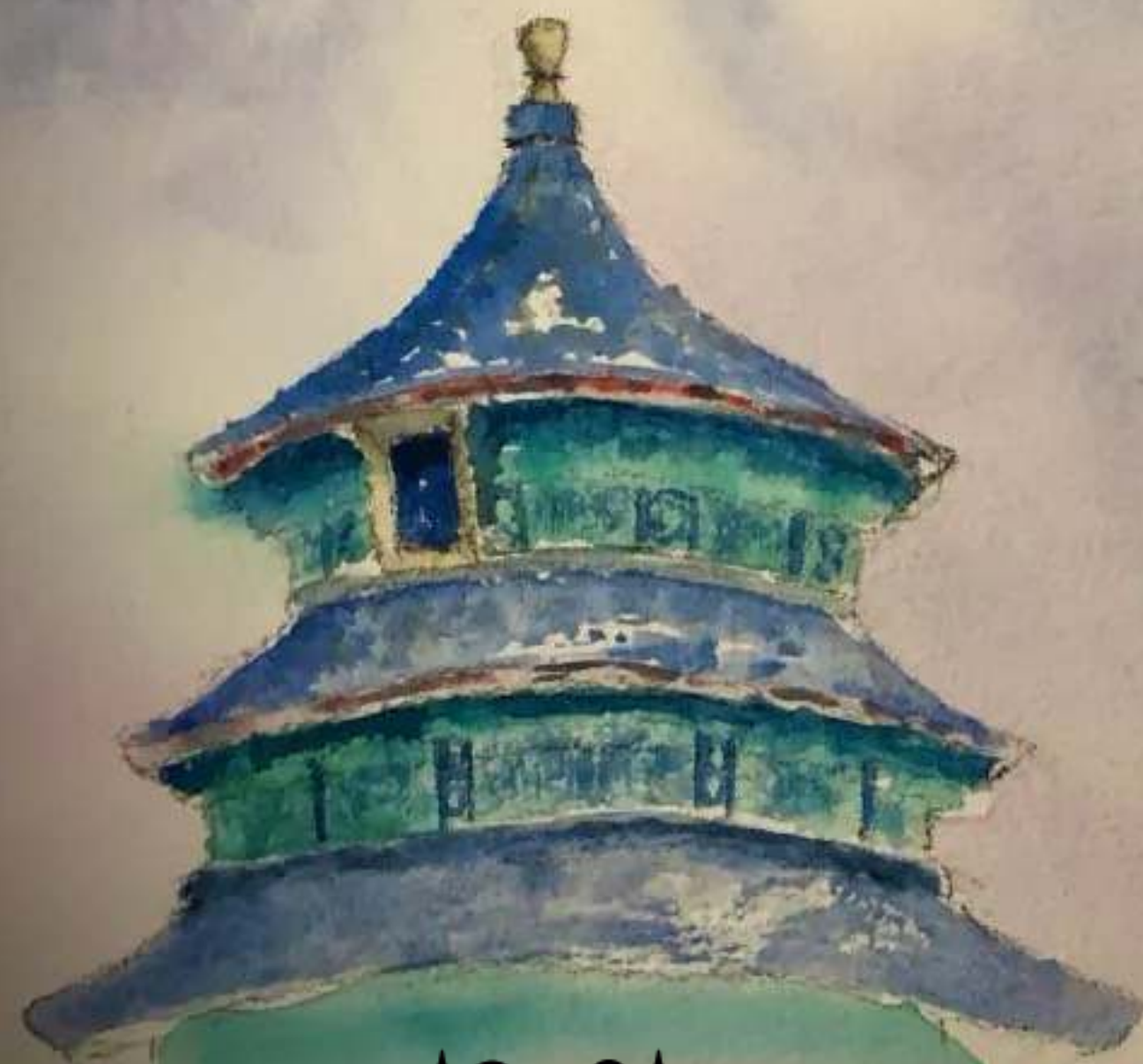


# THE BEIJING SWIFT

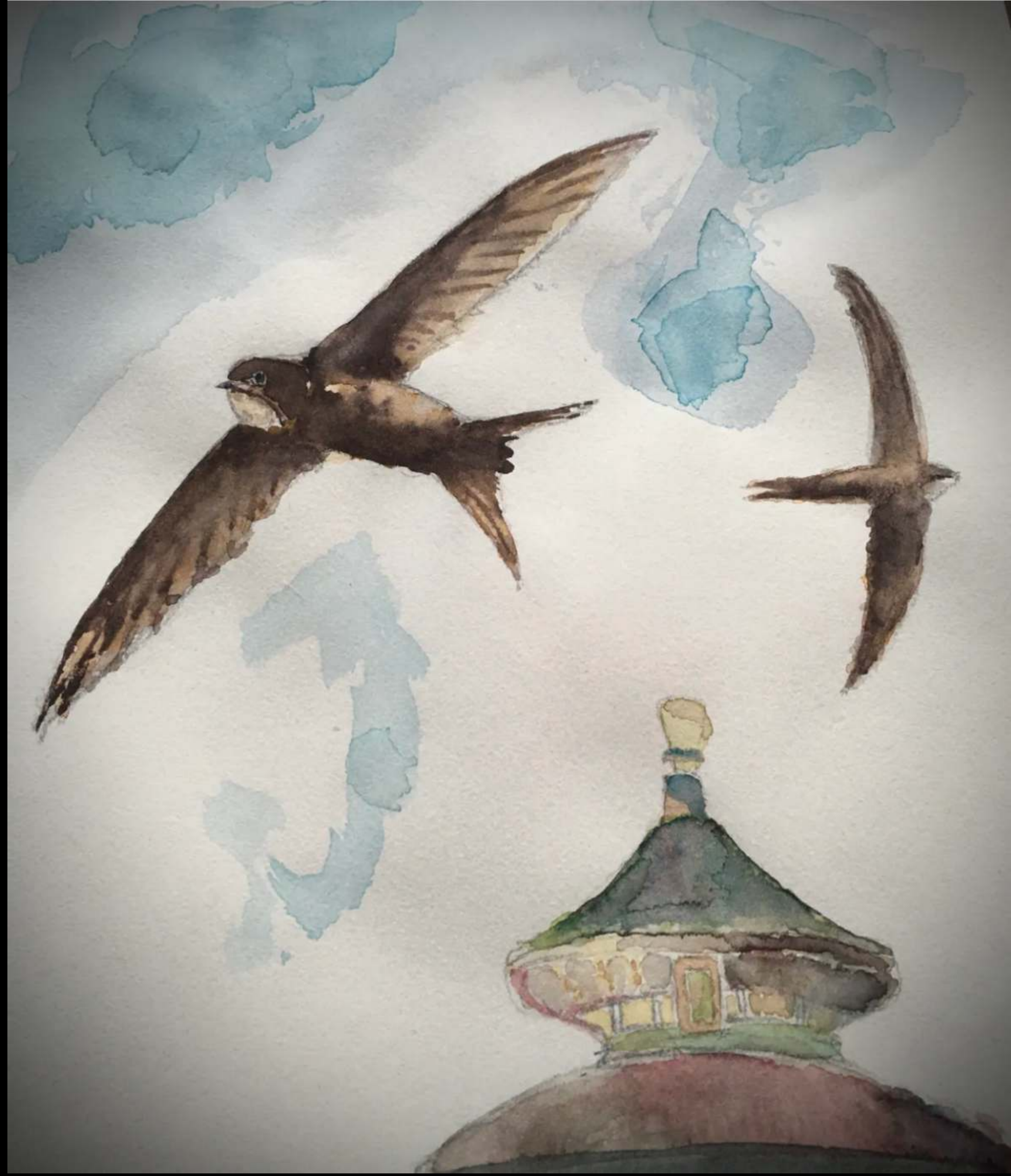
Leading the environmental awakening in China



