



12/2/10 National Nest Box Week

Each year the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) runs **National Nest Box Week** from 14th to 21st February. St Valentine's Day marks the start since this is the traditional date when birds pair up for the new breeding season. The aim is to urge everyone with nest boxes to clean them out and check that they are in tip-top condition for the coming breeding season. This is also the very best time to put up new boxes.

Nest Boxes are important for birds and other wildlife - including mammals like bats and hedgehogs and insects like bees and hornets - because modern habitats are often very short of the holes and cavities they need to nest and roost safely.

Making boxes is easy and an excellent team activity. The design and materials of a nest box are important since it needs to be well insulated and of the correct dimensions for the birds to be successful. SGEG have included some images of Barn Owl box erection at The Duke's course, St Andrews, with special thanks to Ranald Strachan of Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (www.fifecoastandcountrysidetrust.co.uk).

Further details of how to make, install and maintain nest boxes are on the BTO website: <http://www.bto.org/nbw/index.htm>.

More designs and advice are available for free at:

<http://www.lincstrust.org.uk/factsheets/nestbox.php#details>



Barn Owl Box, Positioned by Fife Coast & Countryside Trust at The Duke's Golf Club.