HAVE A BARN OWL NEST? LET US KNOW!

N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission biologists need help finding Barn Owls nests. If you see an active nest or other evidence of Barn Owl presence on your property, biologists would like to install nest boxes to monitor owl nest success and other life habits. Barn Owls are not attracted to an area just because a nest box is installed, so biologists are interested in places where Barn Owls are already present.

The Barn Owl has a white heart-shaped face and white chest with small brown spots. The back is tawny, marked with black and white spots. They are silent when flying. Unlike most owls, barn owls do not hoot, but rather make a hissing scream that lasts for about two seconds.

Because Barn Owls are nocturnal and secretive, they are hard to survey. By allowing biologists to install nest boxes (below) on your property near an active nest or monitor the active nest, you will help biologists learn more about where and when Barn Owls nest in the state, as well as where they prefer to hunt.



Learn more: ncwildlife.org/barnowl



Trevor Partridge



Peter K. Buriar



Barn Owlets in an active nest. An active nest is typically filled with pellets and whitewash, which is similar to owl urine. (Allison Medford)

If you have Barn Owls on your property, contact Allison Medford, Wildlife Diversity Biologist, (910) 975-9393; allison.medford@ncwildlife.org