  
**WILD BEIJING**  
THE WILD SIDE OF CHINA'S CAPITAL CITY

TERRY TOWNSHEND  
7TH INTERNATIONAL SWIFT CONFERENCE  
TRIESTE, ITALY, 29-31 MAY 2024

- Terry 2024 -

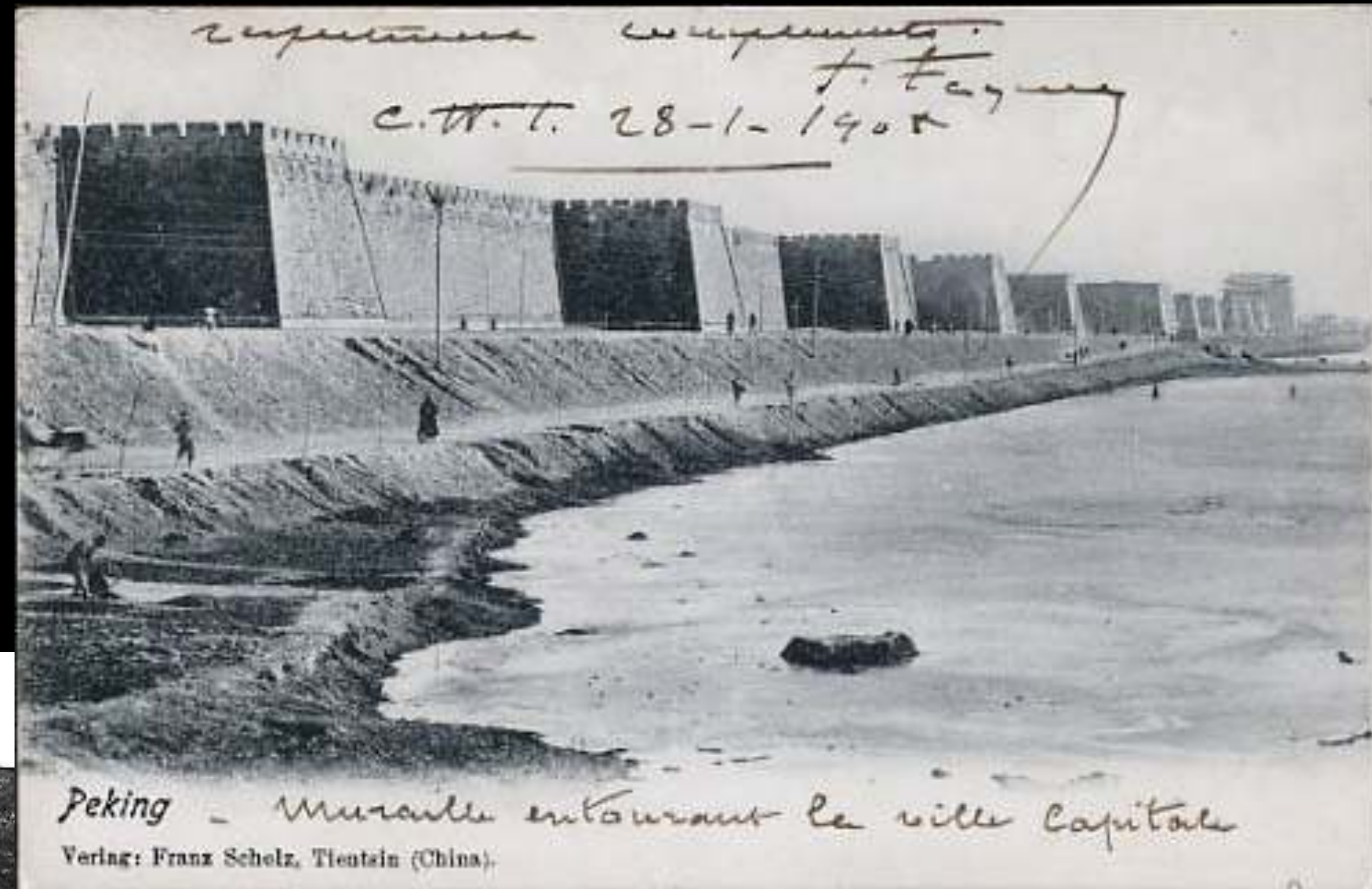
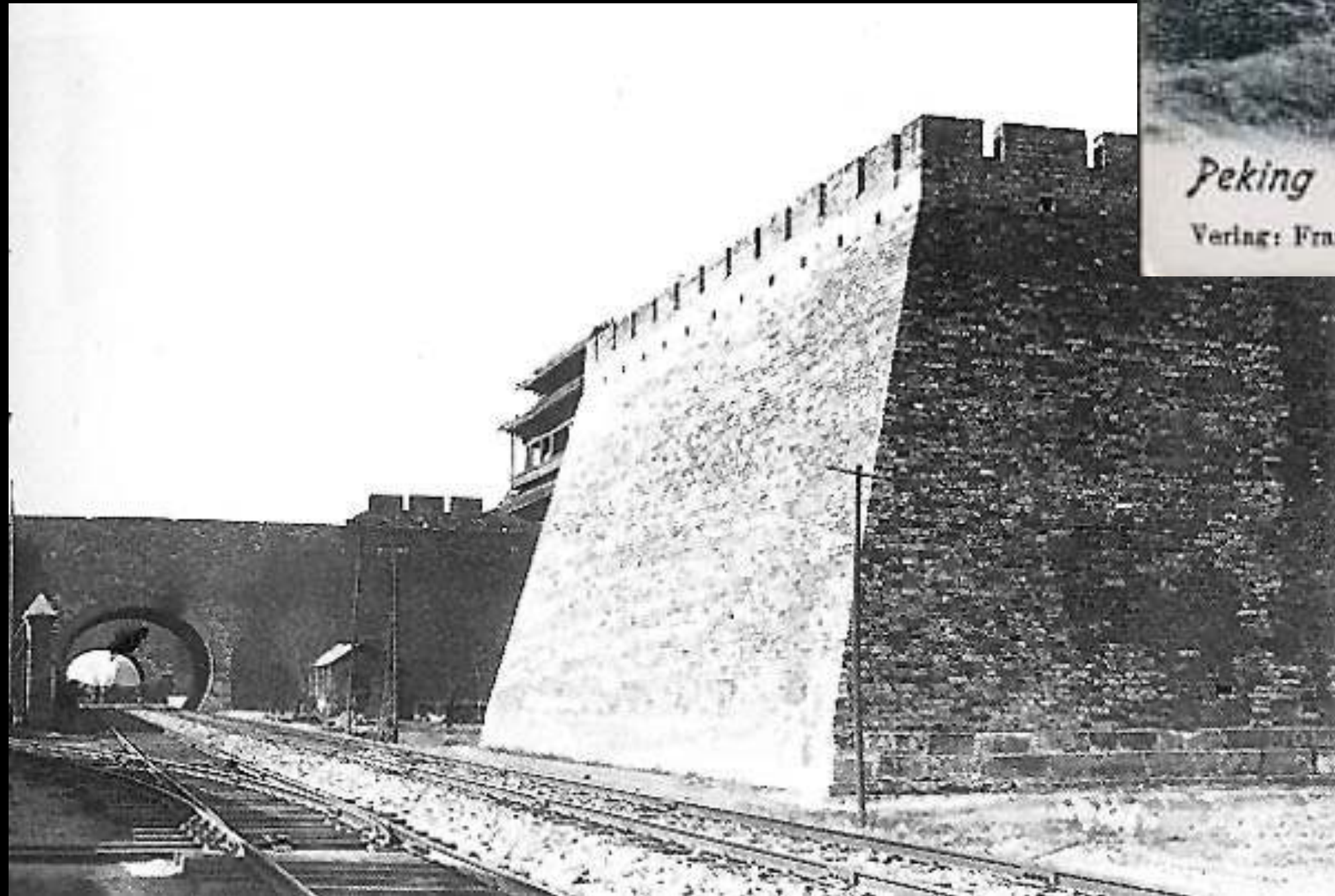


