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SUPPLEMENTARY				
Received	57.11			

Bat and Bird Boxes for Buildings

bioQUIP
biological equipment specialists



BAT ROOST 1FQ

This is the latest in bat boxes. Designed to fit to the outside of buildings, the shape and design of the box make it equally attractive as a roost or nursery.

Size: 600x350x90mm

Weight: 15kgs



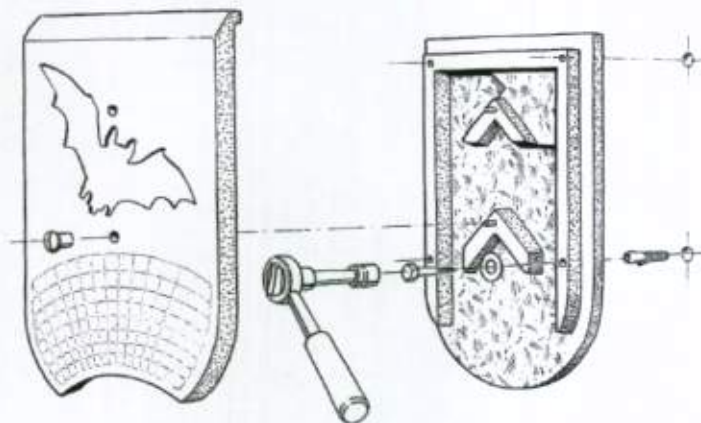
WINTER BAT ROOST 1WQ

Based on the successful 1FQ, this box has better insulation properties for use as a winter roost by bats.

Size: 580x380x115

Weight: 21kg

Both of the above boxes are easily fixed to the outside of a building with two screws and a galvanised bracket as shown below.



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Devon, TQ13 7HU
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Nestboxes for use in Barns & Other Buildings



LEAFLET No 3

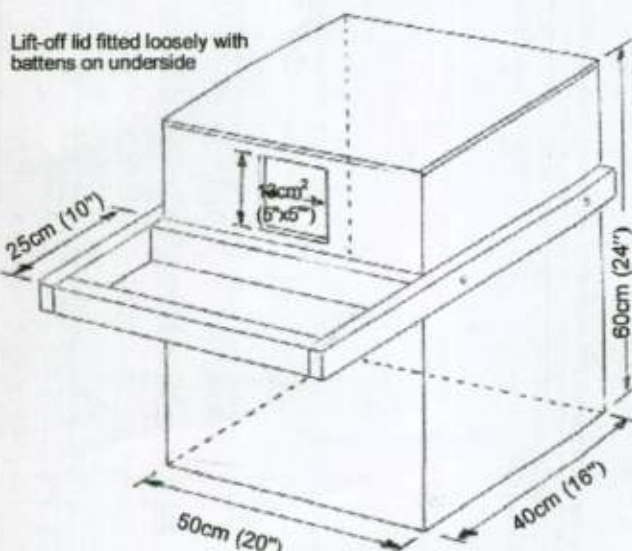
Reg. Charity No 299 835

This leaflet describes how to make and erect a Barn Owl nestbox suitable for a barn or other building. It includes plans, dimensions, materials and safety advice.

Background

Nestboxes can be of great benefit, especially in areas where there is plenty of food available but a shortage of suitable nesting or roosting sites. When you are considering an area for nestboxes remember that the Barn Owl is not a woodland species but a bird of open country, most of which is farmland. For further information see *Habitat Management* (leaflet no. 1).

Many old barns and almost all modern farm buildings are far from ideal for Barn Owls as they lack suitable cavities for the birds to nest in. Barn Owls like to roost out of sight of humans and are much less inclined to be flushed from a building if they have a box to hide in. In fact, it is amazing how much disturbance Barn Owls will tolerate at sites with a suitable nestbox. Almost any tall rural building can become an ideal roosting and nesting site when a nestbox is provided.



Indoor nestboxes can be constructed from 9mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ ") softwood shuttering ply with 50mm x 25mm (2" x 1") batten along all the edges on the inside. Please avoid using hardwood ply unless it is stamped 'FSC Approved'.

As a cheaper alternative, a tea-chest can be simply adapted by cutting an entrance hole, fixing on an exercise platform and adding a removable lid. In this

case, do ensure the foil lining and any sharp nails or strips of metal which may injure the owls are removed.

The platform on the front gives more air space for the young owls to exercise their wings before their first flight. The removable lid is essential as the box will need to be cleared out occasionally.

