

# WIDESPREAD AND STRUCTURED DISTRIBUTIONS OF BLOOD PARASITE HAPLOTYPES ACROSS A MIGRATORY DIVIDE OF THE SWAINSON'S THRUSH (CATHARUS USTULATUS)

Authors: Svensson, L. M E., Ruegg, K. C., Sekercioglu, C. H., and Sehgal, R. N M.

Source: Journal of Parasitology, 93(6): 1488-1495

Published By: American Society of Parasitologists

URL: https://doi.org/10.1645/GE-1064.1

BioOne Complete (complete.BioOne.org) is a full-text database of 200 subscribed and open-access titles in the biological, ecological, and environmental sciences published by nonprofit societies, associations, museums, institutions, and presses.

Your use of this PDF, the BioOne Complete website, and all posted and associated content indicates your acceptance of BioOne's Terms of Use, available at <u>www.bioone.org/terms-of-use</u>.

Usage of BioOne Complete content is strictly limited to personal, educational, and non - commercial use. Commercial inquiries or rights and permissions requests should be directed to the individual publisher as copyright holder.

BioOne sees sustainable scholarly publishing as an inherently collaborative enterprise connecting authors, nonprofit publishers, academic institutions, research libraries, and research funders in the common goal of maximizing access to critical research.

# WIDESPREAD AND STRUCTURED DISTRIBUTIONS OF BLOOD PARASITE HAPLOTYPES ACROSS A MIGRATORY DIVIDE OF THE SWAINSON'S THRUSH (CATHARUS USTULATUS)

## L. M. E. Svensson, K. C. Ruegg, C. H. Sekercioglu\*, and R. N. M. Sehgal+

Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Department of Integrative Biology, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720. *e-mail: Imsvensson@umsl.edu* 

ABSTRACT: We examined the phylogenetic distribution of cytochrome *b* haplotypes of the avian blood parasite genera *Haemoproteus* and *Plasmodium* across the migratory divide of the Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) in British Columbia, Canada. From 87 host individuals, we identified 8 parasite haplotypes; 4 of *Plasmodium* and 4 of *Haemoproteus*. Six haplotypes were novel; 1 *Haemoproteus* haplotype was identical to *H. majoris* found in the blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*) in Sweden, and another halotype was identical to a *Plasmodium* haplotype found in the white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) in Oregon. The 2 most abundant parasite haplotypes were widely distributed across the contact zone, whereas 2 other parasite haplotypes seem to have structured distributions. Compared with 74 *Plasmodium* and *Haemoproteus* haplotypes published in GenBank, haplotypes recovered from Swainson's thrushes do not form monophyletic groups, and they are closely related to haplotypes from a variety of other hosts and localities. In addition, we recovered 2 Swainson's thrush *Plasmodium* haplotypes from the nonmigratory orange-billed nightingale thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) in Costa Rica. This study is the first to elucidate avian blood parasite transmission, distribution, and phylogenetic relationships in an avian contact zone in North America.

Studies on spatial distributions of avian blood parasites contribute to the understanding of host switching and expansion into new territories. This knowledge may be useful in predicting future global parasite distributions and have implications for vector-borne parasites affecting other vertebrates, such as humans.

Migratory divides, narrow regions where 2 populations with different migratory routes and typically distinct wintering areas meet on the breeding grounds (Bensch et al., 1999; Ruegg and Smith, 2002), provide opportunities to study the spatial differentiation and dispersal of avian blood parasite communities (Bensch and Åkesson, 2003; Reullier et al., 2006). For parasites to transmit across the divide, competent insect vectors are required. In addition, because blood parasites seem to be largely host specific at least at the family level (Bensch et al., 2000; Ricklefs and Fallon, 2002; Beadell et al., 2004; Ricklefs et al., 2004), transmission across the divide should be enhanced when hosts are closely related to each other. Consequently, in contact zones of closely related hosts, one would expect expansion of parasites to occur freely if the appropriate vectors are present.

