

How animals beat summer's heat

By Timothy Nowicki
special writer

During the last couple of weeks, temperatures have been unseasonably warm. Consequently, most of us have been using every method we can to keep cool, whether it be fan, lightweight clothes, air conditioning, inactivity or changing our period of activity.

Animals, however, do not have all these methods available to them — I have yet to see a purple martin house with air conditioning — but they do have ways of reducing their body temperatures when the weather gets very hot.

MOST MAMMALS are active at night when temperatures are cooler. Their fur coats are not as thick as in winter. Some may dig burrows into the cool ground.

Birds, on the other hand, are most active during the day when temperatures are highest. Recently an American goldfinch, which some people call "wild canary" — was dining at the feeder in my back yard.

It was 90 degrees outside, according to the radio report, but he was even warmer because he was in the direct

rays of the afternoon sun.

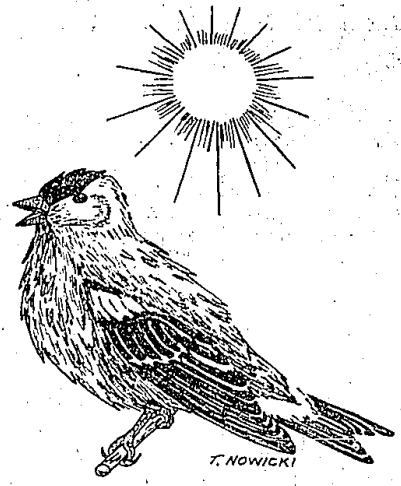
So in order to cool himself, he began to pant like a dog. Other than man, most mammals and all birds lack sweat glands; thus, they cannot take advantage of evaporative cooling of their bodies like we do.

Panting, though, provides evaporative cooling through water lost from the moist lungs and throat. Our little goldfinch sat on the perch with his bill open, panting very rapidly. Some birds have been timed at 690 breaths per minute.

IN ADDITION to panting, the goldfinch ruffled his feathers, trying to release as much heat as he could from between his very efficient insulating feathers.

Birds have fewer feathers now than in winter. That, in combination with panting and staying in the shade as much as possible, helps them keep comfortably cool.

You, too, can help by keeping a shallow bird bath supplied with fresh water. Bathing birds can wet their feathers and skin to take advantage of evaporative cooling. Just like people do when they climb out of the pool on a hot summer day.



The goldfinch pants rapidly and ruffles his feathers to release insulating heat.

Summer camp stresses art

Oakland Schools and Oakland University will offer the second annual Summer Arts for Youth Camp July 9-20 for area children ages 6-15.

The camp features integrated, beginning-level instruction in art, dance and movement, mime, music and theater. The faculty members are from OU and the Paint Creek Center for the Arts in Rochester.

As a highlight, children and their parents will be guests of the OU Center for the Arts at a July 15 performance

of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Meadow Brook Festival.

Deadline is June 25 for the \$165 camp. For information contact camp director Carl F. Barnes Jr., Summer Arts for Youth Camp, Oakland University Center for the Arts, Rochester, MI 48063.

Some partial scholarships are available through gifts of individuals and organizations, especially Michigan Brake Manufacturing, a division of GRUPO TEBO of Mexico.



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Workshops at Madonna

Several special events are workshops are coming up this summer at Madonna College in Livonia.

High school seniors, as well as men and women of all ages, are invited to an open house at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 24, in the Activities Center. Academic programs leading to both associate and bachelor's degrees will be highlighted.

Special workshops include:

- Chemical Dependency and Youth: a one week workshop beginning June 25, may be applied toward required coursework for a certified substance abuse counselor.
- Alcohol and drug use are topics of a summer institute on Chemical Dependency Studies. The June 25-29 institute will address issues related to the development and structure of a school-based program for early recognition and intervention for youth with problems related to drug use.
- Registration fees for all workshops are \$25.00. A \$10.00 non-refundable fee for course materials and books.
- Computer Technology for Teachers will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 25-29. Educators will learn about computers and receive an overview of microcomputers and their uses in the classroom.
- The Security Manager's Workshop is aimed at business managers, managers, line security personnel and others who manage security programs. The 30-day-long workshop is from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Science Lecture Hall.

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