

The Beijing Swift - leading the environmental awakening in China
T. Townshend, Beijing-based Wildlife Conservationist and Fellow of the Paulson
Institute

With a cultural connection to China's capital that began in the 1400s when the original city walls were built, and thanks to technology that has opened up a new era of discovery about its migration, the Beijing Swift (*Apus apus pekinensis*) has become a catalyst for the environmental awakening in China. This talk will cover the Beijing Swift Project, an international collaboration led by Chinese scientists and powered by volunteers, using cutting edge technology to track the Beijing Swift's migration from the iconic Summer Palace, and how the results have connected millions of city-dwellers to nature, inspiring schools, businesses and even governments to integrate biodiversity into their activities. The talk will also cover exciting plans to build on this project, involving scientists from China, Europe and southern Africa, supported by embassies from range countries, elevating the story of the Beijing Swift to senior levels of government.