

nhbs BUYER'S GUIDE

BAT AND BIRD BOXES FOR CONSTRUCTION

The UK's bird and bat species play an important role in enriching and transforming habitats, from aiding plant pollination and spreading seeds to maintaining a predator-prey balance. Populations are declining in both number and diversity, and this is closely associated with the decline in suitable habitat - a decline that can be mitigated through the inclusion of nest boxes.

It is important that we play our part in providing spaces for birds and bats to inhabit, to halt the significant decline in nature that we have seen over recent years. Increasingly, homeowners are appreciating developments that make space for nature and see benefit in living in an environment with wildlife around them. Incorporating bat and bird boxes into new builds and redevelopments can significantly contribute to wildlife conservation and create more sustainable and eco-friendly infrastructure.

For product advice, to request a quote or to place an order

As the leading supplier of bat and bird boxes in the UK, we pride ourselves on our outstanding customer service. With the most extensive range and stockholding in the UK we can offer excellent availability and extremely competitive prices. This guide contains a selection of popular products, many more are available on our website. Our product specialists will be pleased to assist if you have any questions or need advice on the most suitable product for your needs.

Contact us via email at customer.services@nhbs.com or call us on 01803 865913.

Please note that the lengthy manufacturing process for woodcrete products can result in longer lead times. Therefore, we advise you contact us as far in advance as possible to avoid delays and meet your build schedule requirements.



There are several materials that bat and bird boxes are made from, including eco-plastic, concrete and woodstone (also known as woodcrete and woodconcrete). Each material has different properties and has varying longevity, durability and price.

Woodstone

- Does not rot, crack, warp or leak
- Can be rendered over
- Long lasting
- Maintenance free

Concrete

- Does not rot, crack, warp or leak
- Can be rendered over
- Very strong and long lasting
- Maintenance free

Eco-Plastic

- More lightweight than concrete or woodstone
- Sourced from recycled plastics
- Very strong and long lasting
- Maintenance free

Wood

- More lightweight than concrete or woodstone
- Lower cost
- Naturally sourced materials
- Maintenance needed to prolong lifespan

INTEGRATED BAT BOXES

Integrated bat boxes are designed to be built into the building itself, whether this be in the roof or wall cavity. They are unobtrusive, often hard to spot, and help to provide various species with a permanent roost.

There are three main types of bat box; crevice, cavity and hybrid boxes. Crevice boxes provide a narrower roost space for species that naturally prefer smaller roosts, whereas cavity boxes offer a more spacious roost space favoured by larger species. Hybrid boxes are designed to accommodate both groups.



Vivara Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Tube

252213

Designed to be built into external walls with the option to render over, this box provides an unintrusive habitat for a variety of bat species. Made from woodstone, it is durable, long-lasting and has excellent insulative properties.



PRO UK Build-in Woodstone Bat Box

256321

A popular choice for new-builds and renovations, this habitat is manufactured to match the standard UK brick size. It is designed to be installed stand-alone or may be arranged side-by-side to create a larger chamber.



Vivara Pro Build-in Woodstone Bat Box

252139

Designed to be built into the wall cavity, this modular bat box features a slim entrance hole that sits flush to the wall to provide a discrete entrance. Manufactured using woodstone, this box is breathable, insulative and provides a robust habitat for roosting bats.



1FR Schwegler Bat Tube

178018

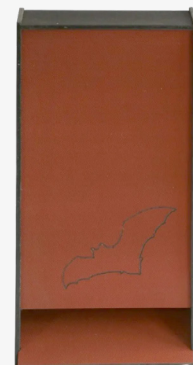
This woodcrete bat tube is designed for installation into external walls, where it can be rendered over for a discrete appearance and is an excellent year-round choice for many species.



2FR Schwegler Bat Tube

180018

Suitable for a range of bat species which inhabit buildings, this woodcrete habitat box can be fitted flush to the wall or rendered over for a discrete installation.



Integrated Eco Bat Box

232508 Cavity: Red **232521** Crevice: Red
248582 Cavity: Black **197697** Crevice: Black
232519 Cavity: Green **197697** Crevice: Green

Available in cavity or crevice design, these bat boxes provide a permanent roost space for a range of species and are manufactured with recycled plastic.

