

Swiftlet Ranching: Elements to Consider

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ABSTRACT

Bird's house is built with similar environment to swiftlets dwelling caves that will attract the birds to live and breed in it. The bird's house design with consideration of several aspects: the physical and behavioral needs of breeder or non-breeder animals, the humane treatment, the human safety and ease of animal management. Constructed bird's house will need to provide a calm environment for the bird's to feel secured, far from human and animal disturbance. This will attract the swiftlets to return and stay to breed in it. Some basic requirements to provide ideal house for the swiftlets a quiet building with suitable temperature and humidity. The birds are attracted to cold and dark surrounding, thus ventilator should be installed to ensure proper ventilation in the bird's house. The bird's house must be strong to stop the intrusions of animals and people, besides the good isolation against the outside heat. In order to ensure the bird's house is situated in a strategic area where the harvest will be maximized, a survey will be carried out at the proposed site (by the bird's house owner). This survey includes; flying path observation and identification, roving area observation, feeding ground observation, water source observation

and nearest bird's house ranching. Following the survey and evaluation, a site and bird's house design will be proposed to suite the location and optimize the swiftlets ranching. The bird's house construction will include: dimension of the building to be constructed, direction and location of the building in the suggested area, bird's entrance consideration and design, security and safety, pest control hardware for the exterior. The interior fixture will be determined as well for; wood combination, ventilation, mist generator, pound or fountain and lighting. Upon construction and hardware in place, the bird attracting devices; bird luring speakers and sound system, bird incubation and maintaining sound system, and hormone or perfume to attract birds will be installed.