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.