EXTERNAL BAT BOXES

External bat boxes are designed to be mounted to trees, fences and buildings. External boxes can vary in size and material and are often constructed with wood or woodstone/woodcrete. When choosing an externally mounted bat box, it is important to consider the weight of the box and the surface you are mounting the box to. Some are lighter and ideal for mounting on trees, while some are more durable and can be fixed to buildings.



**2F Schwegler
Bat Box**

174814

Made entirely of woodcrete, this popular bat box is designed as a summer roosting space for multiple species. It is robust, durable and suitable for long-term use.



**Elisa
Bat Box**

259840

Suitable as a summer roost, this bat box is constructed with woodcrete to ensure longevity and durability. It also features a curved back, allowing the box to be easily mounted on trees.



**General Purpose
Bat Box**

253156

Manufactured with durable woodcrete for maximum longevity, this bat box is suitable as a summer roost for both cavity and crevice dwelling species.



**Large Multi Chamber
Woodstone Bat Box**

246918

A large multi-chamber box that is suitable as a hibernation, maternity or summer roosting space. It is manufactured with woodcrete to provide an insulated, durable habitat with excellent longevity.



**Beaumaris Woodstone
Bat Box**

231796

Designed with a single narrow entrance for crevice-dwelling species, this Woodstone habitat box is suitable for attachment to external walls and is available in two sizes.



**Vivara Pro Woodstone
Bat Box**

210820

This hard-wearing Woodstone box provides a suitable summer roosting space for cavity species and is suitable for installation on external walls.

BAT ACCESS BRICKS AND TILES

Bat bricks, tiles and panels provide an access point to open roof space or the underfelt of the roof, allowing bats to roost in confined spaces beneath the tiles. They can be installed within the roof or ridge tiles during construction, or they may be used to replace tiles on existing structures, and are available in multiple colours to blend seamlessly into existing tiles.



**1FE Schwegler
Bat Access Panel**

183033

This woodcrete panel was designed to provide an access point for existing roost sites and was manufactured with an overall depth of 8cm for easy integration into masonry or insulation.



**Bat Access
Brick**

197697 Red
197701 Golden
197702 Brown

A standard-sized brick available in red, golden and brown, specifically shaped to allow bat species access to a cavity chamber behind the brick.



**Manthorpe Bat
Ridge Roost**

265119 Teracotta
265140 Antique Red
265141 Brown
265142 Grey
265139 Black

This roost replaces the ridge end caps to provide an occupiable space on the gable end, increasing bat roosting opportunities on new and existing buildings.

CUSTOM INTEGRATED BOXES

Custom integrated boxes typically consist of a solid habitat box made from insulating materials with an internal roost space. These boxes can be custom faced with a chosen brick type (or existing brick, wood, stonework or rendered finish) to allow for discrete installation into the existing facade.

BAT BOX LOCATION GUIDANCE

Bat boxes should be placed considering their intended purpose (summer roost, maternity or hibernation). For example during the active summer season, bat roosts benefit from installation in sunny locations. All bat boxes should have open, unobstructed access away from artificial light sources, and for best results should be installed 3-6m high close to natural linear features, such as hedges or tree lines.



We have an extensive range of bat detectors available on our website at www.nhbs.com



BIRD NEST BOXES

Bird nest boxes can be an excellent way to incorporate additional habitat into new builds or redevelopments. Some boxes are specifically designed to accommodate a certain species, while other general purpose bird boxes are suitable for a number of bird species. Nest boxes typically consist of a sturdy outer shell, a cavity space and an entrance hole of varying sizes and can be designed to be built in to a wall or externally-mounted.



SPARROW BOXES

Sparrow populations have undergone significant declines in recent decades and remain in a vulnerable state in the UK. As colony nesters, these birds benefit most from terraced boxes or multiple boxes that are installed close together.



Vivara Pro WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box

210670

Available with one or two breeding chambers, this house sparrow box is manufactured from Woodstone to create a highly insulating, durable box that can be integrated into the masonry of a new house or fixed onto an external wall.



1SP Schwegler Sparrow Terrace

185100 Brown
185099 Stone

Ideal for three sparrow families, this terrace provides a breathable habitat that can last decades. It can be fixed onto an external wall or incorporated into brickwork during construction.



WoodStone External House Sparrow Nest Box

252774

Constructed from durable Woodstone, this wall-mounted nest box is designed to attract house sparrows and features an opening at the back of the box to allow for easy cleaning.



