



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

Barred owls are found in large tracts of interior forest with a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees. They prefer mature woodlots as there are often a greater number of large dead trees available for nest sites as well as an abundance of small mammals, reptiles and invertebrates for food.

When to Expect Them

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

Call

Sounds like: *“Who cooks for you?” “Who cooks for you-all?”*

Habitat Structure Placement

Location	Large sections of mature forest
Height off Ground (m)	4 – 5
Entrance Hole Facing	Any direction
Spacing	800 m apart
Attach to	Live tree, post
Installation Time	September to February

Care of the Habitat Structure

Clean out old nest material 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. Add 5 to 10 cm of coarse wood shavings to the bottom of the box.

Important Notes

Great horned owls eat barred owl eggs, nestlings and on occasion adult birds. If great horned owls are nearby, barred owls will not use the nest box and it may need to be relocated. Your barred owl box may become occupied by squirrels. If they become a problem remove the roof of the box. This makes it unattractive to squirrels but owls will still use it.

What Else Can You Do to Help?

Take action to provide natural nesting sites for 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. Make brush piles throughout your forest to attract rodents and small mammals that provide food.

Photo Credit: Jon Clayton