

**THE ROLE OF BIRDS IN THE LIFE CYCLE OF IXODES RICINUS (L.)  
IN A LOW MARSCH FOREST OF SWITZERLAND**

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The present report deals with the role of birds as hosts for the larvae and nymphs of *Ixodes ricinus*. This work has been carried out in a lowland wood located on the Swiss "Plateau".

The authors show the passerines, mainly *Turdidae* (blackbirds, thrushes, robins), are particularly infested. Other species of passerines, which are less frequently on the ground, show a lower rate of infestation. Infestation curves established over one year are similar

to those concerning rodents of the same biotope. Therefore, birds play a definite role for the survival of the immature *I. ricinus* population. As on rodents, no adult ticks of this species have been found on the birds captured.