THE BEIJING SWIFT  
(*APUS APUS PEKINENSIS*)

北京雨燕  
BĚIJĪNG YŭYÀN

# HISTORY

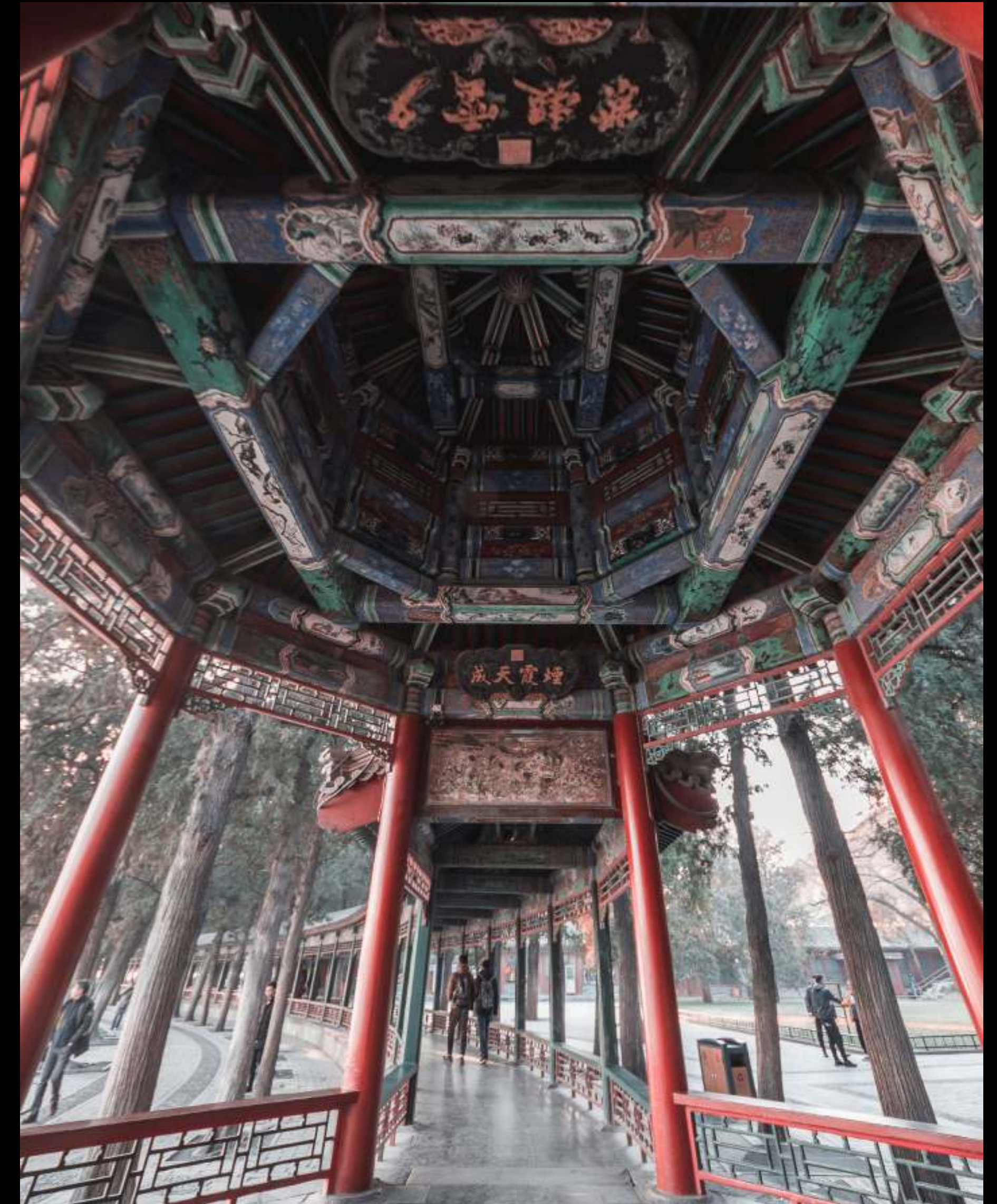
- MOVED IN TO THE CITY IN THE 1400S WHEN THE ORIGINAL CITY WALLS WERE BUILT
- CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH BEIJINGERS
- ROBERT SWINHOE FIRST DESCRIBED THE PEKINENSIS SUBSPECIES IN 1870



