

# THE NESTBOX COMPANY LTD

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Nesting boxes thoughtfully designed for their inhabitants!

## THE TAWNY OWL NEST BOX

Contrary to popular belief, there is no "best" time to put up bird nest boxes.

Birds will quickly become familiar with boxes erected during the latter part of the year and may well use them for winter roosts. Boxes erected by February stand the best chance of being used that season, but it is not unusual for some birds to take over boxes in April if there is a shortage of natural sites.

The important thing is to site the box correctly in a position where the birds will be safe from potential predators.

### PREPARATION AND SITING

The Tawny Owl Nest Box is designed to provide a similar nesting opportunity to the hollow end of a rotted branch. It is best erected high up in a tree, at an angle of about 45°, with the open end upwards, and the inspection hatch on one side. You can do this by tying or screwing it to the trunk or a branch of the tree. To fit to a vertical tree trunk, screw a batten to the box at an angle of 45°, and screw this to the trunk of the tree.

Place a few stone or wood chips in the bottom.

### MANAGEMENT

It is advisable to clean out boxes in October/November. Any fleas or other parasites that have built up should be killed off with boiling water and any unhatched eggs should be removed.

During the breeding season it is very tempting to approach the box to see what is happening, but this should only be done with great caution as your presence may well cause the birds to desert the nest. It is far better to watch the activities from a reasonable distance and to enjoy the pleasure of a successful brood brought off the nest.



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