

Sparrow builds a nest and lays eggs in a car engine

麻雀築巢 轎車引擎室下蛋

When Chen Chien-sheng, owner of the Shun Fa automobile repair workshop in Putzu City of Chiayi County lifted up the engine hood of his client Wu Yi-sheng's Mazda to carry out **maintenance**, Chen was surprised to see a sparrow's nest with nine eggs hidden inside the car's air filter.

Chen said that he has seen many strange things in his more than 20 years in car maintenance including a woman's singlet in an air conditioning vent as well as rat nests and cockroach nests. However, this was the first time he had come across a bird's nest. Judging from the amount of grass and **branches** in the nest, it had probably been in the car for longer than three months.

The car's owner, Wu, was not surprised when he found out because a sparrow's nest had been found in the car six months earlier when his car was undergoing maintenance at another garage.

Chen said that the sparrow flew into the air filter through the car's L-shaped grills. Because Wu parked his car in the same place all the time and did not drive his car that much, it was easier for the sparrow to fly through the car's air grills into the air filter plate and set up a nest with grass and twigs. However, when the **vigilant** sparrow got a sense that the car was about to start up, it flew away, escaping the high heat of the engine but leaving all the eggs behind to be scrambled.

Chen said the sparrow's nest in the car's engine would not affect driving safety, but that because fuel injection engines use wind to control the amount of petrol used, once the air filter plate was filled by the sparrow's nest, petrol consumption increased by about 20 percent.

While Wu did not mind sharing his car with the sparrow, when he heard that the sparrow would cause him to **consume** more petrol, he decided to get Chen to **install** a block in the air grills and say goodbye to the sparrow.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY DREW CAMERON)



In these undated photos a mechanic points to the sparrow nest inside the engine, above, and car owner Wu Yi-sheng holds the nest, bottom left.

PHOTOS: TSAI TSUNG-HSUN, LIBERTY TIMES

在這些未註明日期的照片中，一名修車師傅指著汽車引擎室內的麻雀窩（上圖），車主吳益盛則手捧著麻雀窩（左下圖）。

照片：自由時報記者蔡宗勳攝

嘉義縣朴子市順發汽車修護廠老闆陳健生，日前幫客戶吳益盛維修馬自達自小客車，掀開引擎蓋時嚇一跳，因為在長二十四、寬十四、高八公分的空氣濾清器內，竟然有個麻雀鳥巢，裡面還有九顆鳥蛋。

陳健生表示，從事汽車修護二十多年，看到許多稀奇古怪的事，包括在冷氣孔找到一件「小可愛」，從上面的齒痕狀，研判是老鼠的傑作；另外也曾發現老鼠窩、蟑螂窩，鳥巢則是第一次看到，而且從巢內的草、枝量推算，築巢應該超過三個月。

車主吳益盛對此並不意外，因為這部車半年前在別家廠保養時，也清出一個麻雀鳥巢。

陳健生指出，麻雀是從長約四十五公分的L型進氣管飛進空氣濾清器座，由於吳益盛停車位固定，且不常用車，讓麻雀可以好整以暇的草築巢，不過機警的麻雀一感覺車子發動就飛離，才沒有被引擎室高溫烤熟，但鳥蛋就遭殃，每顆都被烤成「空包蛋」。

陳健生說，鳥在引擎室築巢，不至於影響行車安全，卻比較耗油，因噴射引擎靠吸多少風來控制油量，空氣濾清器座被鳥巢盤據後，油耗就多兩成左右。

吳益盛雖然不在意跟麻雀分享愛車，但聽到耗油後，決定請陳健生在進風口裝上阻隔器，跟麻雀說再見。

(自由時報記者蔡宗勳)



TODAY'S WORDS

今日單字

1. **maintenance** /'mentənəns/ n.

維修 (wei2 xiu1)

例: The plane is currently undergoing its monthly maintenance.
(這架飛機目前正在進行每月例行維修。)

2. **branch** /bræntʃ/ n.

樹枝 (shu4 zhi1)

例: Walter broke his leg when a branch snapped, causing him to fall out of the tree.
(樹枝應聲折斷，華特從樹上跌下來摔斷了腿。)

3. **vigilant** /'viʤələnt/ adj.

警戒的 (jing3 jie4 de5)

例: Passengers were reminded to stay vigilant following a series of bomb scares.
(在一連串炸彈恐嚇事件後，乘客都被提醒要保持警戒。)

4. **consume** /kən'sjum/ v.

消耗 (xiao1 hao4)

例: A good way to save money is to buy a car that consumes gas more efficiently.
(買一輛省油車是省錢的好方法。)

5. **install** /in'stɒl/ v.

安裝 (an1 zhuang1)

例: Harvey decided to install a new air conditioner in his kitchen.
(哈維決定在廚房裝一台新冷氣。)