SWIFT EMBLEM  
FROM TOMB DATES  
BACK C3,000 YEARS



# BEIJING SWIFT NEST SITES





# TIANANMEN SQUARE





# SUMMER PALACE

# TRACKING THE BEIJING SWIFT



- 31 GEOLOCATORS FITTED TO BEIJING SWIFTS AT THE SUMMER PALACE
- TINY 'BACKPACKS' STORE, BUT NOT TRANSMIT, DATA
- TEAM OF SCIENTISTS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE









Beijing

# Example track of a Beijing Swift



CREDIT: LYNDON KEARSLEY



09/27/2014





### 廓如亭

面积达一百三十余平方米，是中国古建筑中面积最大的亭式建筑。清乾隆时，东堤无围墙，此亭可四面观景，视界开阔，故名廓如。因形制为八角重檐，又俗称“八方亭”。亭内悬挂匾联的内容为乾隆御制诗和古典名著的摘抄。

### Spacious Pavilion (Kuoru Ting)

With an area of over 130 square meters, this is the most spacious pavilion of the Summer Palace. As the Summer Palace was named the Garden of Clear Ripples, there was no fence, so one could see afar from all four sides of the pavilion; thus, "Spacious Pavilion." Octagonal with double eaves, it was also called "Spacious Pavilion." Emperor Qianlong's poems and classical writings were hanging inside the pavilion.



中国生物多样性保护与绿色发展基金会  
China Biodiversity Conservation  
Green Development Foundation



中国观鸟会  
China Bird Watching Society

## China Focus: Beijing swifts' epic, non-stop migration revealed

English.news.cn 2015-05-28 19:06:08



by Xinhua writer Yuan Quan

BEIJING, May 28 (Xinhua) -- All Chinese kids know the rhyme "Little Swifts", about migratory swifts' seasonal arrival in Beijing, but parents have never been able to answer the common question of where the birds have flown from. Until now.



Publications

home > our science > publications > peer-reviewed papers > A 30,000-km journey by *Apus apus pekinensis* tracks arid lands between northern China and south-western Africa

## A 30,000-km journey by *Apus apus pekinensis* tracks arid lands between northern China and south-western Africa



Staff Author(s)



**Chris Hewson**  
Senior Research Ecologist

PUBLICATION TOPICS

International Migration Technology Tracking

## Swifts migrate from Beijing to southern Africa without landing

New research uncovers mystery of migration route of bird that spends up to three years in the air after leaving its nest



A woman holds out her hand for a Beijing swift. Photograph: Springlighting

守护自然生态

## 北京雨燕为何濒临消失

张永



京城雨燕的消失了

张永



迁徙中的燕子

张永

## 一座城与一群燕子的“血脉相融”

张永

### 专家解密北京雨燕惊人的飞行能力

从非洲到台湾，一年往返三万八千公里

【北京28日电】北京雨燕的迁徙之谜，终于在近日被揭开。一项最新研究揭示，这种候鸟每年往返于北京和非洲之间，行程长达三万八千公里。研究还发现，雨燕在飞行过程中不会落地，且能长时间在空中停留。这一发现对于保护雨燕种群具有重要意义。

