

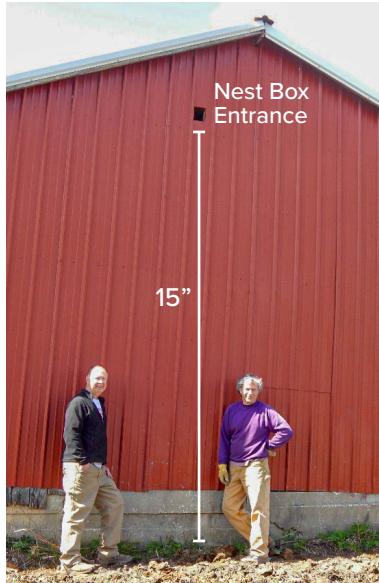
Barn Owls

Barn owls (*Tyto alba*), named because they often nest in barns, are a state-endangered species in Indiana. In 2017, only 43 nests were reported statewide. Population decline is due largely to the loss of grassland habitat and secure nesting sites.

Barn owls benefit farmers by helping control harmful rodent populations. A pair of adult barn owls can capture 1,000 rodents per season to feed themselves and a brood of hungry young owls.



How You Can Help Barn Owls



You can help barn owls by providing them with a nest box where they can safely raise their young:

- Nest boxes help owls keep their eggs and young out of reach of predators like raccoons.
- Boxes give owls the privacy they need to rest or incubate eggs during the daytime.

Barn owls need a place where they can find rodents to eat. Grasslands, pastures, hay fields, wet meadows, or wide grassy drainages or borders of agricultural fields greatly increase the likelihood that barn owls will use a nesting box.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Visit on.IN.gov/animals and click “Barn Owl” to learn more.

See the “Step-by-step Barn Owl Nest Box Construction Guide” available on our barn owl webpage or contact a Division of Fish & Wildlife ornithologist for more information about nest box installation.



Overview of Nest Box Installation and Maintenance

- Nest boxes can be installed in wood or metal barns, and can even be used in barns that are otherwise sealed and inaccessible to barn owls.
- A 5"x5" hole is cut in the barn wall, providing a direct entrance into the box from outside the barn. The box is mounted on a crossbeam and supported by attaching wire from the outside corners of the box to the wall.
- Debris in nest boxes should be removed every 3-4 years between November and January, when most nests are inactive. Some owls nest year-round. If you encounter an active nest with eggs or young, leave it be and plan to return at a later date for cleaning.

Barn owl research and management is supported by donations to the **INDIANA NONGAME WILDLIFE FUND**.

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