

# Kenwood Wildlife Center

## Owl Nesting Time is coming!!

### • Why do Owls Need Boxes?

- Barn owls are cavity dwellers. They do not build nests, but require a hollowed out tree or a ledge which is protected from the elements. They as well as Screech Owls will opt to live in a human made structure.

1. First off, Barn Owls are called that because they were found living happily in the rafters of drafty barns.
2. Most barns now are metal, far too hot and tightly sealed.
3. Deforestation and clearing of dead trees has wiped out natural habitat
4. Use of pesticides has greatly reduced the population due to second hand poisoning.

Owls are rodents' worst enemy! They are responsible for thousands of rats and mice being removed from your property every year. We like to refer to them as the supreme Non-Toxic Rodent Control Specialists.



### Who's Nesting?

Barn Owls, that's who! If you have an owl box it is now time to open up the bottom, clean it out and wait for a new regime to move in. Matter of fact, the barn owl mating behavior coincides with some holidays recognized in the USA.

**Halloween** ~ clean out the boxes. Do light trimming of trees if necessary.

**Thanksgiving** ~ Mating possibilities arise, males in search mode. Generally they will lead female to appropriate nesting site and gift her with prey to seal the deal.

**Christmas** ~ Should be eggs! Check for white downy film around edges of hole, also regurgitated pellets.

**After Valentines** - Nestlings could appear. Male continues hunting all night to raise the young. The mother will begin to help hunting when chicks are bigger.

**March** ~ Fledglings become independent, branching then experimenting more and more.

It is possible that there will be another clutch born to the box, and then next year of the nestlings may return to the box to begin the whole miraculous process again.

### Barn Owl Nesting Boxes



### For Sale

One Box \$80.

Six \$70.

Bluebird boxes \$30.

Wren Boxes \$10