

PRESENCE OF TICKS ON THE HEADS OF HONEYEATERS IN NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL PARK

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Ten species of honeyeater and three species of thornbill, present in New England National Park, were examined for ticks. Approximately 5% of the 1 229 birds inspected had ticks present on their heads. Most infected birds were caught in winter. I suggest that ticks wait on the flowers of *Banksia spinulosa* for prospective hosts, and that inter-specific differences in infestations among the birds are due to differences in their habitat selection foraging behaviour and morphology. Most ticks were found around and in front of the eyes.