

reptiles; but here also the void between the two groups is deep and wide. Both are oviparous, but the reptiles are cold-blooded, while birds possess the highest temperature of any class of animals. The vigour of the muscular force depends upon the activity of the respiratory function, which is also equivalent to a high temperature, and hence great powers of flight are observed in warm-blooded animals. This circumstance places a barrier between the birds and the reptiles which cannot be passed, and involves along with it a vast number of subordinate conditions. The reptile only displays activity when stimulated by heat, or urged by fear or hunger, and sinks into torpor on the smallest change of temperature or deprivation of moisture; while the bird, from his power of generating heat and active respiration, can support any change of temperature, and his muscles seem incapable of fatigue. The swallow, in its migrations, crosses the whole breadth of the Bay of Biscay without giving a moment's rest to its wings, and the condor can remain for hours on the wing, far above the summits of the Andes, where the temperature must be as low as at Spitzbergen, and the atmosphere so rare as to demand a muscular power on the part of the bird which is scarcely credible.