The internal depth of the box is important as it reduces the chances of a nestling Barn Owl falling from the box and dying as a result of neglect or predation. Therefore it is important that the box depth is maintained by clearing out the box once it has more than about 3 inches of nest debris. If Jackdaws use the box it must be cleaned out every year (wear gloves and a dust mask). Boxes only used by breeding Barn Owls will need clearing out every two or three years, ideally in November or December.

NOTE that it is illegal to disturb wild Barn Owls whilst they are breeding. It is not even permitted for the provider of the nestbox or the site owner to inspect the nest unless they have a current licence to do so. Please see *Safeguarding Wild Sites* (leaflet no. 28).

When siting your indoor nestbox, remember:

1. Fix it as high up as possible. However, remember that fully enclosed modern barns with little ventilation can become very hot in fine weather - in this type of building the box should be placed below the apex but at least 3 metres (10ft) above ground level. Bear in mind that you also need to place the box to allow removal of the lid.
2. Position the box so that an owl entering the building through the most likely opening will see the entrance hole and have an easy flight path to it.
3. If possible, position box so that emerging nestlings can walk onto beams or other flat surfaces.
4. Consider your own safety (for which you are responsible). Try to position the box where it can be easily and safely inspected at a later date.
5. The box must be in a completely dry position if it is to last many years.
6. Avoid placing boxes within 1km (half a mile) of a motorway, dual-carriageway, or other modern road.
7. Avoid buildings subject to irregular loud disturbance, for example sheds used for night-time lambing in January/February. Bale stores, covered yards and silage stores are normally okay.

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There is no need to line the nestbox. The eggs are usually laid on top of the birds' own pellet debris which is a wonderfully absorbent material - much better than anything you might provide!

Permanent access into the building for the owls is obviously essential. If there is no existing access for owls you can create access using the following guidelines:

- 1 Make the entrance hole about 12cm (5") wide x 25cm (10") high (minimum 4" x 4").
- 2 Make the hole as high up the wall as possible, ideally at least 3 metres (10') above ground level.
- 3 Position the hole so that it is likely to be noticed by a passing bird. Don't face it towards a close tree or other tall building which will obscure it.
- 4 When making access into an attic of an occupied dwelling or barn undergoing conversion please refer to *Barn Conversions* (leaflet no. 22) or the Barn Owl Trust publication *Barn Owls and Rural Planning Applications*.
- 5 In the case of an occupied house, converted barn or busy farmyard, the entrance hole into the building should, if possible, be situated on the side with the least disturbance, with direct access to an open area of good habitat.

Safety

Before you erect your nestbox take time to consider the hazards you might face and what steps you could take to minimise the risks. Hazards might include an injury at a remote location; falling from a ladder; masonry falling from unsound buildings; injury from heavy lifting; dropping a nestbox onto another person; and poor positioning of a box resulting in additional hazards for others using the building or monitoring the box at a later date. The following are examples of precautions you should take to reduce the risks:

- 1 Ideally take a companion. If erecting your nestbox at an isolated site on your own, let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back before you set off. Carry a mobile phone if you have one.
- 2 Time spent in reconnaissance and preparation is seldom wasted. Never carry a box up into position until all preparatory work is complete. Double-check your measuring to confirm that the box will fit.

- 3 Ensure that your ladder is secure before climbing it. If possible tie it off at the top and bottom before climbing up with the nestbox.
- 4 Avoid over-reaching - never attempt to carry out any task up a ladder if you cannot reach comfortably.
- 5 When planning how to position, support and fix a nestbox, try to create a situation where the box can rest in position without being held. This will allow you to have both hands free to fix it safely.
- 6 When carrying a nestbox up a ladder, ensure that it is kept low relative to your body (ideally not above waist height). This will keep your centre of gravity down. Try to keep the box in front of both you and the ladder so that it pulls you towards the ladder - never hold a nestbox behind or above you.
- 7 You are responsible for your own safety - assess all the risks and be careful.

Please let us know when your box is occupied.

Good luck!

Alternatively, deep indoor nestboxes can usually be purchased from our online shop: www.barnowltrust.org.uk/product_list.html?cat=2

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The Barn Owl Trust is a registered charity dedicated to the conservation of the Barn Owl and its environment. You can become a **Friend of the Barn Owl Trust** and support our work by making a regular donation. **Friends** receive our bi-annual magazine *Feedback*, our Annual Report and an enamel pin badge.

The Trust provides a wide range of free leaflets on Barn Owl related matters. For details of these and further information about the Trust and its work, please write including a large SAE to:

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Ashburton
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