

The Flyer



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Do Barn Owls really live in Barns?



Photo by Simon Roper

When they are not hunting, Barn Owls need a safe place to roost and nest where they can shelter from the wind and rain, but this does not have to be a barn!

Traditionally, they would have lived in old buildings and tree hollows. This could be a farm building like a barn but other places including church towers, castles, mine shafts and even old factories have been used. Many of the old buildings that were once used by Barn Owls have now been turned into houses or have fallen down and been replaced by new open farm buildings which don't have the places a Barn Owl likes to hide. Sadly, this has made it harder for Barn Owls to find a place to nest or roost. Today, although old barns and hollow trees are still used, many Barn Owls now nest in specially made nestboxes. Once they have found a good nest site they will usually return to the same place every year.

What does the word 'roost' mean?

Roost is the word used to describe a bird resting or sleeping. When roosting a Barn Owl will usually perch on the wooden beams inside a barn, on straw bales, on top of walls or on branches.



Photo by Akos Klein

This is a photo of a Barn Owl from Hungary. Can you see it's more orange chest compared to Barn Owls that live in the UK? Here they are much whiter.



Reg Charity No: 299 835
www.barnowltrust.org.uk

Waterleat, Ashburton
Devon TQ13 7HU

How to make a flying Barn Owl.

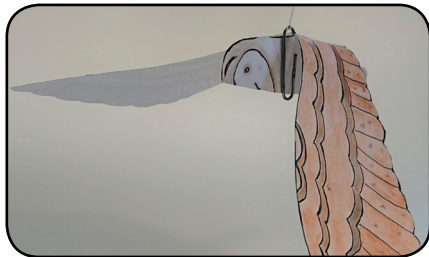
You will need: Owl Template, Colouring Pencils, Scissors, Paper Clip, Cotton or String.

3. Fold each wing downwards along the two dotted lines.

4. Redraw the face on the underside of the template.

5. Attach the paper clip to the body, just in front of the wings.

6. Attach a piece of cotton or thin string to the paper clip. You can then hang up the Barn Owl or just dangle on the string.



Owly Art

1. Colour in and cut out the Barn Owl template below. Use the Barn Owl photo to help you choose which colours to use. You may wish to photocopy the page onto a plain piece of paper so that you can colour both sides.