Blood parasites can be transmitted both on the breeding grounds (Bennett and Cameron, 1974; Bensch and Åkesson, 2003; Ricklefs et al., 2005) and on the wintering grounds (Waldenström et al., 2002; Pérez-Tris and Bensch, 2005). The latter authors also demonstrated that more widespread parasites exhibit a more general transmission behavior and that they are capable of year-round transmission both on the hosts' breeding and wintering grounds. If parasite lineages across migratory divides are structured and differ between bird populations that come into contact only at breeding grounds, then parasite transmission likely occurs solely on the wintering grounds. Alternatively, if parasite lineages are widespread and identical lineages are distributed across contact zones between populations with different wintering locations, then these lineages are likely transmitted on the breeding grounds. Parasite distribution across migratory divides has been studied in the Europe-Africa migratory system (Bensch and Åkesson, 2003; Reullier et al., 2006), but data on parasite distribution across migratory divides in the Americas were, until the present study, lacking. In a region of British Columbia, 2 groups of Swainson's thrush (coastal and inland) form a migratory divide (Ruegg and Smith, 2002). The coastal group is concordant with the russet-backed Swainson's thrush subspecies group (Catharus ustulatus ustulatus), and the inland group is concordant with the olive-backed Swainson's thrush subspecies group (Catharus ustulatus swainsoni). The 2 groups exhibit a nearly complete separation of migratory routes and wintering locations (Fig. 1), the mitochondrial control region shows a sequence divergence of 0.7% (Ruegg and Smith, 2002), and the breeding ground habitats are ecologically different (Ruegg et al., 2006). The coastal Swainson's thrush winters in Central America and Mexico, migrates along a Pacific coastal route, and breeds in a climate with more precipitation and less seasonal variation in temperature and precipitation than the inland Swainson's thrush, which winters in Panama and South America and migrates via an eastern route (Ruegg and Smith, 2002; Ruegg et al., 2006).

Molecular techniques are becoming increasingly popular in studies on the evolution and distribution of avian haemosporidia (e.g., Richard et al., 2002; Fallon, Ricklefs et al., 2003; Hellgren et al., 2004). Here, we use molecular analyses to investigate the spatial distribution of blood parasite haplotypes found in the Swainson's thrush in British Columbia and to compare the distribution and phylogenetic relationship of the Swainson's thrush's haemosporidian haplotypes to published haplotypes found in other birds throughout the world, as well as haplotypes found in orange-billed nightingale thrushes that are resident in Central America. Specifically, we set out to determine (1) whether the parasites are specific to either of the 2 groups of Swainson's thrush or whether they are widespread across the migratory divide; (2) whether Swainson's thrush parasites are more closely related to each other than they are to blood parasites in other hosts; and (3) whether the presence of shared parasite lineages across species that reside in distinct regions sheds light on the origin of parasite transmission in migratory birds such as the Swainson's thrush.

Received 21 September 2006; revised 19 May 2007; accepted 21 May 2007.

<sup>\*</sup> Department of Biological Sciences, Stanford University, Stanford, California 94305.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup> Department of Biology, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California 94132.



FIGURE 1. A map of the distribution of the coastal and inland Swainson's thrush groups. Black areas represent the range of the coastal group, dark gray areas represent the range of the inland group, and light gray areas represent the location of the contact zone of the 2 groups. The inset shows sampling localities on the breeding grounds in British Columbia. Costa Rica is also shown to indicate the site of collection of the orange-billed nightingale thrush.

#### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Swainson's thrushes were caught in mist nets in the beginning of the breeding season (May–June) in 2000, 2003, 2004, and 2005. Blood was extracted via brachial venipuncture and stored in lysis buffer (Seutin et al., 1991). DNA was extracted with a DNeasy (QIAGEN, Valencia, California) extraction kit. The birds were classified as having 1 of 2 mitochondrial haplotypes based on an restriction fragment length polymorphism analysis of the control region that identified 2 reciprocally monophyletic haplotype groups within the Swainson's thrush, i.e., the coastal haplotype group restricted to the Pacific coast of North America and the inland haplotype group found throughout the remainder of the breeding range (Ruegg and Smith, 2002).

Blood from 273 birds from 12 different localities (Fig. 1) in British Columbia was screened for species of *Plasmodium* and *Haemoproteus* using primers 343F (5'GCTCACGCATCGCTTCT3') and 496 (5'GA CCGGTCATTTTCTTTG3') following the protocol of Fallon, Ricklefs et al. (2003). The PCR product was viewed on 1% agarose gels stained with ethidium bromide. The presence of a 153-bp band scored an individual as positive for *Plasmodium*, *Haemoproteus*, or both.

Subsequent to the prevalence screening, a 542-bp fragment of the parasite cytochrome *b* gene from 98 infected individuals across the contact zone was amplified using the primers L15183 (5'GTGCAACYGT TATTACTAATTTATTATA3') and H15730 (5'CATCCAATCCATAA TAAAGCAT3') following the protocol of Szymanski and Lovette (2005). Sequencing of this fragment was done on an ABI 377 sequencer or an ABI 3730 DNA analyzer (ABI PRISM®, Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California). Sequences (498 bp) were cleaned and aligned using Sequencher® (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan). One sequence had multiple peaks in both the forward and reverse direction, suggesting multiple infections. In addition, we were not able to obtain sequence data from 10 individuals, perhaps due to low parasitemia, or else degraded DNA. In total, 87 good sequences were obtained. We used the likelihood ratio values from chi-square tests to determine the distribution of parasite haplotypes across the migratory divide.

