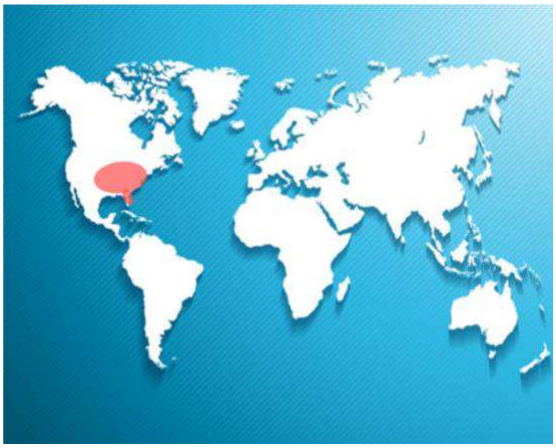
Zoos help animals that have been injured in the wild. Scout, the eastern screech owl, was hit by a car and had a damaged eye as a result. In time, this eye had to be removed. A one-eyed owl doesn't have a high chance of surviving in the wild but here at ZooMontana, Scout is able to live a healthy and happy life!



Eastern screech owls can be found throughout the eastern parts of the U.S. Their relatives, the western screech owls, can be found west of the Rocky Mountains. The neat thing is, here in Montana we have both species in our backyards! Screech owls can be identified by their calls that sound like horse whinnies!

- Owls rely primarily on their eyesight to find food! Their eyes can take up 2/3 of their skull.
- Eastern screech mostly eat large insects and rodents, meaning that they are carnivorous. Here at ZooMontana, Scout enjoys eating mice.
- There are different color morphs of screech owls. Some can be brown, or maybe even red! This helps them to blend in with the trees in their habitats.



Can you color in this eastern screech owl? Remember that their feathers help them to blend in with their environment!

Did you know that all birds, including owls are descended from a group of dinosaurs known as the theropods? These included dinosaurs like T. rex, velociraptor, and many others! After all the non-avian dinosaurs went extinct when the asteroid hit, the avian theropod dinosaurs continued to evolve over millions of years, eventually becoming birds! This evolutionary journey was long and complicated and gave rise to many cool species along the way. Color in this simplified journey from dinosaurs to birds!

