

On the other hand, when nestlings leave the nest, they will not go back in and will invariably go downward, rather than upward. With that being said, if there is not some sort of perch between the house and the ground, nestlings will go straight for the ground, which is clearly not the ideal. A perch of some sort, located about three feet below the house is therefore recommended. How this is best addressed will vary by each individual installation.

Your Coveside Barn Owl house is made sustainably grown, custom milled, kiln dried, eastern white pine. The "rougher head" texture will allow parents and nestlings the grip they need for access and egress. The wood need not and should not be painted or stained. It will attain a weathered patina over time and blend in with its environment. Birds prefer an inconspicuous nest box. It should last, on average and depending on location and maintenance, about 7-10 years.

Should you wish to apply a preservative of some sort, Tung Oil or Boiled Linseed Oil are Coveside's recommendations. Both come from trees and are effective, natural, non-toxic preservatives.

The thickness of the wood used on this owl house provides appropriate insulation from both summer heat and winter cold. The light color will keep it cool in summer, as overheating of the nest box is a primary killer of nestlings among all species of birds. Ventilation is provided at the top of each side, as well as the four corners of the floor. The four cut-outs on the floor corners also provide needed drainage.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology web site is a wealth of information about owls and any other species of birds that you may be interested in:

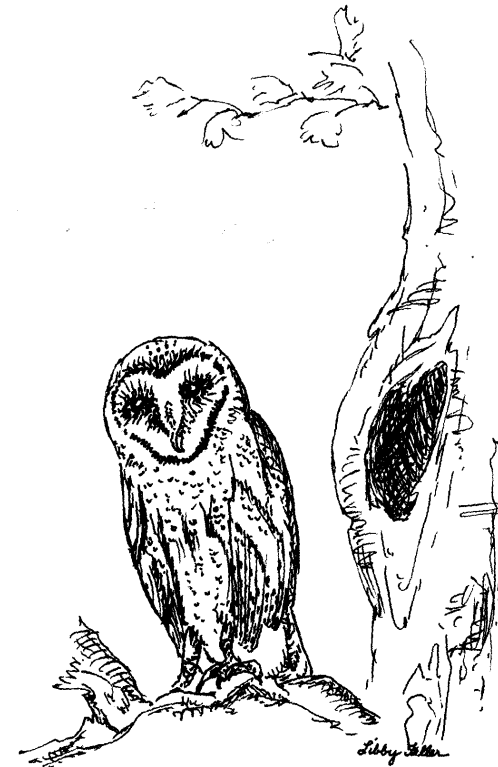
<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/>

Coveside Conservation Products makes a birdhouse for every cavity nesting species of bird in North America, as well as bird feeders and habitats for bats, butterflies and other wildlife. For more information about our products visit

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THE BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*)



A Birdhouse for Every Species Since 1991
*Plus Bats, Bees, Butterflies, Squirrels
and a Complete Assortment of Feeders*



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Handcrafted in Maine



The Barn Owl is one of the most widely distributed birds in the world, found on all continents except Antarctica, and on many oceanic islands as well. It is one of only five species of owl that take to birdhouses readily. It makes some of the most unusual bird sounds. It may resemble the screech of metal rubbing against metal or the rush of steam coming out of an engine.

Its large white, heart-shaped face makes the Barn Owl easily recognizable. It is a large bird, 18" tall with a wing span of 44". It is buff brown above and white below. The male and female look alike.

The Barn Owl eats meadow voles and other rodents almost exclusively. It does most of its hunting for food at night.

The Barn Owl's breeding period is from March through July. Its territory is only the area around its nest site. Owls are not really nest builders. The nest cavity may be lined with leaves, grasses and other debris in order to keep its eggs from rolling around. Coveside therefore provides wood chips for that purpose.

Your Barn Owl house should be cleaned each nesting cycle after the young have left the nest to remove droppings, as well as any parasites. The clean out panel is located on the lower left hand side of the house. Fresh wood chips should be provided before each nesting cycle.

All owls have specially designed eyes, ears and wings to assist them in capturing prey.

Their eyes are large and on the front of their faces, giving them binocular vision and fine depth perception. They have a large concentration of rods on their retinas, but they see little color. Their eyes are ten times more light-sensitive than human eyes, but they are short-sighted, so they hunt near the ground. Their eyes are so large that there is little room in their skulls for eye muscles. Thus, an owl turns its head, sometimes as much as 270 degrees, rather than its eyes, in order to follow a moving object.

Owl ears are located on the facial disk; those round feather arrangements, which give owls the most highly-developed sense of hearing of all birds. Their facial feathers help to channel and amplify sounds to their ears. Generally, one ear is larger than the other and located slightly above or below the other, to assist in sound location.

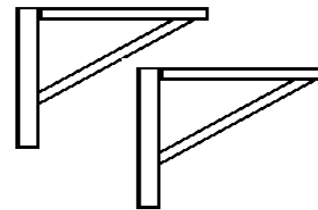
Owl's feathers are silent in flight. Their wings have downy feathers along the stiff flight feathers, which muffles the sound of flight as the owl approaches its prey.

Owls swallow their prey whole. They later cough up a "pellet" of bones and fur. Owls can often be found in the woods by locating those pellets on the ground or by locating their white droppings called "whitewash".

Mounting your Barn Owl House

A Barn Owl house should be located 10' to 20' high, in a barn or shed, or up in a tree in open farmland or at the edge of a forest, with a clear and open flight path to the house. It may also be placed in a suburban area or even in a city. See: "***Wesley the Owl: The Remarkable Love Story of an Owl and his Girl***" / Author: Stacey O'Brien.

The weight of this relatively heavy house is best supported from below, rather than by being hung from the back panel as with most birdhouses. Every application is going to be a bit different, depending on the location you choose. A pair of heavy-duty "shelf brackets", from your local hardware store, will do the job. If you are handy, you can build them yourself out of 2"x4"s.



If you are lucky, you might find a pair of conveniently located branches to place the house on.

For your consideration, on the subject of perches.....

Coveside does not provide perches for any of our bird houses, because perches located close to the house invariably provide access for predators.