We performed BLAST searchers in the National Library of Medicine (NLM; http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/) using each haplotype recovered from the Swainson's thrushes, and we downloaded avian malaria

sequences posted as of 15 December 2006, of the first 50 BLAST hits that were overlapping our sequences. In total, 84 sequences (including the 8 haplotypes found in the Swainson's thrush and 2 outgroups; see Appendix) were aligned in Clustal X (Thompson, 1997) using default alignment parameters.

In addition, to determine whether Swainson's thrushes share parasite lineages with resident Central American birds, orange-billed nightingale thrushes (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) were mist netted in southern Costa Rica (site details in Sekercioglu et al., 2007) in the beginning of the 2004 and 2005 breeding seasons (March–August). Blood from 20 individuals was screened for *Plasmodium/Haemoproteus*, and cytochrome *b* sequences from the 7 positively scored individuals were obtained following the same protocols as for the Swainson's thrush samples.

To estimate the topology of the avian malaria parasite haplotypes recovered from the Swainson's thrushes in British Columbia and the sequences downloaded from GenBank, we first used MrModeltest, version 2.2 (Nylander, 2004) to determine the most appropriate evolutionary model for our 2 data sets partitioned by codon positions. We used the models recommended by the hierarchical likelihood ratio test. The results from the MrModeltest 2.2 runs were combined in MrSecretary 1.0 (Lin and Bonett, 2006) and implemented in MrBayes, version 3.0b4 (Huelsenbeck and Ronquist, 2001). Simulations were run with 4 chains for 10,000,000 steps with a 4,000,000-step burn-in period and sampling every 500 steps. The program Are We There Yet (Wilgenbusch et al., 2004) was used to select the burn-in number. In addition, we ran a maximum likelihood heuristic search with the tree-bisection-reconnection branch-swapping algorithm in PAUP\*4.0b10 (Swofford, 2002) with 10 replicates of random stepwise additions, followed by a heuristic bootstrap with 100 replicates. For this analysis, we considered models recommended by the hierarchical likelihood ratio test in Modeltest, version 3.7 (Posada and Crandall, 1998). We consider nodes with bootstrap values equal to or greater than 70% and posterior probabilities greater than or equal to 0.95 strongly supported.

#### RESULTS

Of the 273 Swainson's thrushes screened for *Plasmodium/ Haemoproteus*, 148 (54%) were infected. Of the 87 sequences

TABLE I. Eight parasite lineages recovered from Swainson's thrushes (SWTH) in British Columbia and numbers of individuals and localities in which they were found. Novel lineages begin with SWTH for Swainson's thrush. *P.* sp. 49 is GenBank AF465549, and *H. majoris* is GenBank AY099045.

Region	SWTH.P.1	SWTH.P.2	SWTH.P.3	P. sp. 49	H. majoris	SWTH. <i>H</i> .1	SWTH. <i>H</i> .2	SWTH.H.3
Coastal	4	0	0	2	0	19	0	0
Hybrid	1	1	1	6	1	35	0	1
Inland	0	0	0	1	2	11	2	0
Total	5	1	1	9	3	65	2	1

recovered from the Swainson's thrush, we detected 8 different haplotypes, whereof 1 halotype was identical to *H. majoris* (GenBank AY099045) found in a blue tit (*Parus caeruleus*) in Europe, and another halotype was identical to *Plasmodium* sp. haplotype 49 (GenBank AF465549) found in white-crowned sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) in North America. Six sequences were novel, and they have been deposited in GenBank with the accession numbers DQ490060–DQ490065.

Species of *Haemoproteus* are more prevalent than those of *Plasmodium* (Table I). At least 1 *Plasmodium* haplotype (AF465549) and 1 *Haemoproteus* haplotype (SWTH.*H*.sp.1) are equally distributed across the contact zone ( $\chi^2 = 0.89$ , P = 0.64 for *P*. sp haplotype 49 and  $\chi^2 = 0.51$ , P = 0.78 for SWTH.*H*.sp.1). SWTH.*H*.sp.1 was recovered from 65 individual Swainson's thrushes (72%), and it is thus, by far, the most common haplotype. Two haplotypes seem structured; SWTH.*P*.sp.1 was detected only in the coastal Swainson's thrush, and SWTH.*H*.sp.2 was detected only in the inland Swainson's thrush.

