



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 saw-whet owls are found in mature mixed woodlands near water. They nest in deciduous trees but spend their days roosting in the branches of dense conifers. They eat mice and other small mammals. They prefer an open understory with a clear flyway to swoop down on prey.

When to Expect Them

Present year round. Look for the birds at your nest box early March to late July.

Call

Sounds like: A series of low, slow, whistled notes of the same pitch
“*Too-too-too*”

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Mature mixed forest near water
Height off Ground (m)	4 – 5
Entrance Hole Facing	South
Spacing	250 m
Attach to	Live tree
Installation Time	September to February

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material and prey remains before the breeding season begins in March. To access the box, turn the latch near the bottom of the box and rotate the moveable panel upward. Place about 5 cm of wood shavings in the bottom of the box.

Important Notes

Do not disturb nesting females during or shortly after egg-laying or they may abandon the nest. Observe the nest from afar for a week or two after the box is occupied.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for saw-whet owls 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.

Photo Credit: Jon Clayton