北京雨燕是一种典型的候鸟，每年春季从非洲迁徙到北京，秋季再从北京迁徙回非洲。它们的飞行路线非常精确，且能跨越数千公里的海洋。研究团队通过追踪雨燕的迁徙路线，发现它们主要沿着非洲西海岸飞行，途经大西洋，最终到达北京。

雨燕的飞行能力令人惊叹。它们可以在空中停留长达数月之久，且能长时间保持高速飞行。此外，雨燕还具有极强的导航能力，即使在恶劣天气条件下也能准确找到迁徙路线。这些特性使得雨燕成为候鸟中的“飞行冠军”。

然而，随着城市化的快速发展和生态环境的破坏，北京雨燕的种群数量正在急剧下降。许多传统的雨燕栖息地已经消失，这对它们的生存构成了严重威胁。专家呼吁，政府和社会各界应共同努力，采取有效措施保护雨燕的栖息地，确保这一珍稀物种的繁衍和生存。

首页 党政 要闻 观点 互动 可视化 地方 专题 多语言 合作网站

人民网 >> 生态

## 每年飞到非洲南部越冬，迁徙距离在同等体型鸟类中最长，一生旅程相当于从地球到月球 揭开北京雨燕迁徙之谜（绿色焦点·让候鸟自由飞翔）

本报记者 赵具佳

2015年10月10日07:24 | 来源：人民网·人民日报

Tr 小字版



佩戴了光敏追踪器的雨燕飞向蓝天。张永摄

## China Focus: Beijing swift, cuckoo could be "ambassadors" for BRI ecological cooperation: expert

Source: Xinhua | 2019-04-14 16:54:24 | Editor: Yamei



BEIJING, April 11 (Xinhua) -- The Beijing swift and Beijing cuckoo should be "ambassadors" of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to represent the importance of the ecological and environmental cooperation on regional and global scales, proposed Terry Townshend, a British environmental law expert and conservationist.

These birds, well-known and considered "ordinary" in China, migrate along the Belt and Road from East Asia to spend winters in southern Africa and fly back to Beijing in spring year after year.

"The BRI could be a wonderful opportunity to consider the migratory routes of birds and to encourage protection of these routes and key habitats," said Townshend, who founded Birding Beijing, a web portal for birdwatchers and anti-poaching volunteers in China and overseas.