The phylogenetic analysis of 82 haplotypes in the ingroup split the data into a Haemoproteus clade and a Plasmodium clade (Fig. 2). The 8 haplotypes found within the Swainson's thrush are not always more closely related to each other than they are to parasite haplotypes recovered from a variety of other hosts and localities (Fig. 2). SWTH.P.sp.1 seems distinct from the other Swainson's thrush Plasmodium haplotypes, all 3 of which form a strongly supported monophyletic clade (SWTH.P.sp.2, SWTH.P.sp.3, and P. sp. haplotype 49; Fig. 2). SWTH.P.sp.1, which was also recovered from the orange-billed nightingale thrush, groups with a Plasmodium haplotype (GenBank AY099036) recovered from an Inca tern (Larosterna inca, Laridae) in the Washington D.C. National Zoo (Perkins and Schall, 2002). The node connecting SWTH.P sp.1 and the Inca tern *Plasmodium* is strongly supported by the maximum likelihood analysis (bootstrap value of 81%), but not by the Bayesian analysis (posterior probability of 0.89). The pairwise distance between SWTH.P.sp.1 and the Inca tern Plasmodium is 0.44%. All Swainson's thrush Haemoproteus haplotypes (except for *H. majoris*) form an unresolved clade with haplotypes recovered from both other Muscicapidae and non-Muscicapidae species from Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. The

pairwise distances between SWTH.*H*.sp.1, SWTH.*H*.sp.2, and SWTH.*H*.sp.3 range between 0.2% and 0.8%.

Two *Plasmodium* haplotypes were recovered from the 20 orange-billed nightingale thrushes in Costa Rica. One haplotype, recovered from 2 individuals, was identical to SWTH.*P*.sp.1, and 1 haplotype, recovered from 5 individuals, was identical to SWTH.*P*.sp.2. No orange-billed nightingale thrushes were infected with *Haemoproteus*.

#### DISCUSSION

#### Distribution across the divide

The widespread distribution of SWTH.H.sp.1 and P. sp. haplotype 49 could reflect either, or both, of the following 2 processes. First, the cytochrome b marker may not evolve fast enough to detect differentiation between parasite haplotypes shared by very closely related hosts, i.e., the 2 subspecies that constitute our study system. Ricklefs and Fallon (2002) proposed a slower rate of nucleotide substitution in avian malaria mitochondrial DNA to be accountable for patterns of low host specificity in avian malaria parasites. Second, the results could reflect 3 different possibilities for the location of transmission. That is, the parasite haplotypes recovered from the Swainson's thrushes could be widespread in South and Central America and transmitted on the wintering grounds of both the inland Swainson's thrush (which winters predominantly in South America) and the coastal Swainson's thrush (which winters predominantly in Central America), they could be transmitted solely on the breeding grounds across the migratory divide, or they could be transmitted year-round transcontinentally. We have no reason to believe that transmission occurs preferentially on either the wintering or breeding grounds, because previous studies have indicated that parasites can be transmitted in tropical and temperate regions alike (Waldenström et al., 2002; Bensch and Åkesson, 2003; Fallon, Bermingham et al., 2003; Pérez-Tris and Bensch, 2005; Ricklefs et al., 2005). However, a recent study has shown that blood parasites rarely are transmitted at both breeding and wintering grounds and that Plasmodium parasites more often infect both resident and migratory bird species than Haemoproteus (Hellgren et al., 2007). Due to the lack of avian malaria sampling in South America, we cannot compare our

 $\rightarrow$ 

FIGURE 2. A Bayesian consensus rooted with *Leucocytozoon dubreuli* and *L. simondi*. Solid stars represent nodes where the posterior probabilities from the Bayesian analysis are greater than 0.95 and where bootstrap values from the maximum likelihood analysis are greater than 70%. Sequences recovered from the Swainson's thrush are underlined. The continent where a lineage was found, when known, is shown as different symbols. Haplotypes recovered from Muscicapidae species are marked with a bold "M." If a parasite haplotype was documented as a species in the GenBank record, it is noted to the right.



Downloaded From: https://bioone.org/journals/Journal-of-Parasitology on 10 May 2022 Terms of Use: https://bioone.org/terms-of-use Access provided by Colorado State University

sequences to other sequences from the Swainson's thrush's wintering grounds. However, we found neither the common SWTH.H.sp.1 nor P. sp. haplotype 49 in the congeneric orangebilled nightingale thrush in Costa Rica, near to where the coastal Swainson's thrush is known to winter and the inland Swainson's thrush stops over during migration. Further support for breeding ground transmission of P. sp. haplotype 49 is that it is shared with the white-crowned sparrow in the Pacific Northwest (Ricklefs and Fallon, 2002). More intensive sampling of the wintering grounds alongside sampling of juvenile Swainson's thrushes on the breeding grounds is necessary before determining place of transmission. We sampled early in the breeding season when no juvenile Swainson's thrushes were present. We cannot reject the possibility that transmission also occurs on the wintering grounds or that this haplotype is widespread in the Americas. Nevertheless, this wide distribution of Plasmodium and Haemoproteus contrasts with patterns of blood parasite distributions in European migratory divides, which exhibit a highly structured parasite distribution with occasional host sharing across the contact zone (Reullier et al., 2005).

