

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

In a recent issue of the J. Wildl. Dis., 10 (4), 1974, the article by Kocan and Banko (pp. 359-360) states in the opening paragraph: "However, the disease (trichomoniasis) caused by this organism has been found to occur naturally in only three species of columbids: feral pigeon (*Columba livia*), mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) and the inca dove (*Scardafella inca*)".

Stabler and Herman (1951, 16th N. Am. Wildl. Conf., pp. 146-163) state (p. 150), "Losses (from trichomoniasis) have been reported among band-tailed pigeons (*Columba f. fasciata*) in California during certain years, particularly in Monterey and Inyo Counties. In 1945 the junior author had an opportunity to examine several of these birds which had the typical characteristic throat lesions of trichomoniasis. The birds had been dead several days, unfortunately, and *T. gallinae* could not be demonstrated".

Now let us look at reference #7 of the paper by Kocan and Banko. It reads: "Mesa, C. P., R. M. Stabler and M. Berthrong. 1961. Histopathologic changes in the domestic pigeon infected with *Trichomonas gallinae* (Jones Barn). Avian Dis. 5: 48-51.

It should have read as follows (corrections in italics): "Mesa, C. P., R. M. Stabler and M. *Berthrong*. 1961. *Histopathological* changes in the domestic pigeon infected with *Trichomonas gallinae* (*Jones' Barn Strain*). Avian Dis. 5: 48-60".

The ring-dove (*Streptopelia risoria*) has also died of trichomoniasis in lofts as a result of the 'natural' (non-experimental) acquisition of *T. gallinae*. Along with the band-tailed pigeon, this dove, then brings to five the species of columbids known to be involved in *T. gallinae* trichomoniasis in a non-experimental fashion.

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Dr. Kocan's Reply

In reply to Dr. Stabler's letter regarding additional species of columbids which are susceptible to trichomoniasis, I would like to point out that there are indeed a number of casual references to trichomoniasis in a variety of species from all over the world. For that matter, I have received several letters from European investigators since the publication of the Hawaiian dove paper, which describe this disease in a variety of doves heretofore unreported. We certainly did not intend to neglect anyone's research efforts, but if I might criticize my own work, there was no definite proof that trichomoniasis was the cause of death—as per Koch's Postulates. It was also stated, concerning the diagnosis: "If correct, this brings . . ." We intend only to make other interested investigators aware of the lack of information on the disease in wild birds.