# SWIFT BOXES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF BEIJING





# CHINA SOHO







北京雨燕  
保护计划

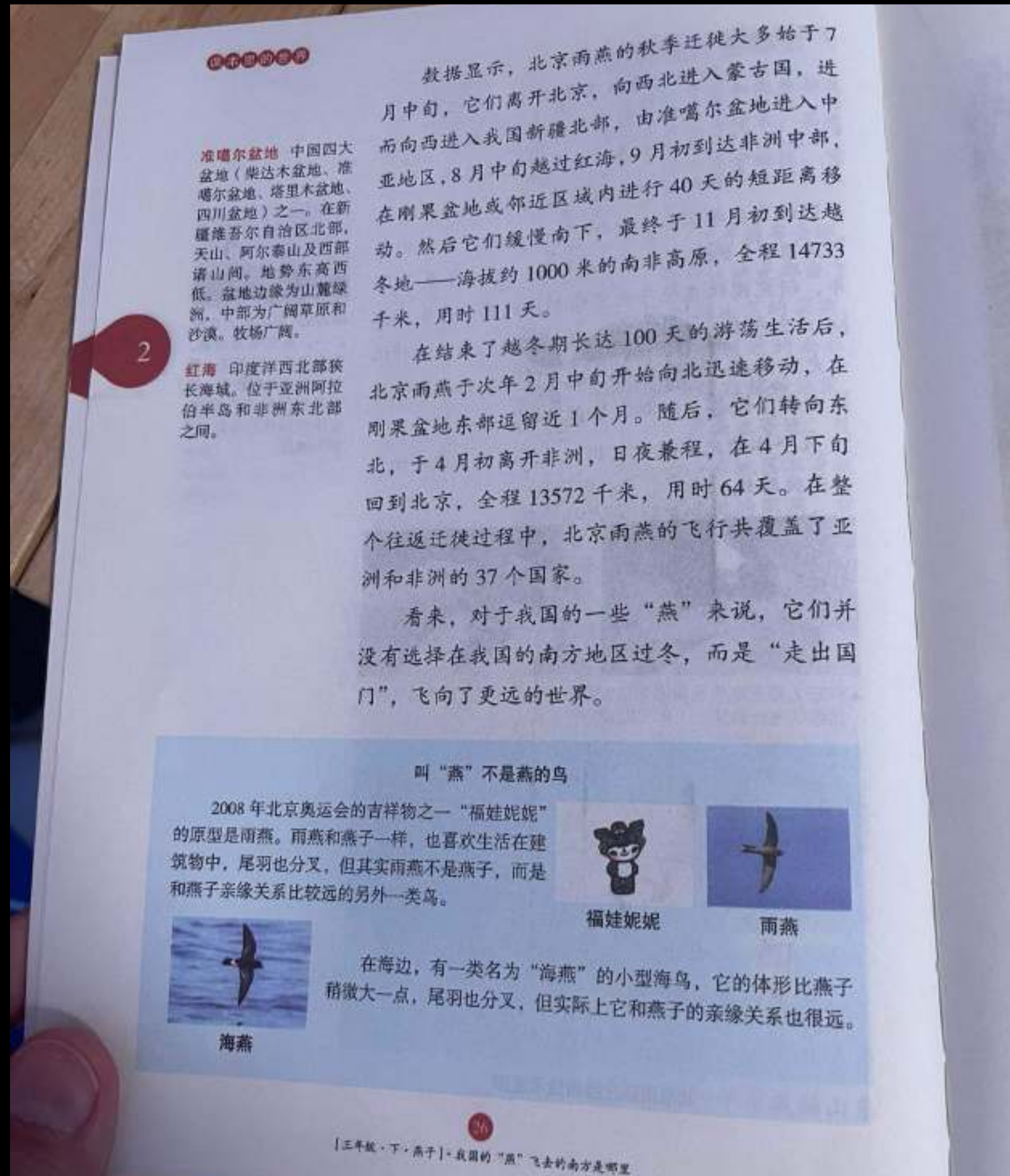
BEIJING SWALLOW  
PROTECTION PLAN

给TA一个家





# CHINESE SCHOOL TEXTBOOK





# BTV



ZU CHONG, BTV PRESENTER



# THE AMBASSADORS FOR NATURE INITIATIVE

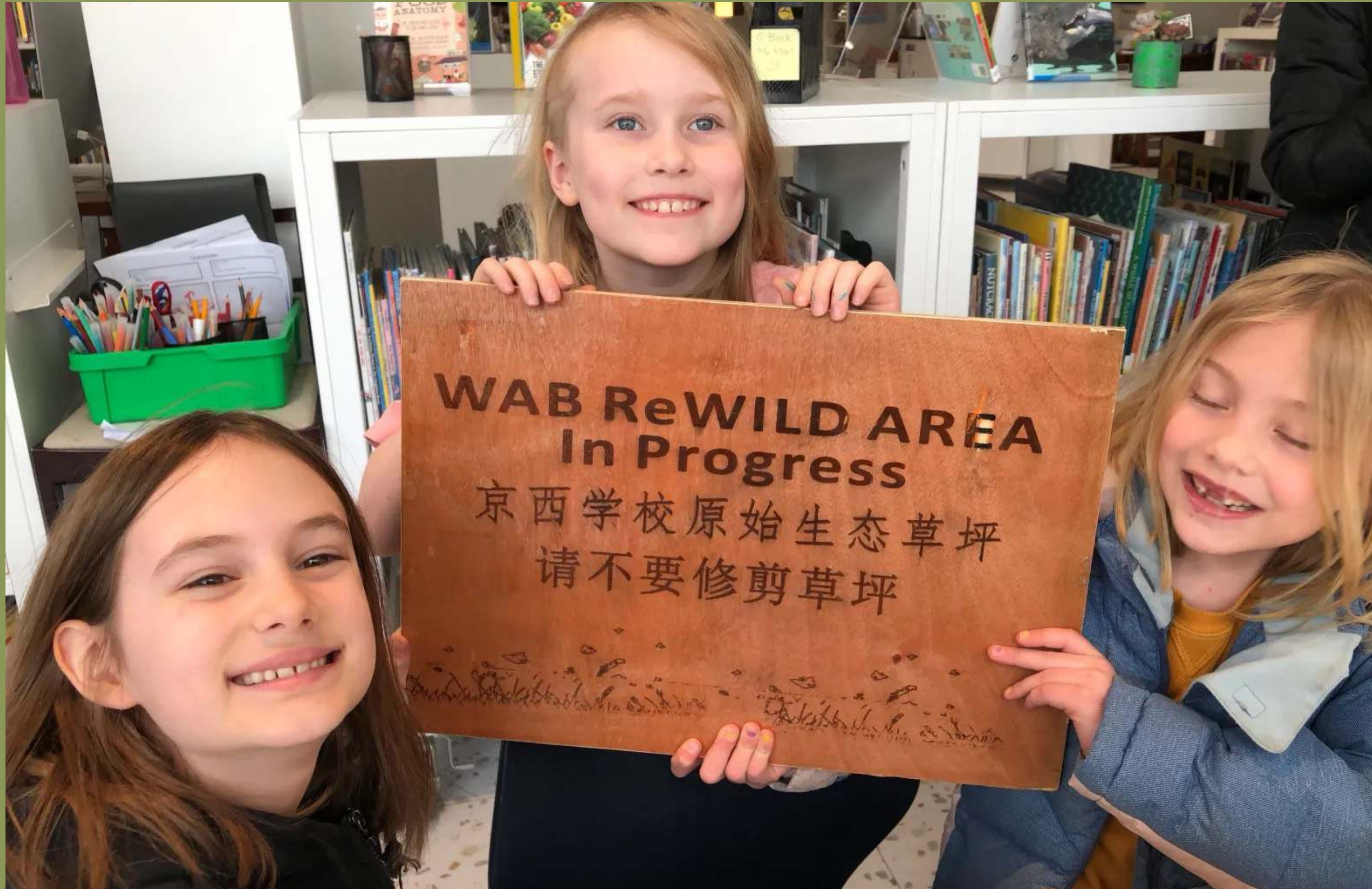


MEMBERS: NEW ZEALAND, BELGIUM, CAMBODIA, CANADA, CROATIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, INDONESIA, IRELAND, ISRAEL, JAPAN, LATVIA, NORWAY, PERU, ROMANIA, SINGAPORE, SLOVENIA, SWITZERLAND, UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY AND THE UNITED NATIONS.

## Our Pledge for Nature

Embassies and their grounds can be important refuges for urban wildlife. In recognition of the global biodiversity crisis, the Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15 in 2022, and the importance of contributions from all sectors of society we, as ambassadors in Beijing, intend to support nature. Our Embassies will make choices that advance biodiversity. For example, we will seek to:

- Undertake an audit of the wildlife in the grounds of the embassy and other diplomatic premises at least once in each season of the year
- Keep records of wildlife sightings
- When planting, choose native species of tree, shrubs and other plants. We will also assess the plant species already on the embassy grounds and, where practical, over time remove non-native species
- Take at least two of the following measures to support wildlife:
  - Reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate the use of pesticides.
  - Allocate an area (for example, 10% of the overall area) that can be kept 'wild' with minimal management and erect signage explaining this to residents and visitors;
