

Inviting

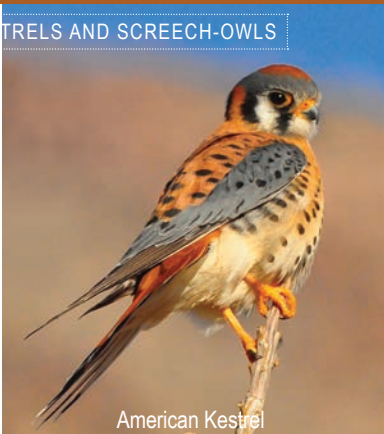
TINY RAPTORS

to Your Home

SMALL BIRDS OF PREY: KESTRELS AND SCREECH-OWLS



Western Screech-Owl



American Kestrel

Your Yard Is A Good Place For Tiny Raptors!

- Western Screech-Owls and American Kestrels can both do well in urban Tucson with a little help.
- Both raptors can live together in an area and work in a day shift and night shift.
- They eat lots of insects and other pests—natural and free pest control!



Tiny Raptors Are Good For Your Yard!

- **Mysterious and engaging:** the American Kestrel is our smallest falcon and feeds during the day; the Western Screech-Owl is a strictly nocturnal hunter of the dark!
- **Pest control:** these birds are fierce feeders that eat large insects and small rodents in your yard.
- **Cirque-de-raptors:** kestrels are aerial acrobats and screech-owls are amazing singers (with a call that sounds like a musical bouncing ball).
- **Good neighbors:** raptors can return to a nest multiple years in a row, and the young are fun to watch.



Turn over for a **RECIPE** to bring **TINY RAPTORS** to your yard. Get more information at:

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Recipe for Inviting TINY RAPTORS to Your Home

SMALL BIRDS OF PREY: KESTRELS AND SCREECH-OWLS

Ingredients:

- Nest holes: natural in trees or make your own
- Water: in a fountain or a dish, kept fresh
- Shrub cover: for perching and hiding in ambush
- Desert trees: tall, like those below

Western Screech-Owls at water bowl



Blue paloverde



Velvet mesquite



Saguaro

Directions:

- **Preserve** existing trees and dead snags.
- **Construct** a brush pile and plant native species to encourage insect food for raptors.
- **Avoid** pesticides, leaving the pest control duties to the kestrels and owls.
- **Keep** your cats indoors: raptors are no match for a cat's claws!



Western Screech-Owl in nestbox

- **No nest holes? Build one!** Attend a Tucson Audubon workshop or find instructions online at our website. Place box in shade of a large tree (on the trunk of a native tree is best) or on a building facing north.

American Kestrel in nestbox



Find out more on attracting tiny raptors to your yard at:

www.tucsonbirds.org