

Wieża lęgowa dla jerzyków w Zielonej Górze

Breeding tower for common swifts in Zielona Góra

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As a result of thermal modernization of buildings in cities and the resulting removal of holes and crevices, Swift populations are declining. A number of measures have been implemented to reconstruct the breeding sites, e.g. by installing nest boxes. However, nest boxes installed on the walls of buildings are sometimes opposed by local residents. Therefore, a Swift tower outside buildings is suggested in the present article to avoid conflicts. We present a construction plan for a tower that meets the recommendations of Commonswift Worldwide and Friends of the Swifts (www.commonswift.org/swifttowers). Two such towers have already been built and installed in Zielona Góra as part of the implementation of projects submitted to the Citizen Budget. Because Swifts are generally reluctant to colonise new breeding sites, it may take up to five years until the new towers are actually used for breeding. Local residents usually expect a shorter period of time, because they often observe House sparrows and Tits, among other species, colonising the new towers quickly.