

# Caring for your Habitat Structure

## NORTHERN FLICKER



### 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

Northern flickers are found in treed areas with ample open space such as forest edges, treed backyards, and open fields with large scattered trees.

### When to Expect Them

Early May to early August

### Call

Sounds like: A loud rolling rattle with a piercing “*wik-wik-wik-wik*” repetition, similar to the pileated woodpecker.

### Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Open woodland, forest edge, treed backyard
Height off Ground (m)	2 – 4
Entrance Hole Facing	South or East
Spacing	100 m
Attach to	Pole, post, live tree, dead tree
Installation Time	September to April

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## Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material before the breeding season begins in May. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Northern flickers prefer to excavate their own cavity. Pack the box to the top with wood chips before the breeding season so they can create their own nest.

## Important Notes

European starlings can take over boxes used by flickers, even if starlings have other options. If starlings are a problem, the box may need relocating. Flickers are ground foragers so avoid putting boxes near chemically treated places such as manicured lawns or invasive species control areas.

## What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for flickers on your property, reducing the need for nest boxes. Leave dead standing trees that do not pose a hazard to people to provide shelter and breeding space. Plant native species such as common hackberry, black cherry and highbush cranberry to help provide food and shelter.

*Photo Credit: Sid Phillips*