  - Make and erect nest boxes for birds and/or insect hotels;
  - Help to reduce the risk of bird collisions with glass by using bird-safe glass, ultraviolet patterns or other mitigation measures.
  - Promote awareness among diplomatic staff about biodiversity, including information about urban wildlife that can be found in Beijing, and the actions the embassy is taking to support nature.
- Nominate a point of contact responsible for this initiative who can report to the network on the actions of the embassy, arrange the audits and report records of wildlife.



**WAB ReWILD AREA  
In Progress**

京西学校原始生态草坪  
请不要修剪草坪



STUDENT: ASK YOUR HEADTEACHER TO HELP MANAGE THE CAMPUS IN A WAY THAT IS MORE FRIENDLY FOR NATURE.



COMMUNITY WITH A GREEN SPACE: SPEAK TO MANAGEMENT ABOUT SUPPORTING NATURE



EMPLOYEE: ASK YOUR CEO WHAT THE COMPANY IS DOING TO UNDERSTAND AND MINIMISE ITS IMPACT ON NATURE.

# CHINA'S ENVIRONMENTAL AWAKENING SINCE 2014

- CREATION OF A NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM
- STRENGTHENING OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS, PLUS NEW DEDICATED WETLAND PROTECTION LAW
- BAN ON COASTAL WETLAND RECLAMATION IN THE YELLOW SEA AND INSCRIPTION OF MOST IMPORTANT REMAINING SITES AS WORLD HERITAGE SITES
- ECOLOGICAL RED LINE POLICY
- PRESIDENCY OF UN CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND OVERSEEING NEW KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK
- MORE THAN 100 BIRDPWATCHING SOCIETIES IN 2022 (UP FROM 3 IN 2000)
- TRIALLING GROSS ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT (GEP) AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL



阿呆和欢喜的巢里却是空荡荡的没有动静





THANK YOU!  
GRAZIE!