Mario Dual Chamber Sparrow Terrace

260169

This habitat has twin cavities with an internal wall, providing space for two sparrow families to nest. It is constructed from woodcrete for a robust, insulative nesting space that can be integrated into walls or mounted externally.



Sparrow Terrace Nest Box

179139

This terrace consists of three separate nest boxes which can be fitted next to each other. They are constructed from exterior grade FSC plywood and are coated with a non-toxic preservative to make a long-lasting, durable habitat.



Vivara Pro Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box

234956 Brown
234957 Green
234958 Grey

Also available with an oval entrance hole, these nest boxes are suitable for a range of garden bird species. It is suitable for attachment to external walls and trees and can be used throughout the year thanks to its excellent thermal properties.

SWIFT, SWALLOW AND HOUSE MARTIN BOXES

Swift, Swallow and House Martin populations have declined over recent decades largely due to the loss of nesting sites in old buildings. Swift boxes can also be used by most small bird species.



PRO UK Rendered Build-In Swift Box

256322

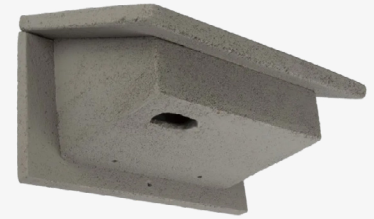
This build-in swift nest box is designed to be integrated into the cavity of a building and is constructed from long-lasting Woodstone. It also can be rendered over for a discrete installation, leaving only the entrance hole visible.



Pino Build-in Swift Box

261409

Made of long-lasting and thermally stable woodcrete, this swift box is designed to be built into external wall surfaces and contains a single internal cavity where swifts can nest.



Vivara Pro WoodStone Swift Nest Box

217160

Constructed from durable Woodstone, this wall-mounted nest box is designed to attract swifts and features an opening at the back of the box to allow for easy cleaning.



WoodStone Build-in Swift Nest Box Deep

248390

This build-in nest box is constructed from long lasting Woodstone with a plywood backing and is designed to provide swift nesting space in the cavity of a building.



Manthorpe Swift Brick

242167 Terracotta
242168 Slate Grey
242169 Antique Red
242170 Buff
242171 White
242172 Black

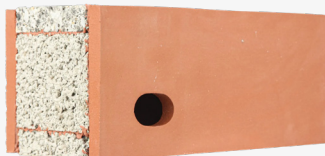
Made from PVC and polypropylene, this swift brick is designed to last for a long time and will not rot or degrade. This habitat is also available in six colours to allow for a discrete installation.



Manthorpe Dual Swift Brick

265624 Terracotta
265625 Buff
265623 Antique Red
265626 Unfinished for rendering

The design of this swift brick uses space in the existing wall for both the entrance and the nesting chamber to maximise the roosting area, and is made from highly durable PVC and polypropylene to ensure longevity.



Ibstock Eco-habitat for Swifts

201574 Red Brick
210159 Blue Brick
234896 Buff Brick

Constructed from durable Woodstone, this wall-mounted nest box is designed to attract swifts and features an opening at the back of the box to allow for easy cleaning.



10B Schwegler Swallow Nest

237699

This Swallow nesting bowl is made from woodcrete, making it tough and durable. It features a nest bowl with one compartment for nesting and is designed for mounting on external walls.



Vivara Pro WoodStone House Martin Nest

209827

Available in single or double nests, this wall-mounted nest bowl has been specially designed to mimic House Martin nests and provide a durable, long-lasting habitat.



WHY DO BIRDS NEED NEST BOXES?

Between 2015 and 2020, over 48% of UK bird species experienced a decline. This reduction in both the number and diversity of bird populations is closely linked to the loss of suitable habitats. To help address this issue, it's crucial for us to create safe environments for birds. By installing bird boxes, we can support bird colonisation, nesting, and breeding.

GENERAL BIRD BOXES

General purpose bird boxes support a wide range of bird species. The entrance hole diameter often determines the species suitability.



1B Schwegler Nest Box

- 174756** 32mm Hole: Brown
- 174761** 26mm Hole: Brown
- 174757** 32mm Hole: Green
- 174763** 26mm Hole: Green
- 174766** Oval Hole: Brown

Suitable for all garden birds, this woodcrete nesting box comes in a variety of different colours and entrance hole sizes. It is designed to be installed onto tree trunks or external walls using secure fixings.



