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MALARIA IN WOODCOCK AND RUFFED GROUSE IN MAINE

CARLTON M. HERMAN*, J. HYNSON**, S. D. SCHEMNITZ**

Abstract: *Plasmodium circumflexum* was isolated from woodcock and ruffed grouse by inoculation into bobwhite.

In July and August 1970 preliminary studies were conducted at the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Calais, Maine. Blood was obtained from one live-trapped ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and three woodcock (*Philohela minor*) and subinoculated into immature penned bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). No parasites were seen in blood smears of the grouse or woodcock. The bobwhite were examined thrice weekly for evidence of *Plasmodium* after the method of Herman, et al.³ Subsequently *Plasmodium* was diagnosed in the bobwhite injected intramuscularly with blood from the grouse and in one of those inoculated

from the woodcock. On the basis of morphological characteristics these were tentatively diagnosed as *P. circumflexum*. Prepatent period varied from 7 to 11 days.

Although *Plasmodium* has been reported from ruffed grouse elsewhere^{1,2} this is the first report from Maine, and there are no published records of this parasite from the woodcock. At this point there is no indication of pathological significance to this finding. It is reported here with the hope of stimulating further investigations on the extent and significance of its occurrence in these game species.

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