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On the Temperature of the Bank Swallow

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ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE BANK SWALLOW

DAYTON STONER

In addition to the banding and life history investigations of the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) carried on at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory in northwestern Iowa, certain preliminary studies on the temperature of this bird have been made. About 1500 inter-thoracic temperature readings on living young and adult birds have been taken and the data thus far secured seem to warrant the following conclusions:

1. Variation in the temperature of individual adult birds is very marked, extending over more than 13° Fahr. Maximum, 112.4° Fahr.; minimum, 98.8° Fahr.
2. Variation in the temperature of individual immature birds is still more marked, the range exceeding 18° Fahr.
3. Readings on adult birds indicate a considerable diurnal fluctuation in temperature, the maximum being attained in early afternoon, while the minimum is exhibited in early forenoon.
4. Sudden and well-marked fluctuations of temperature are often apparent in adult birds, sometimes as much as three degrees in as many minutes. Usually the temperature of the bird drops after the first reading and continues to drop more or less gradually with each successive reading until the minimum is attained although this minimum varies with the individual.
5. A greater range of temperature variation is exhibited by the immature than by adult birds.
6. Temperature of young birds increases fairly regularly with age; at the time of leaving the nest the average temperature is slightly below that of the average for adults. The average rate of increase is about .5° Fahr. per day until flight ability is attained.

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