



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Author: STABLER, ROBERT M.

Source: Journal of Wildlife Diseases, 11(2) : 298

Published By: Wildlife Disease Association

URL: <https://doi.org/10.7589/0090-3558-11.2.298.a>

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at www.bioone.org/terms-of-use.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

In a recent issue of the J. Wildl. Dis., 10 (4), 1974, the article by Kocan and Banko (pp. 359-360) states in the opening paragraph: "However, the disease (trichomoniasis) caused by this organism has been found to occur naturally in only three species of columbids: feral pigeon (*Columba livia*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) and the inca dove (*Scardafella inca*)".

Stabler and Herman (1951, 16th N. Am. Wildl. Conf., pp. 146-163) state (p. 150), "Losses (from trichomoniasis) have been reported among band-tailed pigeons (*Columba f. fasciata*) in California during certain years, particularly in Monterey and Inyo Counties. In 1945 the junior author had an opportunity to examine several of these birds which had the typical characteristic throat lesions of trichomoniasis. The birds had been dead several days, unfortunately, and *T. gallinae* could not be demonstrated".

Now let us look at reference #7 of the paper by Kocan and Banko. It reads: "Mesa, C. P., R. M. Stabler and M. Berthrong. 1961. Histopathologic changes in the domestic pigeon infected with *Trichomonas gallinae* (Jones Barn). Avian Dis. 5: 48-51.

It should have read as follows (corrections in italics): "Mesa, C. P., R. M. Stabler and M. *Berthrong*. 1961. *Histopathological* changes in the domestic pigeon infected with *Trichomonas gallinae* (*Jones' Barn Strain*). Avian Dis. 5: 48-60".

The ring-dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) has also died of trichomoniasis in lofts as a result of the 'natural' (non-experimental) acquisition of *T. gallinae*. Along with the band-tailed pigeon, this dove, then brings to five the species of columbids known to be involved in *T. gallinae* trichomoniasis in a non-experimental fashion.

ROBERT M. STABLER

The Colorado College

Dr. Kocan's Reply

In reply to Dr. Stabler's letter regarding additional species of columbids which are susceptible to trichomoniasis, I would like to point out that there are indeed a number of casual references to trichomoniasis in a variety of species from all over the world. For that matter, I have received several letters from European investigators since the publication of the Hawaiian dove paper, which describe this disease in a variety of doves heretofore unreported. We certainly did not intend to neglect anyone's research efforts, but if I might criticize my own work, there was no definite proof that trichomoniasis was the cause of death—as per Koch's Postulates. It was also stated, concerning the diagnosis: "If correct, this brings" We intend only to make other interested investigators aware of the lack of information on the disease in wild birds.