#### **Phylogenetic relationships**

That the parasite haplotypes recovered from the Swainson's thrush group with haplotypes recovered from several different host species and localities indicates low host specificity. Szymanski and Lovette (2005) found a similar lack of host specificity in sympatric hosts belonging to 4 families (Hirundinidae, Parulidae, Emberizidae, and Fringillidae). Their phylogenetic analysis of 29 unique parasite haplotypes produced 5 strongly supported clades of which 2 clades contained parasite haplotypes infecting all 4 host families. Our results, which placed haplotypes from the Swainson's thrush within 4 strongly supported clades containing haplotypes from multiple host families, were, therefore, not surprising.

The small pairwise distances between the *Haemoproteus* haplotypes (expept *H. majoris*) recovered from the Swainson's thrush suggest that they are the same lineage if we follow the definition of a lineage as described by Szymanski and Lovette (2005), who consider a lineage to be composed of haplotypes less than 1.4% divergent. However, included in that lineage would be 2 already described species (*H. pallidus* and *H. minutus*; Hellgren et al., 2006), suggesting that rather than reflecting low host specificity, this particular clade shows that more sequence data are necessary to resolve it.

#### **Evidence for transmission locality**

The presence of SWTH.*P*.sp.1 and SWTH.*P*.sp.2 in the nonmigratory orange-billed nightingale thrush shows that these lineages are transmitted in Central America. Following the reasoning of Bensch et al. (2007), the fact that these 2 parasite haplotypes are rarely detected in breeding Swainson's thrush populations supports the idea of them being transmitted on the wintering grounds, because fitness costs are highest after primary infections; fewer birds infected with parasites on the wintering grounds would make it all the way to the breeding grounds.

It is interesting that the majority of the range of the orangebilled nightingale thrush in Central America overlaps with the wintering distribution of the coastal Swainson's thrush, the only Swainson's thrush subspecies known to carry the SWTH.*P*.sp.1 haplotype. No Swainson's thrushes were found wintering in the sampling location of the orange-billed nightingale thrushes in this study, but if future work were to reveal that SWTH.*P*.sp.1 is found to be widespread among orange-billed nightingale thrush populations that co-occur with wintering coastal Swainson's thrushes, then this may help explain the structured distribution of the SWTH.*P*.sp.1 haplotype across the migratory divide.

In conclusion, despite a significant difference in migratory behavior and wintering locations in the Swainson's thrush, 1 highly abundant Haemoproteus haplotype and 1 Plasmodium haplotype are distributed across the migratory divide, whereas 2 parasite haplotypes provide preliminary evidence for a structured distribution across the migratory divide. The presence of 2 of the Plasmodium haplotypes specific to the coastal Swainson's thrush in the nonmigratory orange-billed nightingale thrush from Central America suggests that these lineages are transmitted on the wintering grounds. Future work should use more markers, such as nuclear genes, and sampling of juveniles, vectors, and the entire host community on both the wintering and breeding grounds in South and North America, respectively. Our results add to the understanding of avian malaria dynamics by showing that within a single host species system parasites can be diverse and have both widespread and structured distributions, by demonstrating that differences in cytochrome b are not great across the world and several host families, and by suggesting that a greater emphasis should be placed on studying vector ecology to clarify host-parasite interactions.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We thank R. Bonett, D. R. Vieites, and D. C. Outlaw for phylogenetic analysis advice and R. E. Ricklefs for insightful comments on an early version of the manuscript. During the study, L.M.E.S. received support from the Howard Hughes Medical Foundation and the Susan Duckworth Memorial Scholarship. The study was supported by grants from an NSF dissertation improvement grant awarded to K.C.R. R.N.M.S.'s and this research were supported in part by an NIGMS MORE grant K12GM00679. C.H.S.'s Costa Rica research was supported by Koret, Moore Family and Winslow foundations, and National Geographic and Wildlife Conservation societies.

### LITERATURE CITED

- BEADELL, J. S., E. GERING, J. AUSTIN, J. P. DUBBACHER, M. A. PEIRCE, T. K. PRATT, C. T. ATKINSON, AND R. C. FLEISCHER. 2004. Prevalence and differential host-specificity of two avian blood parasite genera in the Australo-Papuan region. Molecular Ecology 13: 3829–3844.
- BENNETT, G. F., AND M. CAMERON. 1974. Seasonal prevalence of avian hematozoa in passeriform birds of Atlantic Canada. Canadian Journal of Zoology 52: 1259–1264.
- BENSCH, S., AND S. ÄKESSON. 2003. Temporal and spatial variation in hematozoans in Scandinavian Willow Warblers. Journal of Parasitology 89: 388–391.
- —, T. ANDERSON, AND S. ÅKESSON. 1999. Morphological and molecular variation across a migratory divide in willow warblers, *Phylloscopus trochilus*. Evolution 53: 1925–1935.
- M. STJERNMAN, D. HASSELQUIST, Ö. ÖSTMAN, B. HANSSON, H. WESTERDAHL, AND R. T. PINHEIRO. 2000. Host specificity in avian blood parasites: A study of *Plasmodium* and *Haemoproteus* mitochondrial DNA amplified from birds. The Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B 267: 1583–1589.
- —, J. WALDENSTRÖM, N. JONZÉN, H. WESTERDAHL, B. HANSSON, D. SEJBERG, AND D. HASSELQUIST. 2007. Temporal dynamics and di-

