

Forest Habitat Management

- Manage for mature woodlands.
 - Most woodland raptors nest and hunt in mature woodlands.
 - This may require removing trees.
- Control NNIS like bush honeysuckle, autumn olive, and Tree-of-heaven, etc.
 - Creates dense cover
 - Inhibits diversity → impacts prey diversity and abundance
- Large snags with nesting cavities should be preserved unless they pose a safety issue.
 - Create snags if lacking
 - Snags along edges will provide hunting perches (red-tailed hawks will readily use)
- Provide nest boxes for screech owls.

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Screech Owl Nest Box Tips



[Nestwatch.org](https://www.nestwatch.org)

- Place box in mature forest stands
- Mount 10 feet high
- Breeding season: Feb-March
 - Place 1-2" wood chips on bottom of box
 - Clean at end of nesting season (August)
- Gray and fox squirrels may use box
- Optional : perch on outside of box

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Open Habitat Management

- Manage grasslands with fire or disking to avoid too much thatch build up and to allow for some bare ground.
- Discourage invasion of excessive numbers of bushes and small trees to open areas.
 - Short-eared owls, northern harriers, rough-legged hawks, and barn owls all glide as they hunt for food
 - Excessive #'s of obstacles are a hindrance to them!
- Allow for a few perching trees, fence posts etc. Particularly useful for red-tailed hawks but the above species will also use them.
- Large fields receive higher use than small, isolated fields.
- Manage for “low” grasses & forbs. Be leery of monoculture stands of warm season grasses or fields dominated by them. Excessive height creates prey refuges.
- Kestrels readily use nest boxes.