

WHY PUT UP A BARN OWL BOX?

They need our help! They are losing nesting habitat at an alarming rate.... Due to both commercial and residential development.

- Barn Owls are cavity nesters and are easily attracted to nesting boxes.
- They live in urban, suburban and rural areas.
- They are the Natural "green" Rodent controller, *The Mouse -O- Matic* © hunting up to 4 miles from the nesting site.
- They eliminate the need for rodent poisons and traps by keeping the rodent population to a manageable level.
- Boxes can be mounted in trees in open fields, barns or on posts.
- Help the diversity of your community.
- They will return to the nesting site every year.
- Helping the owls is the right thing to do!
- Be Patient... it may take a few years for a pair to move in! But it is worth the wait.

Native Bird Connections©

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Contact us for support/questions:
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SUGGESTIONS FOR MOUNTING THE BOX

Wooden Post:

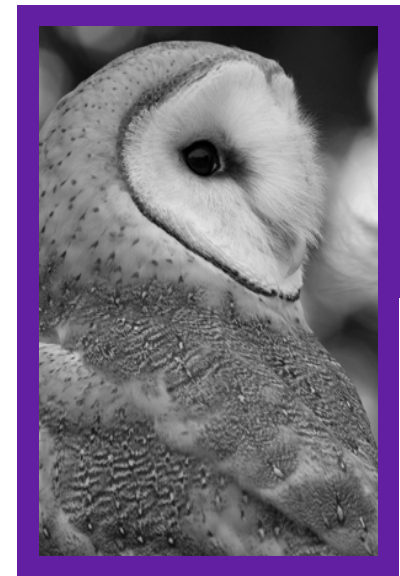
- Use a 16 ft 4X4 or 4X6 post buried 3-3 1/2 ft into the ground/concreted.
- 3-5 1/2" bolts to attach the box to the post. Drilled all the way through the pole, threaded side of bolt on the outside of the box to avoid injuring the young.
- Drill 3 vent holes up near the top on both sides if you live in a hot location.
- Drill 4 - 1/2" drainage holes on the bottom panel.
- Add a right angle screw or square bent screw hook to the clean out panel to keep it closed for the nesting season. This allows easy access to clean out the box in the fall.
- Add a baffle of 2 ft wide flashing wrapped around the post about 4 feet off the ground to deter raccoons, snakes, cats, squirrels and other birds who might prey on Barn Owl young (not necessary if using a steel pole).

Metal pole:

- Use a 16 ft 2" diameter steel pipe buried 3-3 1/2 ft into the ground/concreted.
- Use 2 pipe clamps to secure the pipe to the box, using 5/16" threaded bolts, with the threaded side of bolt on the outside. Then one final sheet metal screw into the pipe itself.
- See Wooden post above for more information.



YOUR GUIDE TO AN NBC BARN OWL BOX



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FEATURES & HABITS

Below are the top 10 feature and habit facts of the barn owl:

1. They range between 10-18 inches in length.
2. They have a wingspan of 30 to 43 inches.
3. They have a light heart-shaped face, dark black eyes and long legs with a square shaped tail.
4. The ridge of feathers above their bill somewhat resembles a nose.
5. They are generally nocturnal; however can be seen flying during the day.
6. Seen but not heard as their flight is noiseless.
7. Can have up to 7 young/clutch.
8. Can have 2 clutches per year.
9. They often live only 2 years but can live as long as 20.



DIET

Some basic facts about their diet are :



- The barn owl feeds primarily on small vertebrates, particularly rodents.
- A nesting pair and their young can eat more than 1,000 rodents per year.
- One owl eats 700 lbs of rodents in its lifetime.

WARNINGS & SOLUTIONS!

Here are some common hazards to be cautious of and tips to help maintain a safe environment:

- **Rodent poison** takes 5 days to kill rodents but an owl eating a poisoned rodent will die quickly. Communicate with neighbors to prevent the use of rat poison in your area.
- **Do not disturb** the box until the nesting family has moved out.



BOX SET-UP



Donations by Economy Lumber
www.economylumber.com

My name is Joseph Serventi and I made this brochure as part of my Eagle Scout project and I also made the owl boxes.

The five most important things to remember when installing your box:

1. Your box will have the best chance of success if it faces southeasterly.
2. The minimum height of the box 10-15 feet above ground.
3. Boxes do not come painted however if you wish to paint yours, only non-toxic paints and stains may be used.
4. Do not add a perch because it invites predators.
5. Box should be cleaned out after the last clutch leaves in the fall. Wear face mask and gloves.