

## Insects parasitic on the saw-whet owl, *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin) (Aves: Strigidae)

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Records of nine parasitic insects from *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin) are listed. These include three Mallophaga, Siphonaptera, and Diptera.

The knowledge of the parasitic fauna of *Aegolius acadicus* (Gmelin) is very incomplete. In handling a number of live saw-whet owls in southern Ontario during 1969-71, I collected some ectoparasitic insects. Since the literature on this subject is widely scattered the observations which I have found in the literature along with my records are summarized in the following annotated list. Species marked with an asterisk (\*) are believed to be new host records. Additions to this list would be welcomed by the author.

### Mallophaga

#### MENOPONIDAE

*Kurodaia acadicae* Price and Beer (1963)

*A. acadicus* is the type host of this species, which has been recorded from British Columbia and New York.

#### PHILOPTERIDAE

*Strigiphilus* (= *Philopterus*) *cursor* (Nitzsch)

Peters listed this species from Massachusetts and Maryland (1936) and from Ohio (1928). In the opinion of K. C. Emerson (personal communication), these records should have been

listed as *Strigiphilus* sp. *S. cursor* is known from *Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan).

\**Strigiphilus* sp.

Four specimens referable to this genus were collected from birds at Toronto and Vineland, Ontario. According to K. C. Emerson (personal communication) the position of these forms within the genus is uncertain.

### Siphonaptera

#### PULICIDAE

*Echidnophaga gallinacea* (Westwood)

Wehrle (1953) recorded *E. gallinacea* from Arizona where it was found on a variety of birds and small mammals.

#### CERATOPHYLLIDAE

\**Orchopeas leucopus* (Baker)

Seventeen specimens from birds at Toronto and Dundas, Ontario, were collected. These specimens are now in the Canadian National Collection. *O. leucopus* has been found on mice, including *Peromyscus* sp. and *Microtus* sp. (Holland 1949). Both of these genera were important food sources of the owls at the time and location where they were found (Woods, unpublished data).

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*Ceratophyllus niger* C. Fox. Holland (1949) listed this species from *A. acadicus* in British Columbia.

### Diptera

#### HIPPOBOSCIDAE

##### *Ornithoica vicina* (Walker)

Bequaert (1954) listed this species from *A. acadicus* in British Columbia, the District of Columbia (27 October), New York, and Ontario. It has also been reported in Ontario by Bennett (1961). I collected *O. vicina* from two of 21 *A. acadicus* examined in Toronto, Ontario (17-23 October). The flies were in the large capsule formed by a flap of skin overlying the auditory opening of the skull. None of 11 banded birds inspected during December, January, and February on 21 occasions in Dundas, Ontario, had Hippoboscidae in this capsule.

##### *Ornithomyia fringillina* Curtis

This species has been reported from many types of birds. Bennett (1961) listed it from *A. acadicus* (summer) in Ontario.

##### *Lynchia americana* (Leach)

Laskey (1941) recorded *L. fusca* Falcoz from *A. acadicus* in Tennessee. However, Bequaert (1955) cited this record and included *L. fusca* in *L. americana*. It has also been listed from Ontario by Bennett (1961) from this owl.

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