

Nightingale Garden habitats for wildlife

# Bumble bee nest



*Tree bumblebees (bombus hypnorum) are commonly found in nest boxes. Ours seem to be ginger and white.*

Since 12 May, we have some bumble bees nesting in this bird nest box, which is a first for this garden. **We are very lucky.** Last year, we had a nest under the club hut. Some of the hundreds of types of bees like these dry, dark spaces. There could be up to 400 bees in the colony, compared with 50,000 for honeybees.

We might see 'swarms' of male bees around the nest, which is normal. They wait for the queen bee to come out so they can mate. These male bees don't sting.

**For your safety, please do NOT go near the nest**

We will leave the bees alone until the colony dies back naturally in a few months. The queen will then hibernate over winter to find a new nest site next Spring.

For more information, visit the Bumblebee Conservation Trust website