

小白腰雨燕青睞本土設計巢箱

Homegrown Nest Boxes Wins Swifts' Heart

去年3月，大學在大學圖書館南面簷口安裝了二十五個人工巢箱，協助原棲息於圖書館北面、受擴建工程影響的小白腰雨燕遷新居。這些巢箱共有四款，兩款由英國引入，兩款由本校物業管理處設計。

小白腰雨燕一旦失去鳥巢，會在原巢位置或附近地點築建新巢，而在垂直的建築物外牆上築起穩固的巢基，是最困難的第一步。



圖一：在垂直外牆重建的新巢還未完成
Figure 1: A house swift and its incomplete nest



圖二：在人工巢箱上建的新家已竣工
Figure 2: A completed swift nest built on an artificial nest box

為大學監察這些鳥兒的校外顧問詹肇泰博士，在本年7月6日一次定期監察中發現，兩對小白腰雨燕正在圖書館南面外牆築巢。其中一對嘗試在原巢位置重建新巢，另一對則在一款巢箱上築巢。在8月28日，即差不多兩個月後，在原巢位置重建的新巢未見明顯進度（圖一）；而建於人工巢箱上的鳥巢已經完成（圖二）。

這款由本校設計的巢箱，以芒萁骨和木板製作，屬仿巢基的設計。詹博士說：「這次成功利用人工巢基協助小白腰雨燕築巢，是香港首見的個案。人工巢基能減少雨燕築巢所需時間，此結果對改進未來的保育措施很有幫助。」

The University installed 25 artificial nest boxes at the eaves of the southern façade of the University

Library in March 2009 as a measure to help the house swifts affected by the expansion works on the building's northern façade to relocate their nests. The 25 boxes comprise four models. Two were introduced from the UK, and two designed by the Estates Management Office of CUHK.

When house swifts lose their nests, they build new ones in the location of the original nests or at a nearby site. The most difficult part of nesting on a vertical wall surface is to make a firm base.

On 6 July 2010, Dr. Tsim Siu-tai, our external consultant in the conservation of house swifts, found in a regular monitoring visit that two pairs of house swifts were nesting on the southern façade of the library. One pair built the nest from scratch.

The other used one of the locally-designed nest boxes as the base of their new nest. Almost two months later, on 28 August, the birds that built their nest from scratch made little progress (Figure 1), while the pair that built their nest on the nest box have completed their new home (Figure 2).

That nest box was made with a tree fern slab and a wooden board. It is intended to serve as a base for the birds to build their nests on it.

Dr. Tsim said, 'This is the first case in Hong Kong where house swifts built their nest with the help of an artificial nest box, which can save the birds much time in nesting. This discovery is significant for the formulation of better conservation measures in the future.'