
HELMINTH PARASITES OF THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD,
AGELAIUS PHOENICEUS, AND COMMON GRACKLE,
QUISCALUS QUISCULA, IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO¹

JANET G. STANLEY AND FRANCIS C. RABALAIS

Department of Biology, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403

ABSTRACT

A study was done to determine the helminth fauna of the Red-winged Blackbird, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, and the Common Grackle, *Quiscalus quiscula*, from northwestern Ohio. Thirty adult Redwings and 19 adult Grackles were examined.

Plagiorchis nobeli and *Anonchotaenia quisicali* were found in Redwings, the later species for the first time. *Echinostoma revolutum*, *Porrocaecum ensicaudatum*, *Syngamus trachea*, and *Capillaria ovopunctata* were recovered from Grackles. *Conspicuum icteridorum*, *Dispharynx pipilonis*, and *Prosthorrhynchus formosus* were recovered from both hosts. Several new host records are reported.

A total of 30 Red-winged Blackbirds, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, and 19 Common Grackles, *Quiscalus quiscula*, were examined for helminth parasites during the summer of 1969. Twenty-seven Redwings were collected in Wood County, Ohio,

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eight miles south of Bowling Green on Bays Road, one half mile east of U. S. Route 25. Three Redwings were collected from the Ohio Biological Survey traps on South Bass Island, Lake Erie. Sixteen Grackles were obtained in Erie County, Ohio, at the Wooster Agriculture Station of the United States Department of Interior. Three Grackles were obtained from the same trap as the Redwings on South Bass Island.

Three species of trematode, one cestode, four nematodes, and one acanthocephan were recovered. The parasites are listed below with the incidence and the location within the host.

TREMATODA

1. *Echinostoma revolutum* (Froelich, 1802); 10.5 per cent of Common Grackles infected; small intestine.
2. *Conspicuum icteridorum* Byrd and Denton, 1951; 52.6 per cent of Common Grackles and 46.6 per cent of Redwings infected; gall bladder.
3. *Plagiorchis nobeli* Park, 1936; 10 per cent of Redwings infected; small intestine.

CESTODA

1. *Anonchotaenia quiscali* Raush and Morgan, 1947; 36.6 per cent of Redwings; small intestine.

NEMATODA

1. *Porrocaecum ensicaudatum* (Zeder, 1800); 26.3 per cent of Common Grackles infected; gizzard and small intestine.
2. *Syngamus trachea* (Montagu, 1811); 31.6 per cent of Common Grackles infected; trachea.
3. *Capillaria ovopunctata* (von Linstow, 1873); 36.8 per cent of Common Grackles infected; small intestine.
4. *Dispharynx pipilonis* Olsen, 1939; 15.8 per cent of Common Grackles and 20 per cent of Redwings infected; ventriculus.

ACANTHOCEPHALA

1. *Prosthorhynchus formosus* (Van Cleave, 1918); 10.5 per cent of Common Grackles and 3.3 per cent of Redwings infected; small intestine.

This study constitutes the first report of *Echinostoma revolutum* from the Common Grackle. *Capillaria ovopunctata*, *Prosthorhynchus formosus*, and *Syngamus trachea* are reported for the first time from the Common Grackle in Ohio. *Anonchotaenia quiscali* is reported for the first time from Redwings. *Dispharynx pipilonis* is reported for the first time from both the Redwing and Common Grackle.

Hosts were taken from more than one locality to assure a more representative sample from northwestern Ohio. However, no difference in the parasite faunas from the different localities was observed.