



### **Thank you!**

By installing this habitat structure, you are providing an essential nesting area for wildlife in need. Landowners, like you, play a vital role in providing habitat for wildlife in the Credit River watershed.

### **Habitat**

Eastern screech owls are found in deciduous woodlands with nearby open fields and wetlands.

### **When to Expect Them**

Mid-March to mid-June

### **Call**

Sounds like: "*HoooOOOooo*" a mournful, tremulous wail descending in pitch.

### **Habitat Structure Placement**

<b>Location</b>	Forest edge, open woodlot
<b>Height off Ground (m)</b>	3 – 9
<b>Entrance Hole Facing</b>	Any direction
<b>Spacing</b>	30 m apart
<b>Attach to</b>	Tree, pole
<b>Installation Time</b>	September to February

### **Care of the Habitat Structure**

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in March. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Add 5 to 10 cm of coarse wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

### **Important Notes**

Nesting females should not be disturbed during or shortly after the egg-laying or they may abandon the nest. Screech owls can be aggressive nest defenders during the evening when they are active. Be sure to give them plenty of space to avoid being viewed as a predator.

### **What Else Can You Do to Help?**

There are actions you can take to provide natural nesting sites for owls on your property to reduce the need for nest boxes. Leaving dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people can provide shelter and breeding space. Make brush piles throughout your forest to provide food for screech owls by attracting rodents and small mammals.

*Photo Credit: Greg Hume*