

Special Issue

Avian Hosts and Their Parasites: Parasitological Studies on Protozoa and Helminths

Message from the Guest Editor

Parasites of wild birds—both protozoans and helminths—affect biodiversity, alter behaviour, shape ecological interactions, guide host evolution, and inform conservation. A deep understanding of host–parasite associations is essential for predicting when parasites will emerge, how they will be transmitted, and how pathogenic they might become. Birds occupy a unique ecological role as vehicles for parasite transmission: their long-range movements, especially via migration, enable parasites to disperse across broad geographic scales, thereby increasing parasite prevalence, richness, and diversity in new regions. There are still open and/or under-researched issues in the field of bird–parasite interactions and wild birds as parasite hosts, which seem to have been highlighted by recent studies. The aim of this Special Issue is to illuminate the role of wild birds as hosts for protozoan and helminth parasites, examining global and regional patterns of parasite distribution, host specificity, the emergence of novel parasite species or lineages, and existing methodological gaps.

Guest Editor

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Editor-in-Chief

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