ENDOPARASITES OF THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS L. IN COLORADO

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from moose of the general area by Loken *et al.* (1965) in the Bulletin of the Wildlife Disease Association 1(2):7 and has been established as the etiological agent of "moose disease" (Anderson, R. D. 1964 Pathologica Veterinaria 1:289-322 and Loken *et al.*, op. cit.; Smith *et al.*, Canadian Veterinary Journal 1964 5(11): 287-296). The pellets were collected in the vicinity of haystacks on which elk had been feeding. Incidence of the parasite in the herd has not been established. The pathology, if any, associated with the presence of this parasite in elk is unknown.

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Eighty-seven Red-winged Blackbirds were obtained between February, 1962 and May, 1963. The majority was taken in the northeastern region of Colorado, including Larimer, Weld, Boulder, Adams and Denver counties. The remainder were collected in Mesa, Garfield and Jackson counties on the western slope.

One species of trematode, two cestodes, two nematodes, one acanthocephalan, and one mite were found. The names of the parasites are given below together with the incidence of occurrence and location within the host.

Trematoda

1. *Plagiorchoides noblei* (Park, 1936); 4.6 per cent infected; small intestine.

Cestoda

1. *Anonchotaenia mexicana* Voge and Davis 1953; 21.6 per cent infected; small intestine.
2. *Choanotaenia iola* Lincicome, 1939; 2.3 per cent infected; small intesttine.

Nematoda

1. *Microtetrameres* sp. (females only) 2.3 per cent infected; proventriculus.
2. Spiruroid larvae; 1.1 per cent infected; proventriculus.
3. *Acuaria* sp. (female only) 1.1 per cent infected; ventriculus.

Acanthocephala

1. *Mediorhynchus papillosus* Van Cleave, 1916; 12.6 per cent infected; small intestine.
1. *Ptilonyssus* (*Paraneonyssus*) *icteridius* Strandtmann and Furman 1956; 5.7 per cent infected; turbinates.

Forty, or 46 per cent, of the 87 birds examined harbored parasites. The highest incidence of infection occurred during the summer months.

Although extensive examination of peripheral blood and bone marrow was made for haematozoa, only *Trypanosoma* was found. *Trypanosoma avium* was seen in a smear of bone marrow taken from a Red-winged Blackbird subsequent to this study.

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