Vivara Pro Barcelona WoodStone Open Nest Box

- 234962** Brown
- 234963** Green
- 234964** Grey

A durable and predator-proof habitat with a removable front panel for easy access. This open nesting box is suitable for a variety of garden birds and is suitable for year-round occupation.



Vivara Pro Seville 28mm WoodStone Nest Box

- 233158** Brown
- 233167** Green

This nest box has a 28mm entrance hole that is suitable for smaller garden birds, including sparrows, Blue Tits, Great Tits and Pied Flycatchers. It can be attached to external walls and trees.



2H Schwegler Robin Box

178019

Ideal for Robins and other small garden birds, this woodcrete box provides a long-lasting, robust nest. It is designed to be hung on building walls and features a removable front panel for maintenance.



Vivara Pro WoodStone Starling Nest Box

210682

This nest box is manufactured from Woodstone to provide a durable, rot resistant nesting chamber that can be attached to trees or an external wall to provide nesting space for Starlings.



3S Schwegler Starling Nest Box

189128

A woodcrete Starling box designed to be attached to external walls. This nest box features a large entrance hole to encourage occupation from other larger species, including woodpeckers.

OWL BOXES

Nest boxes designed for owls feature a bigger entrance hole and often have a front platform for young owlets to exercise. These boxes are designed to be mounted on horizontal branches to simulate a natural nest spot like a decaying branch.



Eco Tawny Owl Nest Box

246427

Constructed from recycled plastic and wood, this nest box provides a weatherproof nesting space for a pair of Tawny Owls to raise a brood. It is highly robust and has a life expectancy of over 20 years.



Eco Barn Owl Nest Box

216867

An extremely robust, low-maintenance nest box constructed almost entirely from recycled plastic. This nest box provides a nesting space for Barn Owls and features an exercise platform for young owls.



No. 30 Schwegler Tawny Owl Nest Box

242378

Manufactured from long-lasting woodcrete, this habitat is ideal for long-term Tawny Owl projects. It is designed to be sited on trees or buildings and is supplied with secure fixings for installation.

OTHER HABITATS



Hedgehog House with Feeding Shelter

256153

Designed to provide an ideal summer nesting box and hibernation place for hedgehogs. With a long entrance tunnel to cut out drafts and exclude predators and frame constructed from robust 12mm FSC exterior plywood it provides a warm and secure shelter for hedgehogs.



Solitary Bee Bricks

- 262715 Dark Grey
- 262716 Red
- 262717 Light Grey
- 262718 White
- 262719 Yellow

Made from recycled concrete, these bee bricks are designed to encourage solitary bee species in construction projects, and are available in five colours to allow these habitats to blend into a building.



Bee Block

- 244150 Charcoal
- 244151 Yellow

Available in three colour options, these bee blocks contain cavities for solitary bees to lay their eggs. They are manufactured from recycled waste material and can be integrated into part of the building, or free-standing in a garden or allotment.



Eco Hedgehog Hole Fence Plate

242607

Made from 100% UV-stabilised recycled plastic so will not rot or degrade over time.

From hedgehog houses to insect hotels, we stock a wide range of habitats suitable for mammals, amphibians and insects.

You can explore our range at www.nhbs.com

NEST BOX LOCATION ADVICE

Species	Height	Location	Special Considerations
House Sparrow**	Minimum 2m	Under soffits/eaves, gables, apexes or overhanging roofs. Can be installed within the wall or externally mounted.	Must be located near vegetation, have a clear flight path and must face away from prevailing wind and rain, preferably north-east facing
Swift**	Minimum 5m	Can be installed within the wall or externally mounted on non-south facing walls.	Must have an unobstructed entrance and flight path, as Swifts will drop out of the box to begin flight. Minimum 50cm between entrance holes
House Martin**	Minimum 2m	Under the soffits/eaves, the apex or a sheltered side of the building on non-south facing walls	For best results, place multiple nest boxes together
Swallow*	Minimum 2m	Ideally inside outbuildings or sheltered areas with constant access points, such as a garage, carport or barn. Alternatively, under the eaves of a building.	More than one bowl can be placed within a site, positioned with a minimum distance of 1m between nest cups, and 6cm of free space above.
Starling**	Minimum 1.5m, ideally 3-4m	On an external wall, tree trunk or pole near vegetation and away from excess noise or human activity	Must have unobstructed flight access and be out of reach from predators. The box should face away from direct sunlight and prevailing winds
Robin	1-2m	Ideally placed in an inconspicuous location to shield the box from predators, such as under climbing plants or overhanging vegetation	Must have reduced exposure to strong wind or sunlight, preferably north-east facing
Tawny Owl*	Minimum 3m, ideally 5-8m	Best placed on a mature tree in deciduous woodland, with access to branches for fledgling chicks. A quiet, unpopulated area is best	Boxes must be faced away from prevailing wind with a clear flight area, and ensure that the boxes are not placed near Little Owl territory.
Barn Owl	2.5-5m	Placed on a tree or building/barn, ideally on the edge of a woodland.	Do not encourage within ½ mile of major roads. The box should be placed away from wind, in an easterly-facing position with a clear flight path
Little Owl	2-5m	Best placed on an isolated tree in suitable farmland. Horizontal branches are required	Must be placed away from prevailing wind. For best results, provide around three boxes adjacent to one another
Kestrel*	Minimum of 3m, ideally 8m	Suitable for isolated trees, woodland edges or building sides. Must have unobstructed access and nearby branches or ledges for fledglings	Minimum 400m between boxes. Must have a clear flight path and must face away from prevailing wind and rain, preferably south-east facing

The Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) Red List highlights bird species that are at the highest risk of extinction. ** red list, * amber list

When mounting a nest box, an appropriate fixing should be used considering the weight of the item and the material it is being attached to.

Specific site advice should be taken from a licensed ecologist to determine suitable nest boxes and their locations within a development.



2F Bat Box
174814



1FF Bat Box
174821



1FR Bat Tube
178018



2FR Bat Tube
180018



2FN Bat Box
174819



1FD Bat Box
187991



1FE Bat Access Panel
183033



2FE Bat Shelter
190558



**1WQ Summer & Winter
Bat Roost**
178017



**1FQ Bat Roost
(For External Walls)**
177099



**1WI Summer and
Winter Bat Box**
187994



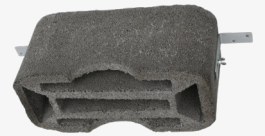
**1FW Bat
Hibernation Box**
183835



**1FS Large Colony
Bat Box**
177100



3FF Bat Box
221016 no inspection hatch
221017 inspection hatch



1GS Brick Roost
190556



17 Swift Nest Box
179225



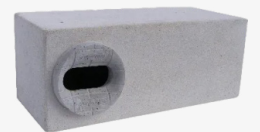
**17A Swift Nest Box
(Triple Cavity)**
189203



16 Swift Box
183021



16S Swift Box
189210



Lightweight Swift Box
208155



9A House Martin Nest
174802



11 House Martin Terrace
183015



10 Swallow Nest
174809



10B Swallow Nest
237699



13 Modular House Martin Nest
189185



1B Nest Box
174756 32mm Hole
174761 26mm Hole
174766 Oval Hole



2GR Nest Box
174779 3 Hole: 27mm
174775 Oval 30x45 mm



1N Deep Nest Box
174792



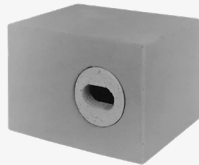
1SP Sparrow Terrace
185100 Brown
185099 Stone



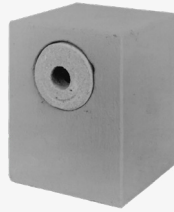
2H Robin Box
178019



3SV Nest Box with Predator Protection
183007 34mm hole
183008 Oval hole
183009 45mm hole



25 Brick Nest Box
183019 Type 25
189438 Type 25A



24 Brick Nest Box
183018



2M Nest Box
184941 26mm hole brown
245273 26mm hole green
249080 26mm hole, soft red
184942 32mm hole brown
245274 32mm hole green
184943 Oval hole brown
245275 Oval hole green



1MR Avianex
174790 Brown
174780 Olive Green
174788 Red



3S Starling Nest Box
189128



No. 5 Owl Box
179006



2HW Nest Box
189129

This is just a selection of the bat and bird boxes available.

