

**MEDIC** 



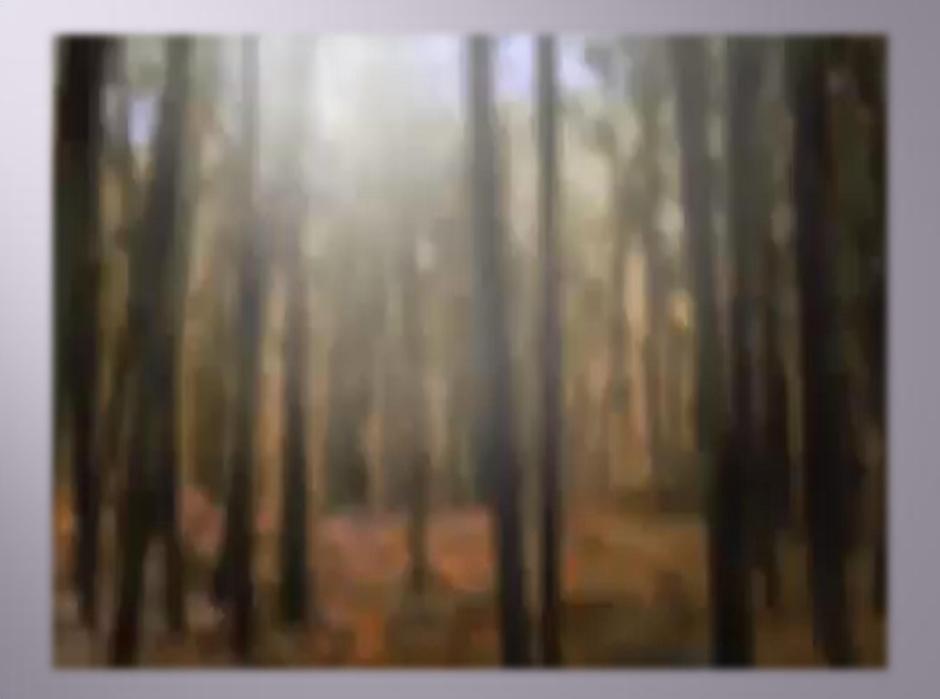
## OWL BOX NESTS

BECAUSE OF THE ABUNDANCE OF CALLS ABOUT VOLE INFESTATIONS, WE DISCOVERED THAT BARN OWLS WOULD BE A GOOD HELP FOR VOLE CONTROL WITH A SECONDARY HELP FOR GOPHER CONTROL.

LOOK AROUND, NO MORE OLD BARNS AND OLD TREES ARE CUT FOR THE FIREPLACE.

THEREFORE WE ARE HELPING THE OWLS BY ADDING NESTS IN THE DISTRICT.





HAY AND FORAGE GROWERS REPORTED IN Dec. 30 2010 A SEVERE INFESTATION OF VOLES IN LINCOLN COUNTY. THE VOLES WERE IN THE SMALL GRAINS, HAY, IRRIGATED PASTURES AND SUGAR BEETS. THEY ROOT PRUNED THE ALFALFA AND THE NEW SEEDING WAS HIT SUPER HARD. **SOME GROWERS LOST 30 TO 40% OF THEIR** STANDS AND SOME TOOK A COMPLETE LOSS.

DONLEY FARMS TREATED EVERY ACRE WITH ZINC PHOSPHIDE RODENTICIDE. THE VOLES LEARNED TO AVOID IT. THEY STILL LOST ONE HALF TO ONE TON PER ACRE ALFALFA.

GENERALLY TO GET RID OF VOLES A DECEMBER
SNOW FOLLOWED BY RAIN TO TURN THE SNOW TO
ICE CREATING A HARD SEAL OF ICE WILL
DECIMATE ANY VOLE POPULATION.

