
INCIDENCE OF COCCIDIOSIS IN CAPTIVE WILD BIRDS

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Information pertaining to evidences of parasites are limited in captive Wild birds compared to the domestic birds. Incidence of coccidiosis is less frequently reported in captive wild avifauna. Interestingly, an incidence of coccidiosis in captive wild birds encountered is discussed in this paper.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The fresh droppings were collected from multiple wild aviary species reared at Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur and were subjected to the routine parasitological examination by both floatation and sedimentation techniques. Twenty four samples from different species of wild birds were obtained from the Zoological Park on various occasions and were subjected to the standard parasitological investigation techniques.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the samples examined, eight numbers of samples from Pariah kites (*Milvus migrans*) and three numbers of samples from love birds (*Agapornis* sp) revealed evidences of coccidiosis. The oocysts of coccidian were identified as oocysts of *Eimeria* species based on the keys furnished by Soulsby (1982). The oocysts had four sporocysts with two sporozoites in each. Arora (2003) reported on the occurrences of coccidian parasites in avifauna belonging to passerines and psittacines. Pande *et al* (1970) also reported on the occurrence of coccidian parasites in avifauna of Zoological garden at Lucknow. Similar to the findings made in this present study, Bhatia *et al* (1972) observed evidences of coccidiosis in birds and a mammal at Delhi Zoo. Occurrences of coccidian parasites were reported in whooping cranes and Sandhill by Novilla *et al* (1981).

Occurrence of coccidian parasites is always given much emphasis due to their direct impact on the health features of the captive avifauna,

regardless of the species of the wild birds. Fowler (1986) also reported on the incidence of coccidiosis in captive birds and coccidiosis remains an important cause of enteritis and mortality in birds of all kinds. However, it can be stated that the life cycle of coccidian parasites of captive or free ranging wild birds has not been studied in detail.

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