

BARN OWL

CONTACT US TODAY

CALVERT COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES

Length
12.6-15.7 in
32-40 cm

Wingspan
39.4-49.2 in
100-125 cm

Weight
14.1-24.7 oz
400-700 g

Relative Size



Female Barn Owl

Larger than a Screech, but smaller than a Great Horned Owl

- Tawny head and back with a heart-shaped face. With large black eyes.
- Males have a very pale underbelly.
- Females have more reddish and more heavily spotted chests.
- Hunt by flying low back and forth over large open land listening for their prey.
- Feed on mostly small mammals, like mice and rats, but also small birds.
- Nest in cavities, abandon builds and barns, dense trees, and nest boxes.
- Call is long, harsh scream or hissing.

Calvert County Natural Resources

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Just south of Prince Frederick, turn right onto Sixes Road (Rt. 506) Look for sign and turn left on Gray's Rd. The entrance will be on your right about one quarter mile



BARN OWL NEST BOX PROGRAM



BARN OWL NEST BOX PROGRAM



Young Barn Owls

Calvert County Natural Resources is participating in a research and conservation program to bring Barn Owls back to Calvert County. Barn

Owls have only just started coming back to the county after 17 years. Although the Barn Owl is distributed world wide and is labeled least concern by the IUCN, their numbers have been declining. According to Maryland DNR, they are considered rare because of loss of open habitat for hunting and the use of pesticides. Calvert County Natural Resources is building and installing nest boxes locally to provide breeding habitat for this cavity nesting species. In addition to building nest boxes, we are periodically monitoring the boxes to collect data for the research program. This program is funded by Calvert County Natural Resources.

How You can Help

We are currently seeking Calvert County landowners who would like to have a nest box installed on their property.

Property requirements are:

- 100 feet of open fields, grasslands or marshland.
- Barn/building or pole to mount boxes 8-25 feet high
- Access to nest box for monitoring purposes



Barn Owl nest box

Interested in building boxes for the program?
Let us know so we can send you approved plans.

Benefits of Barn Owls

- Will consume many pests that eat crops
- Using wildlife to help control pests can cut down on pesticide use, improve water quality, save time, supply important habitat, and provide viewing enjoyment.
- Although many raptor species will hunt on agricultural land, nesting pairs will focus hunting near the nests and will capture increased amounts of rodent prey for their growing chicks



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