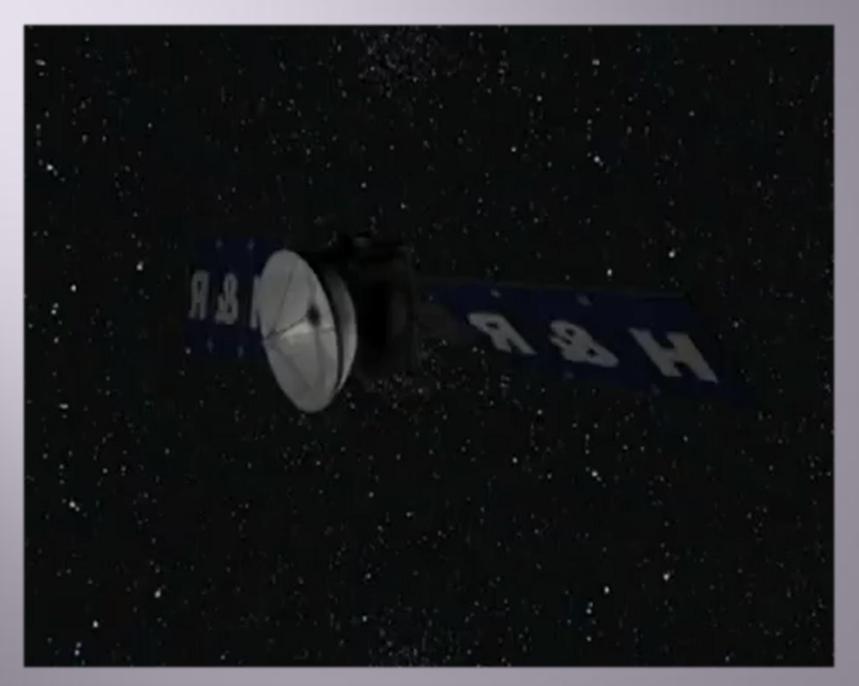
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV, ISRAEL, HAS THE MOST AMBITIOUS BARN OWL NEST PROJECT IN THE WORLD. THE SUCCESS RATE HAS PROMPTED THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO FUTHER FINANCE THE PROJECT. THEY EVEN HAVE A JOINT OPERATION WITH THE JORDANIAN FARMERS ON THEIR COMMON BORDER AREA.

**BARN OWLS CATCH 25 RODENTS EACH NIGHT** WHILE RAISING A NEST, 3 FOR THE MALE, 2 FOR THE FEMALE AND 5 OWLETS GET 4 EACH. THE BARN OWL DIET MAY CONTAIN 50% POCKET **GOPHERS DURING BREEDING AND NESTING** SEASON. (FEBURARY THRU JUNE) THIS MAY **EQUAL 215 GOPHERS TAKEN.** 

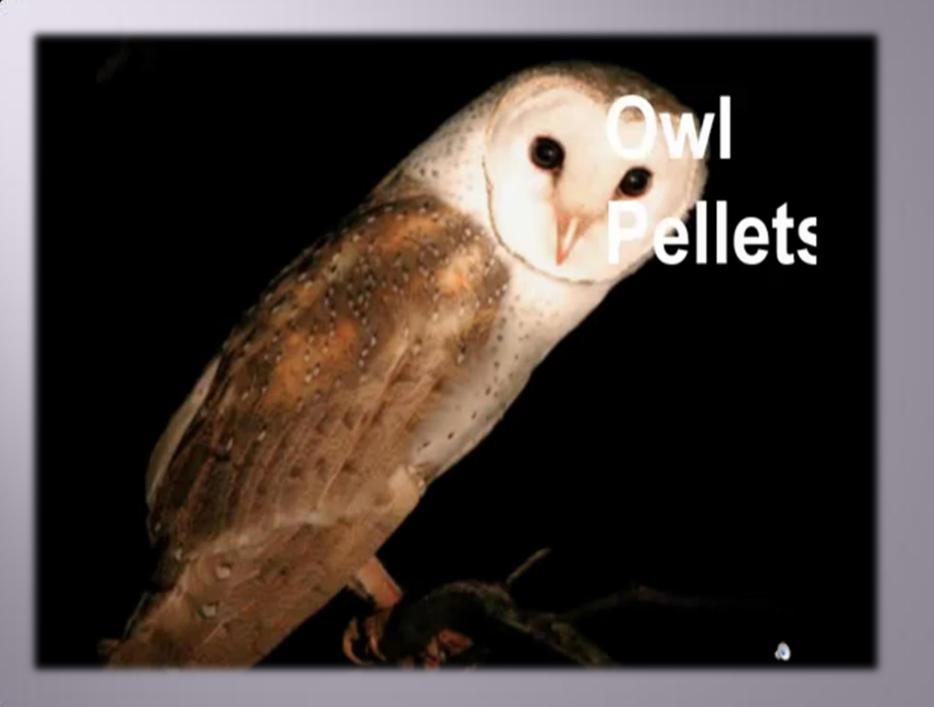


Simmons with a display of mammal skulls collected from one nesting season in a Barn Owl box. Photo by Charles Rettner.

BARN OWLS DO NOT EAT DOMESTIC ANIMALS ON A REGULAR BASIS. THEY MAY EAT A VERY SMALL CHICKEN OR A GUINEA PIG ONCE OR TWICE IN IT'S LIFE TIME IF AT ALL. ALTHOUGH IT HAS A WINGS SPAN OF 3 FEET AND STANDS ONE FOOT TALL HE WEIGHS LESS THAN A POUND.



MOUSE







**THUMPER** 











