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OCCURRENCE OF THE TREMATODE *Collyriclum faba* (Bremser) Kossack (Trematoda: Troglotrematidae) IN THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD (Sialia sialis) IN WESTERN NEW YORK.

During routine box-trapping and banding of nesting Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) in southern Chautauqua County, New York in 1965, three adult birds were noted to have nodules in the region about the vent. The nodules were non-fluctuant, subcutaneous, slightly erythematous and 4-6 mm. in diameter. On the surface of each nodule was what appeared to be a one mm. pustular area from which a small amount of dark brown material could be expressed.

The first nodule was noted on a female on May 22nd. Two nodules were noted on a male on June 18th. These two birds were nesting 1.5 miles apart. The third bird, a male, was noted to have four nodules surrounding the vent. His territory was located 11 miles and 9.5 miles respectively from the territories of the other two. All appeared vigorous and healthy when trapped and were active in rearing their young. Fecal staining about the vent of the bird with four nodules suggested that the sphincter was incontinent.

Under local anesthesia a nodule from this last bird was removed and preserved in 70% alcohol. Dr. John Mackiewicz, Department of Biological Sciences, New York State University at Albany was able to identify within the nodule two encysted hemispherical specimens of the trematode *Collyriclum faba* (Bremser) Kossack (*Troglotrematidae*).

Since Schmaltz (1831, Desdae et Lyssiae. 19:11-16) *C. faba* has been reported from time to time in various species of European birds and since Cole (1911, Bull. Wisc. Nat. Hist. Soc. 9:42-48) in birds from the United States. A review by Farner and Morgan (1944, Auk. 61: 421-426) reported its occurrence in 26 species of birds, including eleven species from the United States, representing eight families. As of May 1967, *C. faba* had not been recorded as an Eastern Bluebird parasite in the master file at the Beltsville Parasitological Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Herman, 1967, pers. com.).

Farner and Morgan (1944) found that in the United States the geographical distribution of this parasite was limited to Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Maryland, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

The appearance of *C. faba* in western New York therefore constitutes a new distributional record, adds another species to its known host-list and confirms its occurrence in adult birds.

According to Riley and Kerncamp (1924, J. Am. Vet. Med. Assoc. 64:591-599) *C. faba* can vary from one cyst to whole clusters of subcutaneous cysts usually around the vent but sometimes occurring on the abdomen or on the breast. Morgan and Hawkins (1949, Veterinary Helminthology :259) write that, "In the cases that have been recorded in this country there has been no marked pathology except for the presence of the cysts. However, in other parts of the world heavily infected birds have evidenced emaciation, anemia and deaths have been reported."

The life cycle of *C. faba* is unknown but it is believed that the infection in birds is acquired from eating certain aquatic insects (Riley, 1931. Poul. Sci. 10:204-208; Krieg, 1964; Kingbird 14; 26-27).

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