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Cover: A common swift approaching a water surface to drink on the wing. Ruaux et al. (jeb244961) analysed how these birds regulate their flight speed during this special behaviour. When gliding down to a water body, swifts accelerate, transforming potential energy into kinetic energy. However, before touching the water, swifts actively dissipate mechanical energy and reduce their flight speed, probably to have a finer control on their trajectory and decrease the risk of falling into the water. This suggests that common swifts, known as extremely efficient flyers, can also prioritize safety over energy savings, when flying close the Earth's surface. Photo credit: Emmanuel de Margerie.

INSIDE JEB

Tenrecs deal with poor air quality like reptiles Knight, K. jeb245758

Flatweed catapults pollen to ensure it gets a lift Knight, K. jeb245794

Pectoral fin swimmers turn to save energy in coral reef waves Knight, K. jeb245650

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jeb243875 Drink safely: common swifts (Apus apus) dissipate mechanical

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