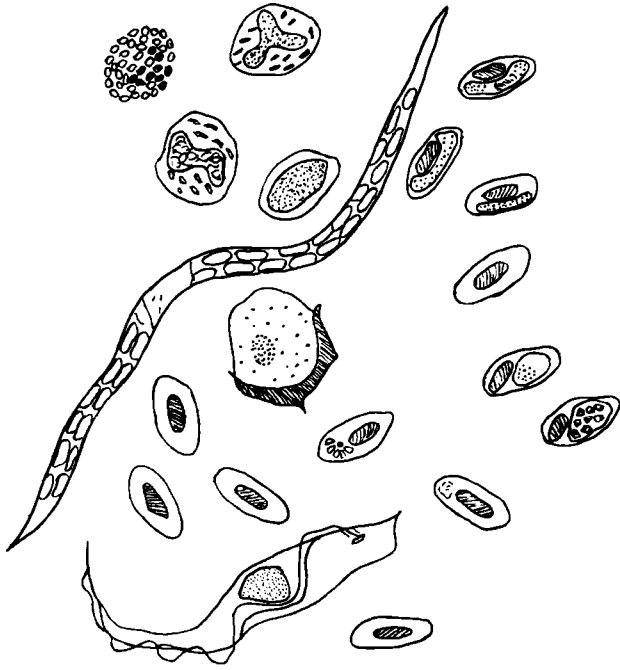


Blood parasites of swallows and American Kestrels



I have been encouraged by several members of the Western Bird Banding Association to organize a co-operative blood parasite project for those interested in contributing to such a study in addition to their regular banding activities (see Ervin, 1980 for background information). Although our time and financial support are rather limited, my colleague, Dr. Wallace Harmon, and I will be sponsoring a pilot project on a modest scale with the probability of expansion at a later date. This pilot project will be limited to the examination of a few species of birds.

Component I. Lainson (1959, 1960) and Box (1967) have provided insight into the life cycle and mechanisms of transmission of the sporozoan blood parasite *Lankesterella* in House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). A morphologically similar parasite occurs commonly in Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) (Clark and Swinehart, 1966; W. Harmon, unpublished data), but its prevalence in other swallows is unknown. We would like to examine samples from other species of swallows, including Purple Martins (*Progne subis*).

Component II. The American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) has not been thoroughly surveyed for haemoparasites, nor have many other raptors. The American Kestrel is probably captured in the largest numbers and

seems an appropriate species with which to begin a raptor study. Suitable references are Stabler and Datel (1959) and Stabler and Holt (1965).

We will be able to supply interested banders with kits of slides, labels, and complete instructions at their request, so long as supplies last. Interested parties are encouraged to write to the address below for kits and information. We will distribute reports and information on findings to all participants. Assistance will be acknowledged in publications.

Literature cited

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News, Notes, Comments

Field Seminars, 1981 Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park (California) is a remarkable natural laboratory of plant and animal life and spectacular geology. It reflects the National Park Service's concept of allowing natural processes to prevail, avoiding those acts that impact the ecosystems.

The seminar program provides an opportunity for the interested layman, the student, or the teacher to gain field knowledge of these processes and of the plant and animal life from outstanding instructors in a unique outdoor situation.

Most courses and instructors are approved, accredited, and evaluated by the University Extension, University of California, Davis. For those who elect, classes carry one, two, or three quarter units of extension credit, depending on hours of instruction.

Bird migration in Yosemite: A bird-banding workshop is a three-day course that will include practical field experience in actual bird-banding, record-keeping, and data analysis. Students in teams will participate actively in the field endeavor. There will be 12 hours of lecture time, 19 hours of field work. Equipment will be furnished. Participants camp in the Crane Flat campground and walk to the study site in Crane Flat meadow.

This course will be held 28-30 August. Seminar fee is \$40; 2 units credit — \$28.

The course instructor is Robert M. Stewart. Mr. Stewart received his M.A. in biology from Oregon State University; worked 10 years as Research Ornithologist and Director of Education at Point Reyes Bird Observatory. He has extensive experience teaching classes in avian ecology and migration, and has amassed a vast amount of knowledge on Yosemite's resident and migratory bird populations. At present he is teaching ornithology at College of Marin, and leading trips for PRBO and other environmental organization.

Approximately 20 additional courses on other aspects of the Park are being offered. For information on the bird-banding course and others being offered, write or call: Seminar Coordinator, Yosemite Natural History Association, P.O. Box 545, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389. Phone (209) 372-4532.

Southeastern Coastal and Estuarine Birds: A conference-Workshop 11-13 September 1981

A conference-workshop on southeastern coastal and estuarine birds will be held 11-13 September 1981 at the Field Laboratory of the Belle W. Baruch Institute for Marine Biology and Coastal Research, University of South Carolina.

The meeting will focus on a total ecosystem approach and will assemble past and present federal, state, and academic researchers from Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida in an attempt to determine levels and directions of current research.

Anyone who has or is working on coastal and/or estuarine species in the region is invited to present the results of his or her research, either as a conventional or a poster presentation. Preliminary results and presentations by graduate students are especially welcome, as are presentations concerning avian prey bases, avian competitors, etc. We hope the conference will serve as an information exchange as well as a forum on current coastal and estuarine bird research. A limited number of graduate student awards (room and registration fee waivers) are available.

Questions concerning presentations and graduate student awards should be directed to Keith L. Bildstein, Program Chairman, Department of Biology, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, SC 29733 (803-323-2111). Information on registration and housing will be mailed to AOU, COS and WOS members in the Southeast; all others may be placed on a mailing list by writing to Bobbie Christy, Local Chairman, Baruch Field Laboratory, P.O. Box 1630, Georgetown, SC 29440 (803-546-3623).

