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## Another Record of Runt Eggs for the Tree Swallow

Karl E. Bartel

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Other parameters such as the length of exposed culmen, wing chord, tail or weight of adults of known sex are not sufficiently different to be useful for determining sex. The following measurements in millimeters and weight in grams provide mean, standard deviation, range and number (N) in sample. Exposed culmen: Males, mean  $28.97 \pm 1.81$ , range 27-31, N = 71; females, mean  $27.68 \pm 1.28$ , range 25-30, N = 34; juveniles and adults of both sexes, mean  $27.23 \pm 2.35$ , range 22-33, N = 537. Culmen growth is completed several weeks after fledging. Wing chord: Males, mean  $108.19 \pm 3.49$ , range 101 - 113, N = 74; Females, mean  $105.47 \pm 3.63$ , range 102-111, N = 38. Tail: Males, mean  $120.41 \pm 5.27$ , range 115-130, N = 71; females, mean  $116.14 \pm 4.19$ , range 111-120, N = 37. Weight: Males, mean  $80.89 \pm 4.95$ , range 66.8 - 93.6, N = 70; females, mean  $75.83 \pm 4.38$ , range 67.7-84.0, N = 38.

We wish to thank Mark Kot for his assistance with statistical matters.

### Literature Cited

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Smithe, F.B. 1975. Naturalist color guide. Vol. I, II and III, Amer. Mus. of Nat. Hist., New York.  
Walters, P.M. et. al. 1984. Twelve Years of Banding at Tanque Verde Ranch, Tucson, Arizona. N. Amer. Bird Bander Vol. 9, N. 4:2-10.

(Western)

## Another Record of Runt Eggs for the Tree Swallow

**Karl E. Bartel**

2528 W. Collins St.  
Blue Island, IL 60406

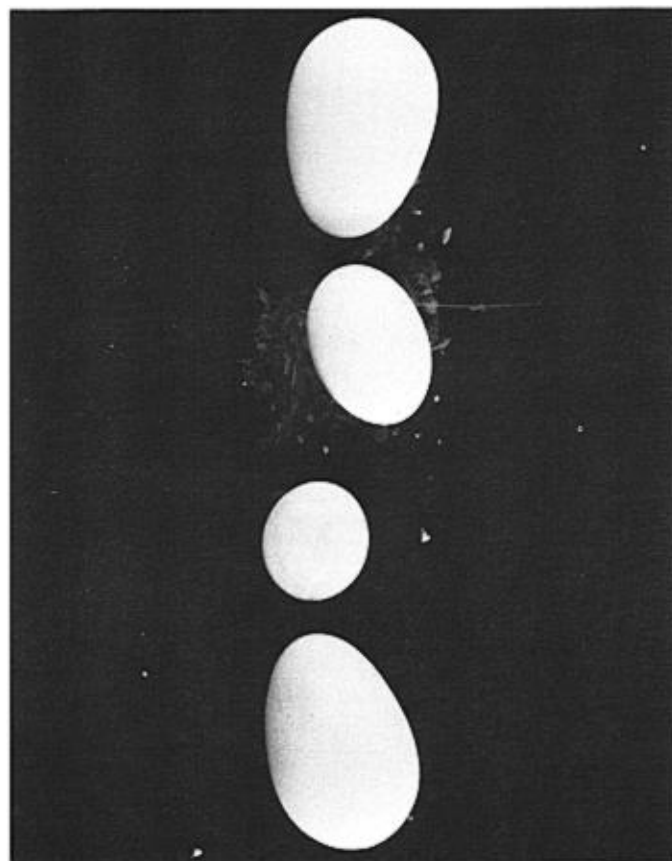
**M**y Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) project started in 1969, near Tampier Slough, located 22 mi (36 km) SW of Chicago, Illinois, and west of the town of Palos Park, Ill. The project area includes two shallow ponds, ½ mi (1 km) north of Tampier Slough. The north pond is approximately 900 feet × 150 feet and the south pond 400 feet × 125 feet.

