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## The Barn Owl, Its “Natural” Nest Sites, Its Predators and Other Hazards to be Avoided for Success in using Nest Boxes

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The barn owl (*Tyto alba javanica*) has been very much expanded in its presence in oil palm plantations in both Malaysia and Indonesia by use of nest boxes that allow for larger populations to be resident within any given area and to deal with rat problems that were a feature in the past. When baits were used these unfortunately also killed off many non-target species but the initial Warfarin based baits did not affect the barn owls.

This allowed barn owls to co-exist within the palms and lead to zero baiting which is now achieved in many estates, of which one, Southern Perak Plantations, has for the last 18 years needed to use absolutely no baits whatsoever.

What has become evident over the years is that the barn owls can become a most valuable pest control that can be managed very well with minimum inputs. However these minimum inputs are very necessary as is the case with the use of any management tool or practice.



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