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THE NORTHERNMOST EXTENSION OF BIRD HIPPOBOSCIDAE IN THE NEW WORLD (DIPTERA).—The Hippoboscidae are essentially a tropical and subtropical group of insects. In cold temperate regions the number of species is very small and most of them seem to occur only as accidental summer visitors. In the New World the 50th parallel forms about the northern limit for the family as a whole. Farther north the flies are probably not truly part of the autochthonous fauna. Among the many hundreds of North American flies I have seen in recent years, only half a dozen, all of one species, *Ornithomyia fringillina* Curtis, were taken in Alaska, at the following localities: Crater Mt., off "Columbia falcon"; Nelchina River, north of Mt. Witherspoon (N.W. of Valdez); Takotna, 63°N., 165°W., off Hudsonian spruce grouse, *Canachites c. canadensis* (Linnaeus); and Old Crow River, Timber Creek, Yukon. Takotna is the northernmost locality for a hippoboscid in the New World. In the eastern part of the continent these flies stay much farther south, the northernmost record there being an *Ornithomyia fringillina* taken by Eidmann off a junco on the Matamek River in the southern part of the Labrador Peninsula (50° 17' N.). Hippoboscidae of birds seem to extend farther north in Europe, where several species occur in Finland. One of them (*O. fringillina*) has been reported also from Iceland. None are known from Greenland. Several of the common passerine birds, serving as hosts of *O. fringillina* in southern Canada and the United States, extend during the summer to the Arctic Circle and beyond, so that the virtual absence of hippoboscids from the far north is most probably due to adverse climatic conditions.—J. BEQUAERT, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.



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