Urban biodiversity: what are we flying in?

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Swifts have been part of urban fauna for centuries, following the changes in cities over time. In recent years, however, changes in the urban ecosystem have accelerated and are still accelerating. Our climate pollution, the increasing number of alien species, new materials and new ways of building cities are forming new ecosystems that are constantly changing. Today, urban ecology is now a specialisation in its own right, with both botany and urban zoology. There are not only new species adapting to cities, but more and more alien species living exclusively or predominantly in cities. Cities that with their rapid changes are in fact a multiple evolutionary experiment. The examples are more and more numerous and sometimes almost surreal: sea gulls chasing rats and pigeons, European peregrine falcons preying on Indian parrots, Asian mantids ambushing Canadian stink-bugs and South American moths exterminating Japanese palm trees. All this, while squirrels change their digestive systems to adapt to pizza, spiders get smaller and smaller, and new urban hornets steal kibble from cats that have become social (and sometimes naked). This colourful hodgepodge, where the natural interpenetrates with the artificial, has direct and indirect repercussions on our swifts. Repercussions and consequences (unfortunately not positive) that we are going to analyse.