# eastern screech-owl

Megascops asio

### Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Aves Order: Strigiformes Family: Strigidae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native



track replica

### FEATURES

The eastern screech-owl averages seven to 10 inches in length. It has ear tufts. This small owl has two color phases: red and gray.

#### BEHAVIORS

The eastern screech-owl is a common, permanent resident statewide in Illinois. Nesting takes place from April through May. No nest is built, but the eggs are deposited in a cavity in a hollow tree, an old woodpecker hole, an abandoned building or a nest box, if one is available. The female lays from three to seven white eggs and incubates them herself for the 21- to 30-day incubation period. The eastern screech-owl lives in woodlands, residential areas, city parks and orchards. It may roost in conifers, tree cavities and buildings. Its call is a wavering series of notes that descend in pitch. This owl eats insects, small birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

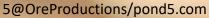


**ILLINOIS RANGE** 

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gray and red phases

# **Aquatic Habitats**

bottomland forests

### **Woodland Habitats**

bottomland forests; coniferous forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats** none

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