To view our complete range please visit our website at www.nhbs.com

VIVARA PRO



**Large Multi Chamber
WoodStone Bat Box**
246918



**Build-in Woodstone
Bat Tube**
252213



**Beaumaris Woodstone
Bat Box**
231796 Midi Black
231797 Maxi Black



**Vivara Pro Build-in
Woodstone Bat Box**
252139



**PRO UK Build-in
Woodstone Bat Box**
256321



**Black Rectangular
Woodstone Bat Box**
266140



**Low Profile
Woodstone Bat Box**
210689



**Chambord Wooden
Bat Box**
217761



**Causa Maternity
Bat Box**
231759



**Medium Wooden
Bat Box**
266110



**Miramare
Bat Box**
217568



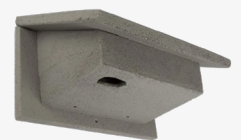
**WoodStone
Bat Box**
210820



**Bat
Stone**
263061



**Build-in WoodStone
Bat Access Panel**
266149



**WoodStone Swift
Nest Box**
217160



**PRO UK Rendered
Build-In Swift Box**
256322



**WoodStone
Build-in Swift Nest Box**
248390



**Pro UK Visible Build-In
Swift Box**
257048



**WoodStone Build-in
Invisible Swift Box**
254475



**Slide Out
House Martin Nest**
232079 Double nest
232080 Single nest



Woodstone House Martin Nest

209827 Right Entrance
209828 Left Entrance
210651 Double Nest



House Martin Nests

210793 Left-hand entrance
210794 Double entrance



WoodStone Swallow Nest Bowl

209824



WoodStone Swallow Bowl

238832



WoodStone Build-in Open Nest Box

217194



Build-In Half Open Nest Box

257046



WoodStone External House Sparrow Nest Box

252774



WoodStone House Sparrow Nest Box

210670 Double Chamber
238831 Single Chamber



Seville 28mm Woodstone Nest Box

233158 Brown
233167 Green



Seville 32mm WoodStone Nest Box

234956 Brown
234957 Green
234958 Grey



Seville 32mm Oval Woodstone Nest Box

239017 Brown
239016 Green
239018 Grey



Woodstone Starling Nest Box

210682



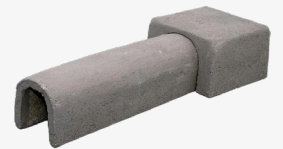
Barcelona Woodstone Open Nest Box

234962 Brown
234963 Green
234964 Grey



WoodStone Grey Wagtail and Dipper Nest Box

238825



WoodStone Kingfisher Tunnel

210678

CJ WILDLIFE

HABIBAT



Sand Martin Nest Box

217283



Tawny Owl, Jackdaw and Stock Dove Nest Box

209235



Habibat Bat Box 001

193475 Red Brick
193476 Blue Brick



Swift Block (Small)

197659 Red Brick
197662 Blue Brick
197665 Unfaced



Starling Box Smooth Brick

197678 Red Brick
197681 Blue Brick
197682 Unfaced

IBSTOCK



**Enclosed
Bat Box 'C'**

208936 Large: Red
219886 Small: Red
210556 Large: Cream
219888 Small: Cream
210555 Large: Blue
219887 Small: Blue



**Eco-habitat
for Swifts**

201574 Red Brick
210159 Blue Brick
234896 Buff Brick



**Bat Access
Brick**

197697 Red
197701 Golden
197702 Brown



**Enclosed
Bat Box 'B': Large**

214598 Large Red
214599 Large Blue
214597 Large Buff
222759 Large Custom



**Enclosed
Bat Box 'B': Small**

214595 Small Red
214596 Small Blue
201573 Small Buff
251388 Small Custom

FAUNUS



**General Purpose
Bat Box**
253156



**Elisa
Bat Box**
259840



**Lela
Bat Box**
260131



**Isabella
Bat Box**
260090



**Brigida
Bat Shelter**
260129



**Kiki Bat and Swift
Hybrid Box**
261420



**Pino Build-in
Swift Box**
261409



**Mario Dual Chamber
Sparrow Terrace**
260169



**Orlando
Swift Box**
261408



**Manuel House Martin
Nest Bowl**
261416

MANTHORPE



**Alonso Swallow
Nest Bowl**
261410



**Bat Ridge Roost:
Teracotta**
265119 Teracotta
265140 Antique Red
265141 Brown
265142 Grey
265139 Black



**Dual
Swift Brick**
265624 Teracotta
265623 Antique Red
265625 Buff
265626 Unfinished



**Swift
Brick**
242167 Teracotta
242168 Slate Grey
242169 Antique Red
242170 Buff
242171 White
242172 Black

To view
our complete
range visit
www.nhbs.com

Our product
specialists will be
pleased to assist
if you have any
questions.