

HAZARDS OF FREE-RANGING BIRDS

1. Raising birds on soil instead of deep litter will likely result in increased exposure to the following parasites. Some of these parasites are now novelties to commercial producers, because they simply do not occur in commercial flocks, and are seen only in “backyard” flocks; I have labeled these as “uncommon on litter.” Others still occur in commercial flocks, but would likely be increased on range; these are labeled “increased on range.”
 - A. Coccidiosis - increased on range.
 - B. Ascarids (roundworms) - increased on range.
 - C. Heterakis (cecal worms) - uncommon on litter.
 - D. Capillaria (hair worms) - uncommon on litter; earthworm intermediate host.
 - E. Baylisascaris procyonis - This is a raccoon parasite, and the chicken is an accidental host. It therefore does not occur in housing but could on range.
 - F. Oxyspirura mansoni - uncommon on litter; cockroach intermediate host.
 - G. Syngamus trachea (gapeworms) - uncommon on litter.
 - H. Gongylonema ingluvicola - uncommon on litter; has beetle or cockroach intermediate host.
 - I. Dispharynx nasuta - uncommon on litter; sowbug intermediate host.
 - J. Tetrameres americana and T. fissispina - uncommon on litter; grasshopper or cockroach intermediate host.
 - K. Cheilospiroha hamulosa - uncommon on litter; has grasshopper or beetle intermediate host.
 - L. Subulura brumpti or S. strongylina - uncommon on litter; has grasshopper or beetle intermediate host.
 - M. Strongyloides avium - uncommon on litter.
 - N. Trichostrongylus tenuis - uncommon on litter.

Other than the darkling beetle, which we can control, there are no cockroaches, grasshoppers, sowbugs, etc. in deep litter. These are present, sometimes in abundance, on ranges.

1. In addition to parasites, exposure to wild birds and other animals on range, which is controlled in houses, could result in an increased incidence of the following diseases. I have indicated whether the wild birds or other animals act as biological or mechanical vectors:

2. (Continued)

- A. Salmonella - both
- B. E. coli - both
- C. Fowl Cholera - both
- D. Avian tuberculosis - both
- E. Coryza - probably mechanical
- F. Mycoplasma - both
- G. Campylobacter - both
- H. Staph - both
- I. Clostridial diseases - both
- J. Bordetella - probably mechanical
- K. Strep - both Eysipelas - both
- L. Eysipelas - both

- M. Pseudotuberculosis - both
- N. Chlamydia - both
- O. Infectious Bronchitis - probably mechanical
- P. Infectious Laryngotracheitis - mechanical
- Q. Newcastle Disease - both
- R. Avian Influenza - both
- S. Adenoviruses - both
- T. Fowl pox - both, especially mosquitoes
- U. Reovirus - probably mechanical
- V. Infectious Bursal Disease - probably mechanical
- W. Chicken Anemia - probably mechanical
- X. External parasites - very uncommon in housed broilers, would be expected to increase on range -

- lice (several species)
- bedbugs
- poultry bug
- assassin bug
- fleas (several species)
- flies
- mosquitoes
- midges
- blackflies
- mites (several species)
- chiggers
- ticks

These torment the birds, damage the carcass, and spread numerous diseases. None of these occur to any appreciable extent in commercial broiler housing, but would be rampant on range.

- Y. Cryptosporidium - both

- Y. Blood protozoans, which are unheard of in housing, could become prevalent on range, especially with insect exposure.

- Leucocytozoon (several species)
- Avian Malaria

- AA. Blackhead - both

- 3. Birds on range are exposed to predation - cats, foxes, coyotes, dogs, raccoons, opossums, raptors, etc. These kill birds, harass and frighten them, and spread diseases.

All of these aforementioned diseases may affect either the bird itself, the consumer (salmonella, campylobacter) or both.

- 3. Birds on range are exposed to weather extremes. This can result in more illness.

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