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Sarcocystis in A Yellowthroat and A Rusty Blackbird

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Although *Sarcocystis* was reported from the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) in 1894 (Stiles, 1894, Vet. Mag. Philadelphia, 1:728) there have been few reports of this protozoan in Wood Warblers (Parulidae). Breiding and Rausch (1948, Auk, 65: 295-296) reported *Sarcocystis* in the Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) and in the Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*).

On July 3, 1959, an adult male Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*) was found dead along a road on the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland. The skin was removed at necropsy exposing the breast and leg muscles which were studded with cysts of *Sarcocystis*. Ten additional Yellowthroats which had been found dead at

Friendship Airport, Baltimore, Maryland on October 11, 1959, were examined but none of these had a grossly visible *Sarcocystis* infection.

On October 16, 1963, Brooke Meanley, Wildlife Biologist, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, collected an adult male Rusty Blackbird, *Euphagus carolinus*, in the marshes of the Patuxent River near Upper Marlboro, Maryland. When the bird was skinned he observed that the breast and leg muscles were studded with white rice-grainlike cysts. Upon microscopic examination these cysts proved to be typical of *Sarcocystis*.

These are apparently the first records of *Sarcocystis* in a Yellowthroat and in a Rusty Blackbird.

