

# Wild Bees & Birds

These bird boxes were built for swifts but we think they are too low - and the swifts wouldn't have liked the creeper either. The first occupants were starlings, but the bees usurped them - European honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).

However, one rather brave or foolish starling returned this year and made his or her nest in one of the holes between the bees. It wasn't a great success as the bird died - presumably killed by the bees.

I love it when they form clusters like in the photo. At times we could see honey seeping through the wood. I think that the swift boxes are a bit small for all the bees that want to live there, but they don't seem deterred!

