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Highbanks Herald

Photo: M. Schell

Highbanks Nesting Structure Matchup

Highbanks has several human-made structures to help animals raise families. Visitors are often curious about which animal these structures benefit. Test your knowledge to see if you can match the nesting structure with the species it is meant for. Answers on pages 3-4 of the newsletter!



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Do you know which box is meant for which animal?





Eastern Bluebird Boxes- 72 boxes located throughout the park

While these boxes are meant to benefit Eastern Bluebirds, other native birds will also use them to raise young, including Tree Swallows, Carolina Chickadees, and House Wrens. Staff and Volunteers monitor these boxes during the spring and summer to see which species use the boxes and to troubleshoot any problems.



Southern Flying Squirrel Boxes- 7 boxes located on Dripping Rock, Overlook, and Coyote Run Trails

Southern Flying Squirrels are the most common squirrel in Ohio! Due to their nocturnal nature, they are difficult to observe. These boxes are monitored by staff and volunteers and used for programming. Squirrels will raise young in the boxes, but may also use them to stay warm together and to store food.

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Purple Martin Rig- New location at River Bluff

Purple Martins are an insectivorous bird that are often found in areas near water. They nest in communal areas. The rig has been located from the wetland to River Bluff to make it easier for volunteers to monitor. Purple Martins travel all the way from South America to breed.



Chimney Swift Tower- Dragonfly Daycamp

Chimney Swifts eat and mate in the air. They are only still when they are sleeping or nesting. Chimney Swifts cannot perch like other birds, instead clinging to a vertical surface. The Chimney Swift tower can be used for nesting, but it also used by many birds for roosting as they prepare for migration in the fall. Highbanks staff maintain the tower.



Barn Owl Box- Dragonfly Daycamp

Barn Owls are a threatened species in the state of Ohio. Barn Owls use agricultural areas for hunting, and will often nest in natural or manmade structures. This box is placed close to the barn, and is monitored by staff. Currently, there are no owls using the box, but we hope to attract them to the area.

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Screech Owl Boxes- Big Meadows and Multi-use Trail

The Screech Owl boxes were built and donated by Highbanks volunteer Tom Pauley. Screech Owls were historically present in the park, but have not been reported recently. Habitat conditions are ideal for Screech Owls, and this species readily uses nest boxes.