

SOME FINDINGS OF ADULT TICKS *IXODES RICINUS* (L.) ON BIRDS

While examining wild birds on the presence of ectoparasites in 1975—1979 we also found on them adult ticks *Ixodes ricinus* (L.). As the occurrence of *I. ricinus* imagoes on birds is rare and there are few reports of such cases in literature, we present our findings in detail:

1. *Phasianus colchicus*, adult male, 30. 4. 1977, Golčův Jeníkov (district of Havlíčkův Brod). Only 2 ♀♂ *I. ricinus* slightly engorged, found to be attached to the lower jaw of beak.
2. *Pernis apivorus*, 25. 5. 1975, Golčův Jeníkov. Badly injured bird (with broken wing, partly scalped head), apparently had been moving on the ground for a long time. 2 ♀♀ *I. ricinus*, considerably engorged, found in the open wound on the back of head. Unattached 1 ♂ *I. ricinus* in the same localization.
3. *Parus palustris*, immature, 16. 6. 1976, Ruda near Veselí nad Lužnicí (district of Tábor). The bird was unable to fly (for unknown reason). Unengorged 1 ♀ *I. ricinus* found on the occipital part of head, slightly attached.

The above findings are an evidence that in rare cases also imagoes of *I. ricinus* may parasitize bird hosts. In Czechoslovakia adult ticks were previously found on *Passer domesticus* by Ašmera (Přírodověd. sb. Ostrav. kraje 18: 437—439, 1958). Nosek et al. (Mitt. Abt. Zool. Landesmus. Joanneum 1: 61—92, 1972) recorded findings of imagoes on *Gallus domesticus* and *Phasianus colchicus*. The pheasant is likely to be a sporadic host of *I. ricinus* imagoes, as evidenced by the above finding as well as the findings of other authors, e.g. Milne A. (Parasitology 39: 167—197, 1949), Nosek J. et al. (1972). On the other hand, I consider the other two cases to be quite exceptional. I presume, that the infestation of the two birds with imagoes was due to injuries (*Pernis apivorus*) or enfeeblement (*Parus palustris*), and due to their long-time exposure to tick-infested biotopes.

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