versity of avian malaria parasites in a single host species. Journal of Animal Ecology **76**: 112–122.

FALLON, S. M., E. BERMINGHAM, AND R. E. RICKLEFS. 2003. Island and taxon effects in parasitism revisited: Avian malaria in the Lesser Antilles. Evolution 57: 606–615.

—, R. E. RICKLEFS, B. L. SWANSON, AND E. BERMINGHAM. 2003. Detecting avian malaria: An improved polymerase chain reaction diagnostic. Journal of Parasitology 89: 1044–1047.

- HELLGREN, O., A. KRIŽANAUSKIENE, G. VALKIŪNAS, AND S. BENSCH. 2006. Diversity and phylogeny of mitochondrial cytochrome b lineages from six morphospecies of avian *Haemoproteus* (Haemosporida, Haemoprotidae). *In* Avian malaria and related blood parasites: Molecular diversity, ecology and evolution, O. Hellgren. Ph.D. Thesis. Lund University, Lund, Sweden, p. 55–66.
- —, J. WALDENSTRÖM, AND S. BENSCH. 2004. A new PCR assay for simultaneous studies of *Leucocytozoon*, *Plasmodium*, and *Haemoproteus* from avian blood. Journal of Parasitology **90**: 797–802.
- , \_\_\_\_, J. PÉREZ-TRIS, E. S. ÖSI, D. HASSELQUIST, A. KRI-ŽANAUSKIENE, U. OTTOSON, AND S. BENSCH. 2007. Detecting shifts of transmission areas in avian blood parasites—a phylogenetic approach. Molecular Ecology 16: 1281–1290.
- HUELSENBECK, J. P., AND F. RONQUIST. 2001. MrBayes: Bayesian inference of phylogeny. Software distributed by the authors, University of California–San Diego, La Jolla, California, and Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
- LIN, B., AND R. M. BONETT. MrSecretary 1.1. http://olla.berkeley.edu/ cgi-bin/mrsec/file\_load.cgi.
- NYLANDER, J. A. A. 2004. MrModeltest 2.2. Program distributed by the author. Evolutionary Biology Centre, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden.
- PÉREZ-TRIS, J., AND S. BENSCH. 2005. Dispersal increases local transmission of avian malarial parasites. Ecology Letters 8: 209–211.
- PERKINS, S. L., AND J. J. SCHALL. 2002. A molecular phylogeny of malarial parasites recovered from cytochrome *b* gene sequences. Journal of Parasitology 88: 972–978.
- POSADA, D., AND K. A. CRANDALL. 1998. Modeltest: Testing the model of DNA substitution. Bioinformatics 14: 817–818.
- REULLIER, J., J. PÉREZ-TRIS, S. BENSCH, AND J. SECONDI. 2006. Diversity, distribution and exchange of blood parasites meeting at an avian moving contact zone. Molecular Ecology 15: 753–763.
- RICHARD, F. A., R. N. M. SEHGAL, H. I. JONES, AND T. B. SMITH. 2002.

A comparative analysis of PCR-based detection methods for avian malaria. Journal of Parasitology **88:** 819–822.

