Eastern Screech-Owl Activity Book

The Raptor Center
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Eastern Screech-Owl Coloring Page
Eastern Screech-Owl Quick Facts Sheet

The Eastern Screech-Owl's scientific name is *Megascops asio*.

**Appearance:** This small owl stands just 6–8 inches high and that includes the tail. Its wingspan (the length from one wingtip to the other) stretches 18–24 inches. Look for its prominent ear tufts and white “eyebrows.” The Eastern Screech-Owl can be gray or red although grey is more common.

**Fun Facts!** When an Eastern Screech-Owl is threatened it uses camouflage to hide. It stretches its body and tightens its feathers so that it almost looks like the broken-off branch of a tree.

**Sound:** Listen for a whinnying or trilling song. They also rasp, bark, hoot, chuckle and screech. A pair or a family uses the one-pitch trilling song to keep in contact. The male trills to advertise a nest site, court a female, and announce himself when arriving at a nest with food. The descending whinny is used to defend territory.

**Flight:** Most flights are short: less than 75 feet or so. When traveling between perches, these owls often drop, fly straight and then rise again in a characteristic U-shaped pattern.

**Fun Facts!** Eastern Screech-Owls will cache or store extra food in tree holes — sometimes for up to 4 days!

**What it eats:** Eastern Screech-Owls eat a variety of prey — it depends on what’s most common. They’ll eat small mammals, small birds, reptiles and amphibians. They also eat a surprisingly large number of invertebrates, such as earthworms, insects, crayfish, tadpoles, frogs and lizards.

**Fun Facts!** Like all raptors, they regurgitate pellets that consist of bones and fur from prey items. The pellets include the parts of food that would take a long time to digest.

**How it hunts:** They are chiefly active at night, though they will hunt at dawn or dusk and, occasionally, in daylight. These ambush hunters perch and wait and then pounce on prey as it passes below. They will occasionally snatch prey, such as insects, while in the air. And they will catch small fish and tadpoles in shallow water.

**Where you will see one:** The Eastern Screech-Owl is found across North America and south into Mexico. They are non-migratory and usually solitary. Look for them in woodlands bordered with open fields. It is not uncommon to find screech owls in urban areas. This cavity nester will even use nest boxes.
Eastern Screech-Owl Word Find

Find the words forward, backward, or diagonally!

G F B P E W F X E U D P D A S V F J P K O B J
R A M P H I B I A N S B H J M N Y J K I S I L
A F Z M S A I K M N O S M A L L M A M M A L S
N W C X L G O P A O U K E A R T U F T S B D O
W B N E N O G B I M D S A C D S R E D W N N F
H W L D C V O H J I E N K L P S O R T D R L L
I A I R M E N D G G D H J M H L D X R U K L U
T F G D Z B R N R R W W N G A A T R F H E G I
E S S O E T B M S A I O N E S N N O E C R E B
E S M A C R T T H T N R B N E D U V K A O L D
Y D A A M I A L S O G E T A E S N R Y V X O Z
E C L H L L C I D R S P I G P G C P E I O O O
B C L B H L B E L Y C T C H T S H H L T Y I T
R M B N H I O X O H E I A D D I A Q A L Y E S R
O S I A M N A W R M E L H G S R M E I N R A L
W T R U C G C O L E E E S E E E S A I A E X S Z
S A D R W S A R U P L S E R S C T I T S W P X
O L S N H O S T H E B V F E K T G H T T M O N
N Y A L S N M A M X H R B S A N S F R E K C K
R O S R W G M O F S M V T E S F J R O R R S S
M M B M O V G O P A X O I N F Y L W H O K A F
E W L T W H I N N Y I N S O N G E S L O G E
I W R U T S L N O R T R X L U W O W E R T E S
Z H N Z Q U U C J L Q P Y U N B D O W E R M J

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<tr>
<th>Megascopsasio</th>
<th>Red Phase</th>
<th>Small Birds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Small Owl</td>
<td>Trilling Song</td>
<td>Reptiles</td>
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<td>Ear Tufts</td>
<td>Whinnying Song</td>
<td>Amphibians</td>
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<td>White Eyebrows</td>
<td>Non Migratory</td>
<td>Woodlands</td>
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<td>Gray Phase</td>
<td>Small Mammals</td>
<td>Cavity Nester</td>
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Eastern Screech-Owl Maze
Eastern Screech-Owl Hidden Message

Use the key below to learn what makes them different from their Western Screech-Owl cousins.

11 3 9 4 11 5 23
9 20 5 11 11 20 12
25 26 17 9
12 3 13 11 3
2 11 17 17 25 26
15 11 3 21
23 25 4 15 17 3 20 21

| A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| 3 | 15| 20| 14| 11| 16| 8 | 12| 6 | 1 | 21| 17| 18| 23| 25| 7 | 22| 5 | 9 | 4 | 19| 13| 26| 24| 2 | 10|

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Eastern Screech-Owl Word Scramble

Unscramble the words below to learn where the Eastern Screech-Owl has been seen fishing in the winter.

C C A S K R

N I C I E A D N

L E S O H D E M A

B Y N U M H A S
Eastern Screech-Owl Activity Book - Answer Key

**Word Find**

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G F B P E W F X E U D P D A S V F J P K O B J
R A M P H I B I N S B H J M N Y J K I S I L
A F Z M S A I K M N G S M A L L M A M M A L S
N W C X L G O P A Q K R A T U S J B D O
D T Y W O O D I A N D S R E A Y I K S O F U
W B N E N O G B I M D S A C D S R E D W N N F
H W L D C V O H J I E N K L P S O R T D R L L
I A I R M E N D G G D H J M H L D X R U K U
T G D Z H R N R R W W N G A A T R F I L G I
E L L O F E T B M S A I N O N E S G N O E S A B
E S M A C R T T H T N B N E D U V P A C O L D
Y D A M I A L S O G E T A E S N X V X Z
E C L L L L C I D R S P I G P G C E L I O O O
B C L B H B L B E L Y C T C T S H H L T Y I T
R M B N H N O O E I A D A G A L Y E S R
O S Y A M R A M R E L H E R M E I N R A L
W T R U C G C D O E E E E E S A I A E X S Z
S A D R W S A R U P I S E R S S C T I T S W P X
O L S N H O S T E B V F E K T G H T T M O N
N Y A L S N M A M X H R B S A N S F R E K C K
R O S R W G M O F S M V T E S F J R O N R S S
M E B M O Y G O P A X O I N F Y I L W H O K A F
E W L Y W H I N N Y I N G S O N G E S L O G E
I W R U T S L N O R T R X L U W O W E R T E S
Z H N Z Q U C I L Q P Y U N B D O W E R M J
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**Maze**

![Maze Diagram](image)

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Hidden Message

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Word Scramble

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<tbody>
<tr>
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