of a barn, or on a dead or lone tree in open field. Entrance should face an open area.
- For Screech Owls - Place in woods, along woodland edges, or in yards with large trees. Keep away from sidewalks or doors.



- Pivot screws work as hinges. To allow the side to open easily, the pivot screw in the back must be level with the one in front.
- Loop wire around nails.
- Holes for attaching box to a tree or post with nails, lag bolts, or wire.

AMERICAN KESTREL



- 9" tall falcons with long pointed wings and long tail.
- Males have blue-gray wings; females are mostly reddish brown.
- Has characteristic tail-bob.
- Makes excited, high-pitched cries when alarmed.
- Found in open habitats.
- Primary diet in summer consists of large insects. In winter, mice & small birds.
- Nests in cavities 10-30 feet off ground. Old woodpecker holes, natural cavities, rock crevices, and man-made nesting boxes are all used.
- Usually have 1 clutch a year with 4-5 eggs laid. Parents are monogamous and both incubate for 29-31 days. First flight takes place 30-31 days after hatching.
- Life expectancy around 2-5 years in the wild.

EASTERN SCREECH OWL



- 8" tall, small and stocky, with feather tufts and yellow eyes.
- Comes in two color morphs: reddish brown (cinnamon) and gray.
- Found in urban and suburban areas.
- Diet consists of small birds and mammals, reptiles, insects, crayfish, and earthworms.
- They are nocturnal, and spend their days sleeping in dense foliage or inside a cavity or crevice, hidden away from other predators.
- Nesting occurs from mid-March to mid-May, and one clutch with 3 to 5 eggs is usually produced. Incubation lasts about 26 days and the young fledge approximately 28-30 days after hatching.
- Their vocalizations consist of mellow whistles and trills.
- Screech Owls search for nest and roost sites throughout the year, so build your nest box as soon as possible!

According to recent data, studies show a decline of nearly 50 percent in the American Kestrel population. They are considered threatened or endangered in 4 states, and their population is of concern in 21 others. Eastern Screech Owls are currently in decline in the northeastern United States. Building a nest box for these little birds can help in their recovery, while also providing you with nature's best pest control!