- RICKLEFS, R. E., AND S. M. FALLON. 2002. Diversification and host switching in avian malaria parasites. Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B 269: 885–892.
- , \_\_\_\_\_, AND E. BERMINGHAM. 2004. Evolutionary relationships, cospeciation, and host switching in avian malaria parasites. Systematic Biology 53: 111–119.
- ——, B. L. SWANSON, S. M. FALLON, A. MARTÍNEZ-ABRAÍN, A. SCHEURLEIN, J. GRAY, AND S. C. LATTA. 2005. Community relationships of avian malaria parasites in southern Missouri. Ecological Monographs 75: 543–559.
- RUEGG, K. C., H. SLABBEKOORN, S. CLEGG, AND T. B. SMITH. 2006. Divergence in mating signals correlates with ecological variation in the migratory songbird, Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). Molecular Ecology 15: 3147–3156.
- —, AND T. B. SMITH. 2002. Not as the crow flies: A historical explanation for circuitous migration in Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*). 2002. The Proceedings of the Royal Society of London B **269:** 1375–1381.
- SEKERCIOGLU, C. H., S. R. LOARIE, F. OVIEDO BRENES, P. R. EHRLICH, AND G. C. DAILY. 2007. Persistence of forest birds in the Costa Rican agricultural countryside. Conservation Biology 21: 482–494.
- SEUTIN, G., B. N. WHITE, AND P. T. BOAG. 1991. Preservation of avian blood and tissue samples for DNA analyses. Canadian Journal of Zoology 69: 82–90.
- SWOFFORD, D. L. 2002. PAUP\* Phylogenetic analysis using parsimony (\*and other methods) version 4.0b10. Software distributed by Sinauer Associates, Sunderland, Massachusetts.
- SZYMANSKI, M. M., AND I. J. LOVETTE. 2005. High lineage diversity and host sharing of malarial parasites in a local avian assemblage. Journal of Parasitology 91: 768–774.
- THOMPSON, J. D., T. J. GIBSON, F. PLEWNIAK, F. JEANMOUGIN, AND D. G. HIGGINS. 1997. The ClustalX windows interface: Flexible strategies for multiple sequence alignment aided by quality analysis tools. Nucleic Acids Research 25: 4876–4882.
- WALDENSTRÖM, J., S. BENSCH, S. KIBOI, D. HASSLEQUIST, AND U. OT-TOSSON. 2002. Cross-species infection of blood parasites between resident and migratory songbirds in Africa. Molecular Ecology 11: 1545–1554.
- WILGENBUSCH, J. C., D. L. WARREN, AND D. L. SWOFFORD. 2004. AWTY: A system for graphical exploration of MCMC convergence in Bayesian phylogenetic inference. http://ceb.csit.fsu.edu/awty.

APPENDIX. GenBank identification number, species of parasite, host in which the parasite was found, and country in which the host was caught. *P.* is Plasmodium, *H.* is *Haemoproteus*, and *L.* is *Leucocytozoon*. Host taxonomy is based on information from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (http://www.itis.gov/index.html).

GenBank	Parasite species	Host species	Host family	Country
AB250415	P. juxtanucleare	Unknown		Unknown
AF069611	P. elongatum	Passer domesticus	Passeridae	N. America
AF465548	P. sp. haplotype 48	Turdus migratorius	Muscicapidae	N. America
AF465549	P. sp. haplotype 49	Zonotrichia leucophrys	Fringillidae	N. America
AF465550	P. sp. haplotype 50	Andropadus latirostris	Pycnonotidae	Cameroon
AF465551	P. sp. haplotype 51	Nectarinia olivacea	Nectariniidae	Cameroon
AF465552	P. sp. haplotype 52	Alethe diademata	Muscicapidae	Cameroon
AF465553	P. sp. haplotype 53	Cinclocerthia ruficauda	Sturnidae	Caribbean
AF465555	P. sp. haplotype 55	Baeolophus bicolor	Paridae	N. America
AF465559	P. sp. haplotype 64	Vireo griseus	Vireonidae	N. America
AF465565	H. sp. haplotype 4	Margarops fuscus	Sturnidae	Caribbean
AF465567	H. sp. haplotype 6	Coereba flaveola	Fringillidae	Trinidad
AF465568	H. sp. haplotype 7	Tiaris bicolor	Fringillidae	Venezuela
AF465571	H. sp. haplotype 19	Alophoixus bres	Pycnonotidae	East Asia
AF465572	H. sp. haplotype 20	Margarops fuscatus, Margarops fuscus, and Dumetella carolinensis	Sturnidae	N. America/ Caribbean
AF465573	H. sp. haplotype 21	Corvus brachyrhynchos	Corvidae	N. America
AF465574	H. sp. haplotype 22	Neocossyphus poensis and Neocossyphus fraseri	Muscicapidae	Cameroon
AF465575	H. sp. haplotype 2	Vireo altiloquus	Vireonidae	Caribbean
AF465576	H. sp. haplotype 28	Vireo olivaceus	Vireonidae	N. America
AF465577	H. sp. haplotype 29	Vireo griseus	Vireonidae	N. America
AF465578	H. sp. haplotype 30	Erythrura prasina	Passeridae	Asia
AF465579	H. sp. haplotype 31	Coereba flaveola and Loxigilla noctis	Fringillidae	Caribbean
AF403580	H. sp. haplotype 32	Denaroica pensylvanica	Fringillidae	N. America
AF403381	H. sp. haplotype 33	Junco nyemalis Piranga wubwa	Fringillidae	N. America
AF403382	H sp. haplotype 34	Firanga aliyaaaa and Biranaa wubra	Fringillidaa	N. America
AF405585	H sp. haplotype 35	Margarops fuscatus	Sturpidae	N. Allerica
AF405585	H sp. haplotype $37$	Margarops Juscalus Motacilla clara	Passeridae	Cameroon
AF465586	H sp. haplotype 37 H sp. haplotype 38	V ariseus	Vireonidae	N America
AF465587	H sp. haplotype 30	Consychus malabaricus	Muscicapidae	Asia
AF465588	H sp. haplotype 40	Alethe poliocephala	Muscicapidae	Cameroon
AF465594	H. sp. haplotype 46	Polyborus plancus	Falconidae	N. America
AY099029	P. gallinaceum	Gallus gallus	Phasianidae	Vietnam
AY099033	<i>P</i> . sp.	T. migratorius	Muscicapidae	N. America
AY099034	H. sp.	Vireo olivaceus	Vireonidae	N. America
AY099035	<i>P</i> . sp.	Ninox scutulata	Strigidae	Singapore
AY099036	<i>P</i> . sp.	Larosterna inca	Laridae	N. America (zoo)
AY099040	H. sylvae haplotype GRW1	A. arundinaceus	Sylviidae	Sweden
AY099041	P. sp. haplotype GRW4	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	Sylviidae	Kenya
AY099042	H. sp. haplotype HLW1	Phylloscopus humei	Sylviidae	India
AY099043	H. sp. haplotype LCLW1B19	Phylloscopus occipitalis	Sylviidae	Europe
AY099044	P. sp. haplotype ORW1G278	Acrocephalus orientalis	Sylviidae	Japan
AY099045	H. majoris	Parus caeruleus	Paridae	Sweden
AY099063	L. dubreuli	Unknown		Unknown
AY099064	L. simondi	Anas platyrhyncos	Anatidae	Canada
AY377128	P. cathemerium	Unknown		Unknown
AY540202	H. sp. strain NA10	Vireo olivaceus	Vireonidae	N. America/ Caribbean
AY540203	H. sp. strain NA12	Cardinalis cardinalis	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640126	<i>H</i> . sp. A12	Tachycineta bicolor	Hirundinidae	N. America
AY640129	<i>H</i> . sp. A3	Dendroica petechia	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640134	<i>P</i> . sp. C3	D. petechia	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640135	<i>P</i> . sp. G1	Melospiza melodia	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640136	<i>P</i> . sp. D1	M. melodia	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640137	<i>P</i> . sp. H1	Dendroica petechia	Fringillidae	N. America
AY640139	<i>H</i> . sp. A11	Tachycineta bicolor	Hirundinidae	N. America
AY640141	<i>H</i> . sp. A6	T. bicolor	Hirundinidae	N. America

