Swift Nest Box Entrance Hole Sizes - Our advice - Your choice

A simple to make entrance is a 65 mm + by 28 mm slot or oval hole

This size of hole should exclude Starlings, and of course predators like Magpies, Sparrowhawks and Jackdaws, but not small birds like House Sparrows or Tits. However, siting the box high, and away from obvious perches, trees and bushes may deter these latter species.

Or use the American design below, devised to keep Starlings out of Purple Martin nest boxes. Purple Martins are bigger than Swifts, so this design should work well.

A Starling-Proof Swift Nest Box Entrance Hole

INSTRUCTIONS

Draw a semi-circle 76mm wide at its base on the material making up the front of the nestbox, or covering the existing entry.

For maximum Starling resistance the red line should be flush with the floor of the box, or no more than 1 cm above it.

Measure down 30mm from the top of the semi-circle and mark a horizontal line across the circle (the red line).

Cut out the material between the red line and the top of the semi-circle. Do not cut below the red line.

Ensure accuracy, as the dimensions are critical to success.

nb: this drawing is not to scale.

For more advice please see our web site www.swift-conservation.org or e-mail us at mail@swift-conservation.org