2. Fold the Barn Owl in half in a V shape along the dashed line.

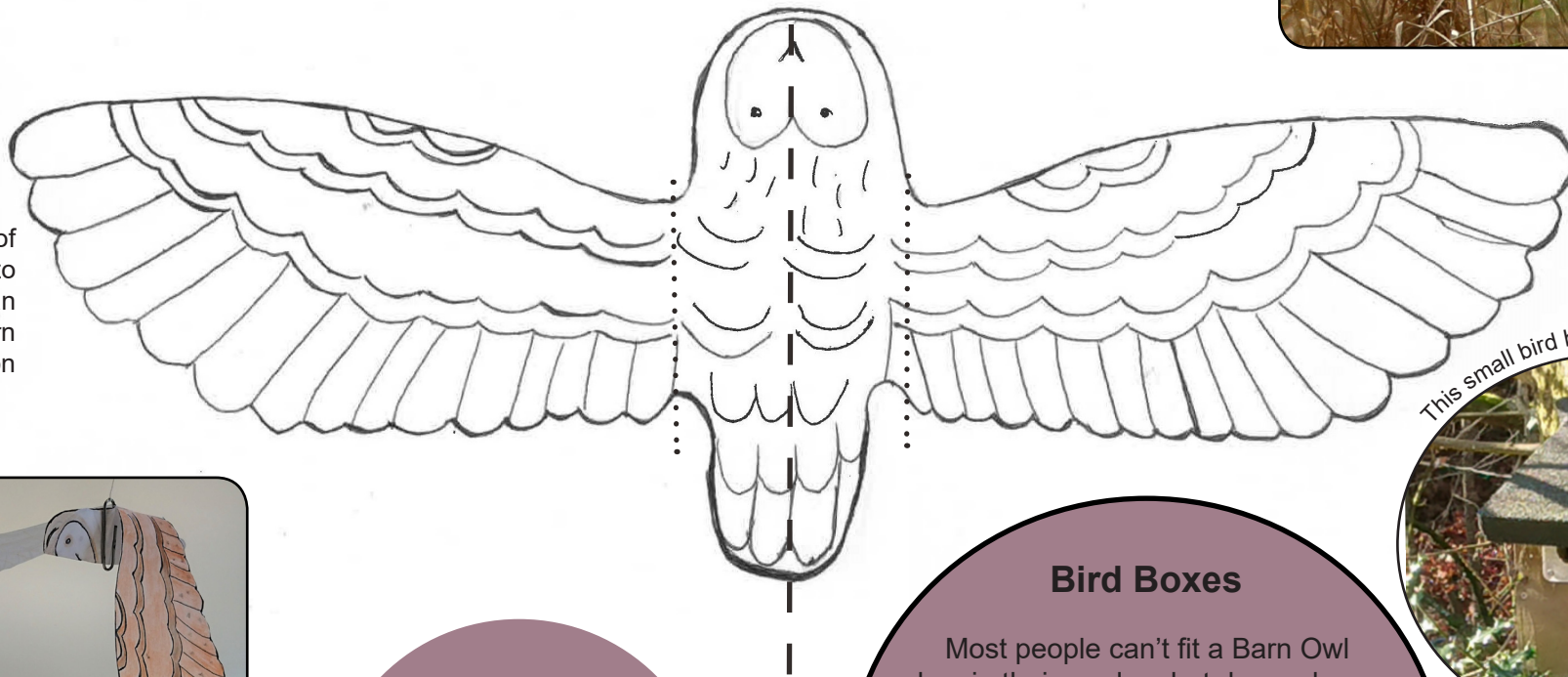
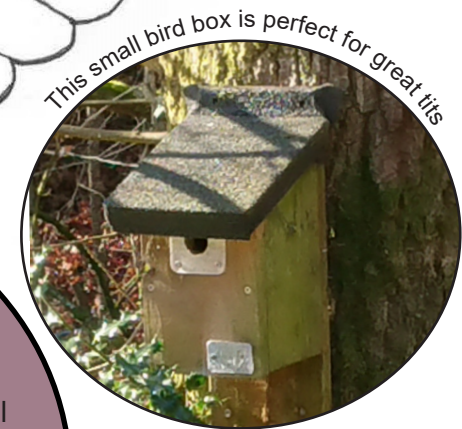


Photo by Gavin Bickerton Jones

Space for Nature

Bird Boxes

Most people can't fit a Barn Owl box in their garden, but do you have space for something smaller? A small bird box like the one in the picture might provide a home for a blue tit, great tits or other small bird. They can be hung on a tree about 2-4m off the ground. Different types of boxes will attract different birds so find out which birds visit your local area before deciding on a box.



This small bird box is perfect for great tits



Barn Owl Trust News

Team Talk

This Winter Mateo and Pip from our Conservation Team have travelled across Devon and Cornwall to put up more than 20 nestboxes ready for the breeding season. This job requires a head for heights and strong muscles to get the boxes into their final position. Since the Barn Owl Trust began it has put up over 1,500 boxes, an amazing number! This summer 80 boxes will be checked for young Barn Owls called owlets. Lets hope the Barn Owls will love their new homes.



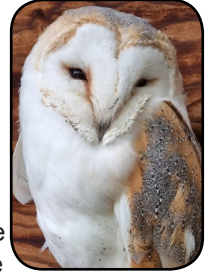
Goats Join the Team!

Archie and Alfred the Golden Guernsey goats joined the team in January to help out on the nature reserve. They will earn their keep by munching their way through brambles and other scrub to stop it growing in the rough grassland on the reserve.



Meet Elizabeth

Elizabeth the Barn Owl was rescued by the RSPCA in 2011. She first lived with foster carers but moved to the Barn Owl Trust in 2015 when her carer became ill. Although she is very healthy, because she was born in captivity she can never be released into the wild and will live here for the rest of her life. She spends her time in an aviary with 3 other Barn Owls called Willow, Dusky and Audrey. She has now joined our Owl Adoption Scheme so that people can help look after her whilst she lives in the sanctuary.



Would you like to help care for a Barn Owl in our Sanctuary?

Visit

www.barnowltrust.org.uk/support-us/adopt-a-barn-owl/

to find out more about how to adopt a Barn Owl.