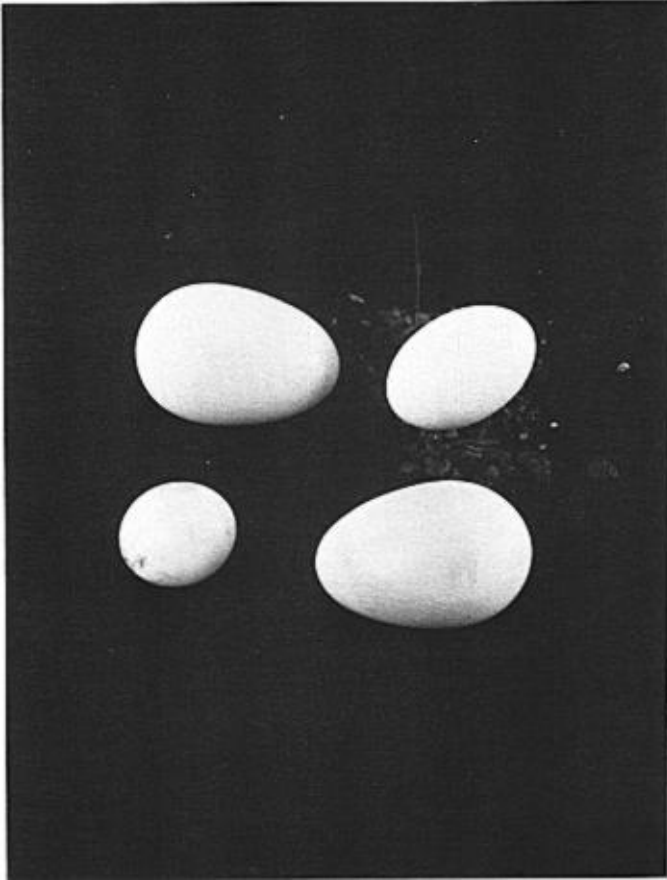
The bird houses were located on land that surrounds the water and attached to a four foot conduct. The conduct is covered with axle grease to repel raccoons. There are 25 houses in this area.

On 22, June 1985, I trapped a female Tree Swallow, band #2000-29498 on the south side of the north pond, that I had previously trapped 15, May 1985, in the same house. The young of her first nesting fledged on 19, June 1985.

On 8, July I again checked this box capturing the female and found that there were two eggs. Upon removing the box on 15, July, I found the 2 eggs cold and the nest presumably deserted.

The two eggs were of different size. The smallest was 12 mm × 10 mm, the other 16 mm × 11 mm. Just for comparison the egg size in another deserted nest of Tree Swallow, the four eggs measured 20 mm × 14 mm; 20 mm × 13.5 mm; 20 mm × 13 mm; and 19 mm × 13 mm. See fig 1.





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- D. If too few qualified proposals are received in a year the stipends will be returned to enlarge the Endowment Fund.
- E. Awards will be presented at Inland's annual banquet.
- F. Proposals are to be mailed to: Terrence N. Ingram, Chairman, Endowment Fund, Inland Bird Banding Association, Box 155, Apple River, IL 61001.

Peter Dring, of Willow Springs, Illinois, recorded a Tree Swallow on 6, June 1968, that had a clutch of 11 eggs. Six eggs were normal size while 5 were abnormal, (Dring 1980).

Incidentally Dring's nest site is 3¾ miles (6 km) NE of my nest site.

This was my first and only record of runt eggs from my Tree Swallow population in approximately 750 nestings.

**History of Tree Swallow #2000-28498**

- 5-17-1984 Female trapped in house #10, Palos Park, Ill., bird banded #2000-28498
- 6-14-1984 Female laid 6 eggs, 6 young fledged, 6 banded.
- 5-15-1985 Female #2000-28498 returned to house #6, 500 feet west of house #10, here she laid 5 eggs.
- 6-04-1985 Four young fledged and were banded.
- 6-19-1985 Young birds left nest.
- 6-22-1985 Female retrapped in box #6 again.
- 7-08-1985 Two runt eggs in nest box, female trapped.
- 7-15-1985 Two runt eggs cold, nest deserted.

This female was at least three years old when runt eggs were laid.

**Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank Peter Dring, in reviewing the manuscript and for photographing the undersized eggs.

**Literature cited**

- Dring, P. 1980. A record of runt eggs in the Tree Swallow. *Inland Bird Banding*, Vol. 52:37.

(Inland)

