

Guide to Constructing and Installing a Barn Owl Nest Box

Material Selection

Nest boxes are designed for outdoor use and will be exposed to changing weather conditions. Choosing the right materials is crucial. The box should be made from solid wood with a minimum thickness of 18 mm to withstand the elements.

Painting and Maintenance

To protect the nest box, apply two coats of exterior-grade paint (preferably white) to reflect sunlight and keep the interior cool. Refresh the paint as needed to maintain its protective qualities.

Ventilation

Ventilation is critical for the comfort of the chicks. Drill several ventilation holes in the upper third of the box and create four air channels to help dissipate heat during warm weather. This will significantly reduce heat stress on the chicks.

Service door

Ensure that the access to service door are easily reachable and equipped with high-quality hinges designed to withstand the elements over time. Since hinges are often the weakest point of the nesting box, selecting durable options will significantly enhance its longevity.

Roof Insulation

To further protect against heat and moisture, consider covering the roof with a waterproof insulating material (such as PVC). This will help reduce heat buildup inside the box on hot days and prevent water from entering during rain.

Placement

Position the nest box on a metal pole at a height of 2.5-3 meters or on a tree (preferably in a shaded area). Remove any branches that could obstruct the entrance. If you choose to place it on a tree, be mindful of the tree's movement and the potential growth of branches that may threaten the box.

Landing Ledge

Finally, ensure that the landing ledge at the entrance (see the illustration) is robust enough to support the weight of growing chicks as they wait for food from their parents. A sturdy ledge will provide a safe landing space for the young owls. By adhering to these guidelines, you can create a secure and inviting environment for barn owls, contributing to their conservation and well-being.

