

Barn owl nest box plans

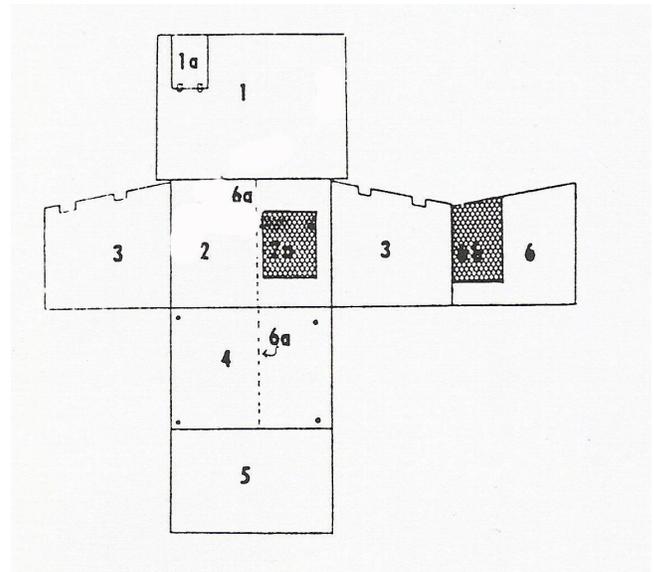
The Barn owl is a cavity nester, preferring large tree cavities or shallow caves in cliffs as historical nesting sites. Due to lack of suitable nest cavities, barn owls often nest in a variety of unsuitable places that are not acceptable to landowners. These places include crevices between hay bales, air vents, window ledges, and open stairways. As a very opportunistic species, Barn owls will nest in unsuitable sites that offer promise, but end up with limited nesting success such as palm tree nests.

Luckily, Barn owls are a very adaptable species and will take up residence in manmade nest boxes. This nest box plan is one of my favorites and has been used to raise orphaned Barn owl through rehabilitation facilities for years.

Nest boxes will create more and better nesting sites, increasing the reproductive success of our local owls, as well as helping to keep the nest sites in acceptable locations to landowners.

Barn owl boxes placed in large trees adjacent to open areas are occupied more readily than those placed in densely treed areas. Boxes should be placed 15-40 feet high with the opening facing to the East and away from normal wind and rain directions.

Boxes can be constructed of new or old, wood about 3/4" thick. Thicker lumber can be used, but always adjust the size to give the same internal dimensions. After the boxes have been constructed, the **outside only** should be treated with a wood preservative.



1. Top: 26" x 21" (2" overhang in front and 1" overhang in back)
2. Front: 24" x 18" entrance hole 7"x10" cut out with optional 1"x3" frame
3. Sides: 18"x18" (front edge) x 15" (back edge) with two air vents. Hatch door: with hinges and latch on nest chamber side (use to clean box in the fall.)
4. Bottom: 24"x18" with 1/2" drain holes.
5. Back: 24"x15"
6. Inside wall (baffle): 18"x18" (front edge) x 15" (back edge) with passageway. Position partition wall so cut out is at the back of the box allow 9" for entrance hallway.

Good Luck and enjoy the wonders of nature!

Sky Hunters Environmental Education
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