



# EASO

The perfect bird for your backyard...

# Welcome to Owl World



Who am I ???

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center



# Overview



- Definition of a Raptor
- Eastern Screech Owl (EASO) general facts
- Bird details
- Breeding
- Molting
- The backyard bird
- Building a successful nest box

# What's a Raptor?



- Raptor derived from Latin rapere (to seize).

- Talons



- Hooked beak



- Bird of Prey



"Now take them big birds, Barnaby... Never eat a thing... Just sit and stare."

# Eastern Screech Owl



- Small
- Stocky
- Broad winged
- Short tail
- Nocturnal
- Wide-spread East of the Rockies



# Distribution



# Foraging



- Mainly nocturnal.
- What's on the menu?
- Pelleting and pooping.
- Male vs female choices.
- Food requirements.

# What's your morph?



- Color me cryptic...



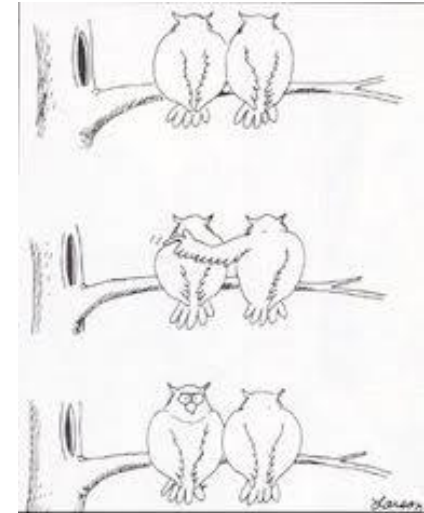
- Reverse sexual dimorphism.



# The Complete Bird



- Height/weight
- Eyes
- Ears
- Head
- Breathing
- The sound of silence
- Feet/toe skills



# Breeding



Nest cavity occupation schedule -

- Male Occupant from Christmas to Valentines
- Female laying till St. Patricks
- Hatching April Fools
- Fledging Cinco de Mayo
- Dispersal till Junteenth
- Males are replaceable ; females are not

# Breeding- cont'd



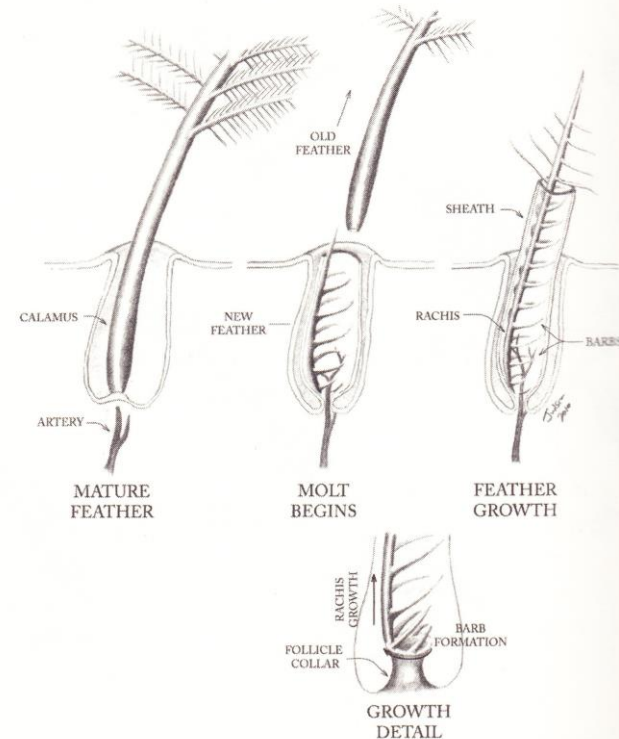
- Egg facts and clutch size.
- Bring me food.
- House keepers.
- Fledging.
- Dispersal.



# Molt



- Significance of feathers
- Migratory bird protection
- Reasons
- Molt order
- Timing



# The Backyard Bird

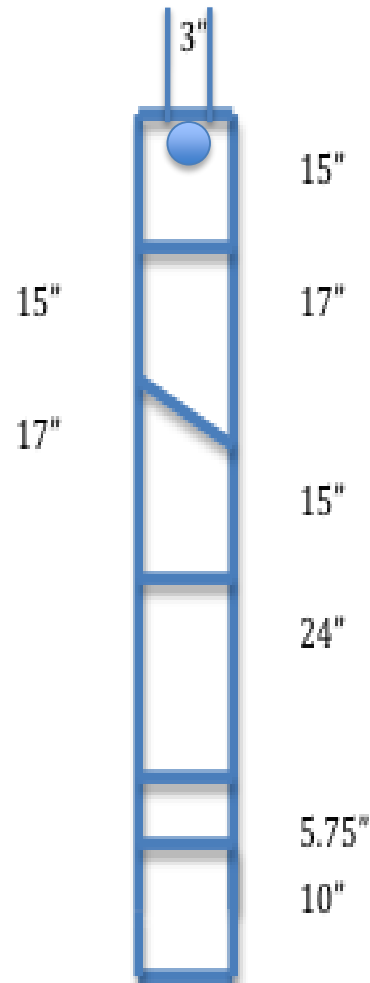


- Comfortable with human and pet activity.
- Wealth of food choices.
- Freedom from predators. Mobbing.
- Heat island effect.
- Benefits for humans.
- What's missing?

# Build-a-Box



Basic box dimensions  
for an 1"x8"x8' cedar  
board from Lowes or  
Home Depot.



# Operating Instructions



- Mount on main trunk of tree; preferably oak.
- Mount 10-30 feet above ground.
- Orient so opening is visible to you.
- Place 3-4 in. of leaf litter on bottom.
- Clean in Aug.
- Patience is a virtue.
- Bees and squirrels are not your friends.

# Success!!!



Blackland Prairie  
**RAPTOR**  
**CENTER**