GenBank	Parasite species	Host species	Host family	Country
AY640143	<i>P</i> . sp. C2	Geothlypis trichas	Fringillidae	N. America
AY733087	<i>H</i> . sp. jb2.SEW5141	Lichenostomus frenatus	Meliphagidae	Australia
AY733090	P. relictum isolate jb5.NAN015	Hemignathus virens	Fringillidae	N. America
AY762059	H. sp. DW5384	Unknown		Madagascar
AY762061	P. sp. DW5422	Unknown		Madagascar
AY762062	H. sp. DW5416	Unknown		Madagascar
AY762066	H. sp. DW5335	Unknown		Madagascar
AY762078	P. sp. RB61	Unknown		Madagascar
DQ212192	H. sp. C033	Dendrocygna javanica	Dendrocygnidae	Asia
DQ212193	P. sp. C028	D. javanica	Dendrocygnidae	Asia
DQ212194	<i>P</i> . sp. C113	Gyps tenuirostris	Accipitridae	
DQ212195	<i>P</i> . sp. C114	Gyps bengalensis	Accipitridae	Asia
DQ212196	<i>P</i> . sp. C175	G. tenuirostris	Accipitridae	Asia
DQ212197	<i>H</i> . sp. C187	Passer montanus	Passeridae	
DQ630004	H. pallidus isolate L-PFC1	Ficedula hypoleuca	Muscicapidae	Europe
DQ630005	H. pallidus isolate L-COLL2	F. hypoleuca	Muscicapidae	Europe
DQ630006	H. belopolskyi isolate L-HIICT1	Hippolais icterina	Sylviidae	Europe
DQ630007	H. balmorali isolate L-LULU1	Luscinia luscinia	Muscicapidae	Europe
DQ630008	H. balmorali isolate L-SFC1	Muscicapa striata	Muscicapidae	Europe
DQ630009	H. payevskyi isolate L-RW1	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	Sylviidae	Europe
DQ630013	H. minutus isolate L-TURDUS2	Turdus merula	Muscicapidae	Europe
DQ630014	H. balmorali isolate L-COLL3	M. striata	Muscicapidae	Europe