

YOUR FULL NAME

Avian malaria transmission dynamics in New Zealand: Investigating host and vector relationships along an elevational gradient

Avian malaria is a concern for native New Zealand birds, which are considered to be the most extinction-prone in the world. This mosquito-borne disease has affected both captive populations and wild individuals in the country.

This research provided insight into the general ecology and epidemiology of avian malaria, highlighted patterns of infection risk as well as offering recommendations to improve detection via molecular techniques. Results from blood samples collected and analysed at Nelson Lakes National Park supported the potential for an inverse relationship between force of infection and elevation. Results also showed an overall higher prevalence of malaria in non-native versus native birds, suggesting the possibility of a differential impact on host species that presented dissimilar reservoir competence.