Ectoparasites from the cowbird, *Molothrus ater* (Boddart), at London, Ontario

W. W. JUDD

*Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario*

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Parasites from five cowbirds included mites, *Ornithonyssus sylviarum*, feather lice, *Brueelia* sp. and *Menacanthus* sp., and hippoboscid flies, *Ornithomyia fringillina*.

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Recently Scott and Middleton (5) reported studies of the testicular cycle of the brown-headed cowbird, *Molothrus ater* (Boddart). Some of the birds were collected on the campus of the University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, and in adjacent parts of Middlesex County in 1961. During this study, Mr. Middleton removed ectoparasites from the birds and preserved them in fluid. Since then the parasites have been identified by the following taxonomists: Dr. E. E. Lindquist, Entomology Research Institute, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa (Acarina); Dr. Alan Stone, Division of Insects, U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. (Diptera); and Dr. R. A. Ward, Department of Entomology, Walter Reed Medical Center, Washington, D.C. (Mallophaga). Three specimens of the mite *Ornithonyssus sylviarum* are mounted on slides and deposited in the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa. All other specimens are in the collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Western Ontario, hippoboscid flies being in fluid and feather lice and mites mounted on slides numbered as in the following account. Parasites were removed from five cowbirds.

1. Caught Sept. 8, Middlesex Co.; Hippoboscidae: *Ornithomyia fringillina* (Curtis), one fly.
2. Caught Sept. 12, Middlesex Co.; Hippoboscidae: *Ornithomyia fringillina* (Curtis), one fly.
3. Caught Aug. 29, Middlesex Co.; in captivity Sept. 5; Menoponidae: *Menacanthus* sp., one louse (slide E32.7).
4. Caught July 5, University Campus; in captivity Oct. 5; Dermanyssidae: *Ornithonyssus sylviarum* (Canestrini and Fanzago), five mites (E32.5,6).
5. Caught Aug. 18, Middlesex Co.; in captivity Oct. 15; Menoponidae: *Menacanthus* sp., three lice (E32.8,9,10); Philopteridae: *Brueelia* sp., one male, four females (E32.11,12,13,14,15).

The northern fowl mite, *Ornithonyssus sylviarum*, occurs commonly on birds and has been found previously at London, Ontario, in nests of the cardinal by Judd (3, 4). Numerous species of feather lice in the genera *Menacanthus* and *Brueelia* occur on various birds and some have been reported, particularly on English sparrows and starlings in the vicinity of London by Judd (2). Dr. Ward, in identifying the specimens from the cowbirds, commented, in litt., that no recent revisions of *Menacanthus* and *Brueelia* are available and that there are probably distinct species restricted to various species of Icteridae. Bennett (1) recorded *Ornithomyia fringillina* from 56 species of birds in Algonquin Park, north of London in Ontario, but does not include the cowbird among them.