

BASIC NEST BOX BUILDING

For an interior nest box any wooden box large enough to make a suitably sized entrance hole will do. If an exterior nest box is required it can be made from exterior grade plywood. All nest boxes should have a platform to help prevent young owlets falling to the ground and an end panel that is easily removed to allow cleaning of the box every other year.



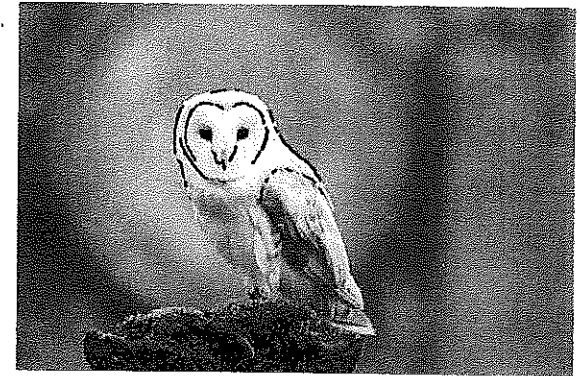
WHEN TO PUT YOUR NEST BOX UP

Boxes are best put up between October and March to minimise disturbance to nesting birds.

It is illegal to disturb a nesting Barn Owl so if you think 'your' owl has young do not inspect your box, instead watch it carefully from a safe distance.

WHERE TO PUT YOUR NEST BOX

Barn Owls often do better in nest boxes that are placed near previously used nesting sites or in buildings that are used regularly by nesting Barn Owls. Occupied sites can be recognised by the presence of pellets and large, splattered droppings on the ground.



If you are sighting your nest box in a building it should have a permanent entrance no less than 15cm square. Ideally try and provide 'your' owls with at least two means of entry as well as an uninterrupted flight path to the box. Boxes should be positioned high up and in the most secluded part of a building in order to deter predators. The entrance should face away from any prevailing wind, draught of major light source. A three cm deep layer of bark chippings should be put in to provide a cushion for any eggs.