

## SECTION B - WOODLANDS and OPENLAND MARGINS

Examples of woodland situations where box placement may attract a described species:

1. Where woodland and farmland meet.
2. Around stands or plantations of evergreen trees.
3. Along wooded stream bottoms.
4. Near woodland clearings.
5. In or near recent timber cutting sites.
6. In "Section A" situations abutting extensive woodlands.
7. In "Section C" situations abutting wooded upland sites.

### Barred Owl

Plan 13 (page 47)

The Barred Owl is one of our more common owls in hardwood forests. Its call is a distinctive "Who-cooks-for-you." The Barred Owl nest box is made of 3/4" exterior grade plywood. Do not paint, stain, or treat the box with creosote. Put a 2 to 3" layer of small wood chips, or pine needles, in the bottom of the box. No cleaning is needed, except to remove leaves and other litter that squirrels may put into the box. The entrance hole is 7 inches wide and 7 inches high with a rounded top and rounded corners at the bottom. The hole can be either on the front or on a side, but if it is on the side of the box it is easier to clean. This box can be cleaned out through the hole, so the roof does not need to be hinged.

The box should be cleaned out or placed in January. Locate it 15 to 30 feet high in a mature, lowland, hardwood area, and preferably within 200 feet of water. Do not place the box on the edge of a clearing or within 150 feet of a residence. The entrance hole should not be obscured by branches or leaves, but a perch near the nest box is desirable. This perch should be near enough to the box so that the young can "branch" out onto it as they leave the nest. Otherwise they may fall



Barred Owl

to the ground and be eaten by predators. The box should be placed on a living tree at least 12 inches in diameter.

The large entrance hole may predispose barred owlets to raccoon predation, so it's important to not leave a scent trail on the tree. Nest box checks should be infrequent or made with a ladder.

### Eastern Red Squirrel

Plan 14 (page 48)

The Eastern Red Squirrel, like the Flying Squirrel, is adaptable to a wide variety of habitats, ranging from northern coniferous forests to farm woodlots. The Screech-Owl box (Plan 14) is appropriate for use by Eastern Red Squirrels, and they will also use Wood Duck boxes. They are extremely aggressive at bird feeders and regularly eat the eggs and young of songbirds. For these reasons, they are not among the more favored tenants in backyard nest boxes.

### Great Crested Flycatcher

Plan 4 (page 34)

This fascinating songbird of our hardwood forests, orchards and parks is grayish above with a yellowish breast. It is more often heard than seen. The call is an ascending loud whistle.

"Wheeeep!" The nests often contain shed snakeskins placed there by the flycatchers. The bulky nest also includes twigs, leaves, hair, feathers and bark fibers.

This species could also be treated as a bird of open areas. In Pennsylvania, abandoned orchards are preferred habitat. Place boxes in an old orchard, on the edge of a woodland clearing, or where stands of evergreens and hardwoods meet.

Great-crested Flycatchers will use a bluebird house, Plan 1 or 4, except that the entrance hole should be 1 3/4 inches in diameter. If the diameter is larger, starlings may take over the cavity.

Chances of use are best if the house is placed from 10 to 20 feet high. This species will frequently use a nest box 4 to 8 feet above ground, though, whereas starlings rarely nest this low.

Newly fledged flycatchers are a real treat to see. They cling to the side of trees like fuzzy little woodpeckers.