

# Hawk Perches for biological pest management



Building hawk perches at your school may attract hawks to help control rodent populations. It's best that hawks eat rodents that have not consumed poison baits. As a best practice, consider discontinuing the use of rodenticides outdoors before installing hawk perches.

## HAWKS HUNT

Hawks in California are usually sit-and-wait predators. Hawks prefer to eat small mammals. On average, hawks consume the equivalent of 3 voles or 6-8 mice each day. Hawks can also repel pest birds like pigeons.

## ATTRACTING HAWKS

Hawks are territorial. Adequate perches are the most important feature of a territory. Artificial perches provide steady vantage points and can increase hunting success.

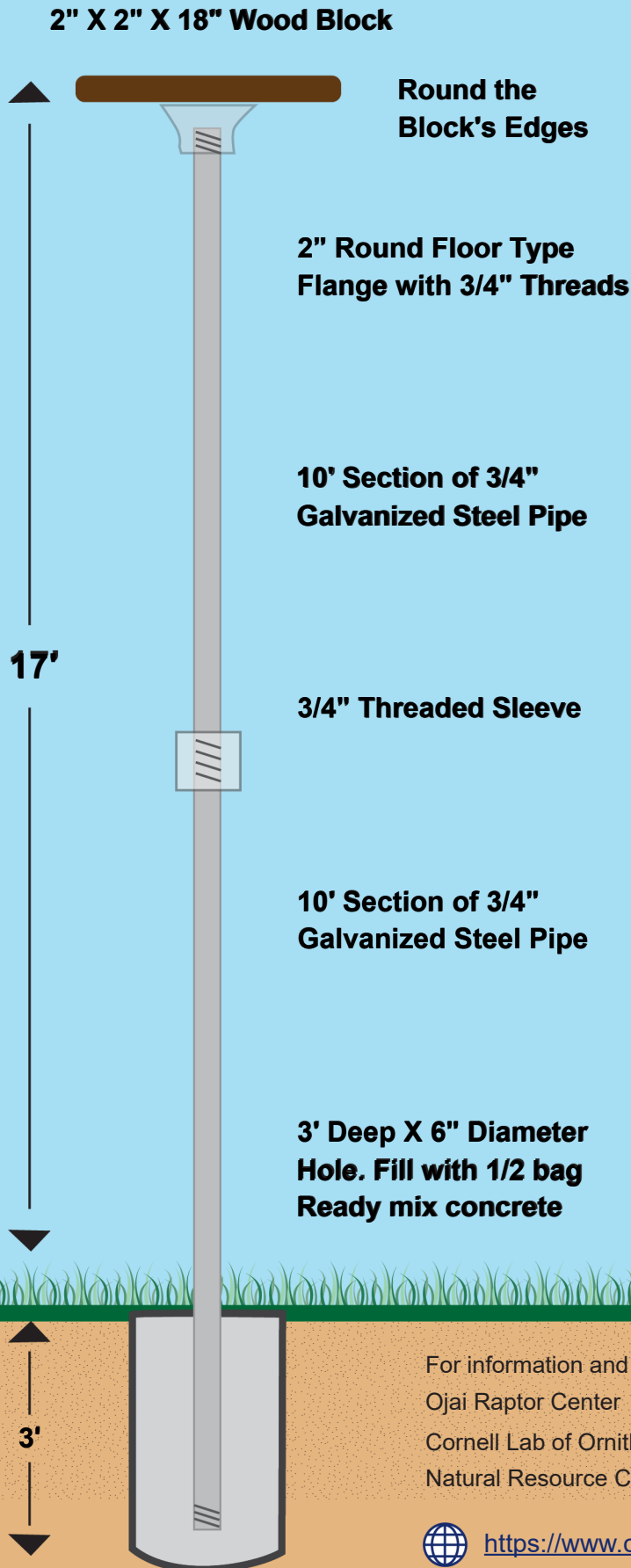
## HAWK PERCHES

Perches are not hard to build and can be set up at any time of year. Install perches in open areas away from trees and power lines. The perch should be oriented east-west to improve visibility for the hawk.

## HAWKS AS PEST CONTROL

Having hawks around is effective for deterring pigeons and other nuisance birds. Hawks alone will not eliminate a rodent problem. In combination with traps and exclusion, hawks can help your school manage rodents successfully.

# Artificial Perch Plan



## Materials

- One- 2" X 2" X 18" Wood Block
- Two- 10' Section of 3/4" Galvanized Steel Pipe
- Two- 1 1/2" Wood Screws
- One- 2" X 3/4" Floor Flange
- One- 3/4" Threaded Sleeve
- One- Cubic Foot Ready Mix Concrete

## Notes

- Install in open areas, away from power lines and trees
- Anchor in ground or attach to existing poles with U-bolts
- Orient perch east to west
- Check below perches to remove pellets, prey remains, poop

For information and hawk perch design options, see more resources online.  
Ojai Raptor Center  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology Nest Watch  
Natural Resource Conservation Service Hawk Perch



<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/>



[school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov)

# Barn Owls

## for biological pest management



Installing barn owl nest boxes at your school may attract owls to help control rodent populations. It's best that owls eat rodents that have not consumed poison baits. As a best practice, consider discontinuing the use of rodenticides outdoors before installing owl nest boxes at a school site.

### OWLS HUNT

Barn owls eat gophers, ground squirrels, rats, mice, and voles. An adult will catch 10-12 gophers per night during nesting season. A family of barn owls can eat about 3,000 gophers per year.



### ATTRACTING OWLS

Barn owls are cavity nesters. Nest box openings attract owls. The best way to increase the local owl population is to provide a barn owl nest box.

### OWLS AS PEST CONTROL

Owls alone will not eliminate a rodent problem, but may reduce their populations to acceptable levels. In combination with trapping and exclusion, owls can help your school manage rodents successfully.

### OWL NEST BOXES

Nest boxes can be purchased or built. They can be a great learning opportunity for students. If your nest box is successful, you may catch a glimpse of some cute fledgling owls.

# Barn Owl Nest Boxes



## BUILD IT OR BUY IT!

### Nest Box Plans

UCCE Barn Owl Nest Box Networks

Ojai Raptor Center - Instructions and Guide

NestWatch – Barn Owl Nest Box

Ready-made nest boxes are available for purchase online.

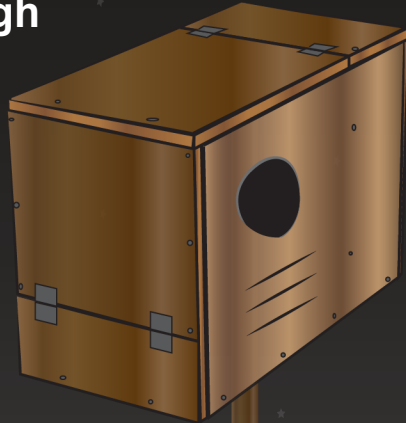
### What about maintenance?

- Clean out nest boxes once a year
- Between mid-August and November
- Wear gloves and a mask to sweep out debris and unclog holes

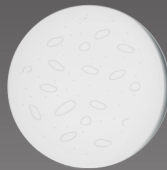
### Expert Tips

- The best time to install a nest box is in summer or fall, before nesting begins
- Install a metal baffle below the box to prevent predators
- A quieter location is best

10' to 12' High



- Half mile or more from major roads
- Hang the nest box in an open area
- Provide afternoon shade or attach a sun shade to the box
- Face opening away from prevailing winds



For more information and resources, see owl nest box design options online.

- Build a Barn Owl Box – Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- NestWatch Predator Guards



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[school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:school-ipm@cdpr.ca.gov)