



Owls, Nest Boxes, and Cameras

OWL DETAILS

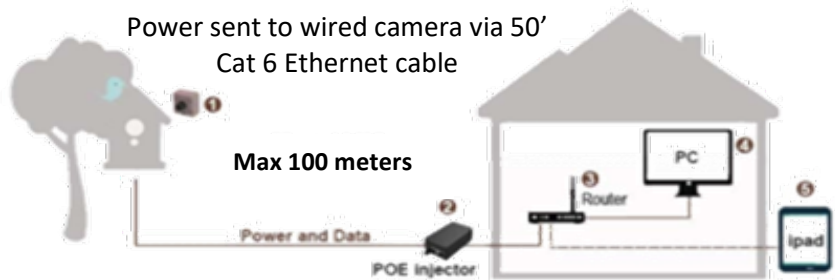
- Eastern Screech Owl (*Megascops asio*)
- Aka “feathered wildcats”
 - 6-9” tall, 19-24” wingspan
 - Males 30% smaller than females
 - Olive yellow bill & yellow eyes
 - Two plumage shades: gray or “red” (rufous)
 - They do not make a screeching sound
 - They sound like a high-pitched horse
 - Protected by Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Return to nest annually

BOX DETAILS

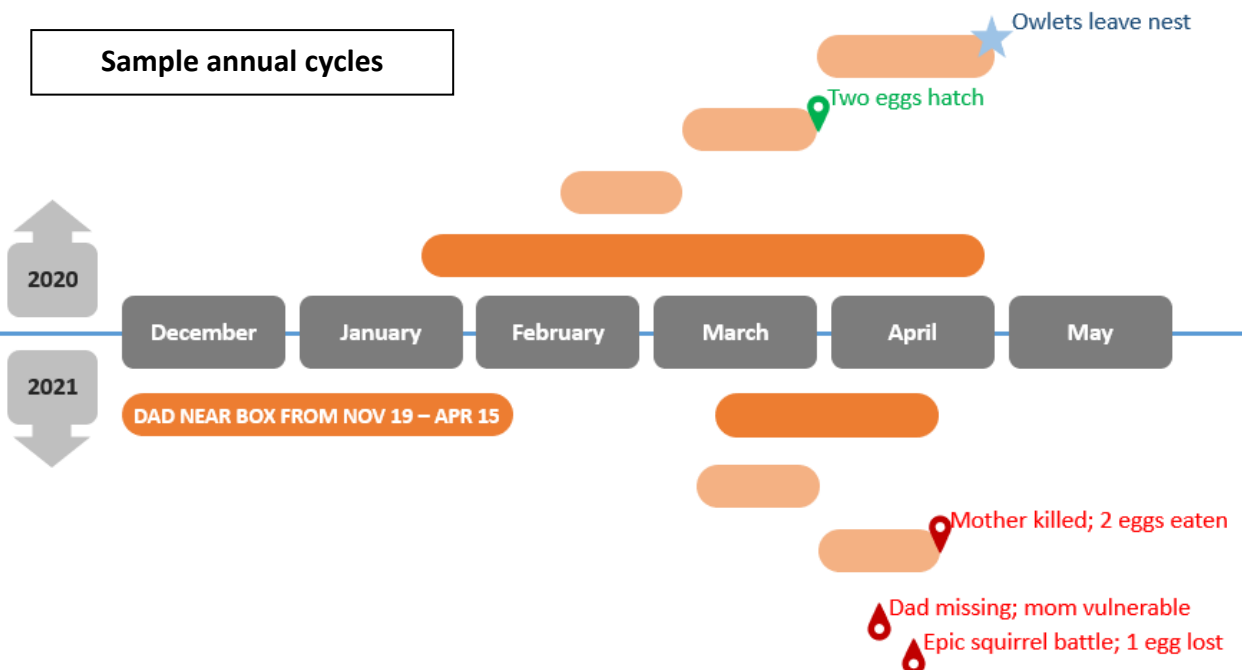
- Have 2-3” of leaf litter in the bottom
- Mount 10-30’ high on main tree trunk
- Box has 3” round entry
- Box is 10” wide, and ~17” tall at its highest point (roof slopes from highest point forward and down toward entry)
- Shelter the opening from weather
- Install by December; clean in August
- Might take 2-3 seasons to arrive
- Parents need a clear flightpath
- Nearby branches are for fledglings
- Nearest next box >100’ away



View of owl cam mounted inside box lid



Sample annual cycles



Building it Yourself

If using one piece of lumber, say a 1" x 10" x 8' piece, here is how it would be cut. All numbers are in inches.

Notes:

- Some lumber sizes are very difficult to find of late; adjustments may be required
- Dimensional lumber is actually a bit smaller than nominal number measurements

