1. **INTRODUCTION**

A new disease, Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD), with a viral etiology, fatal to man and monkeys, was recognized in the year 1957 in Shimoga District, Mysore State (Work and Trapido, 1957). KFD virus has been isolated from sick and fatal cases of men and monkeys and repeatedly from several species of *Haemaphysalis* ticks collected in ground drags in the KFD infected area (Trapido et al., 1959; Bhat et al., in preparation). To understand the epidemiology of this disease and the extent of involvement of warm blooded vertebrate hosts, a preliminary survey of wild small mammal and avian population was conducted and their sera were tested for neutralizing antibodies against KFD virus. Sera of several species of birds neutralized the virus of this disease, indicating, if the test was specific, that they had been infected with the virus at some time or other (Unpublished data, VRG).

Avian involvement in the epidemiology of this disease, by their role in the transport of infected ticks, in the maintenance of a tick-bird-virus cycle, and in the dissemination of the virus itself was suggested by Work (1958).

A two year study on the ticks of wild birds of this district was initiated by the writer in December 1959, primarily to study the pattern of tick infestation of birds and the species composition of ticks parasitizing birds in the area and
also to collect sera from these wild birds to determine the status of their immunity against KFD virus.

The present study is concerned with the tick-bird relationships only.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

There is a lack of published information on any major study of the ticks of Indian birds, although references in the literature on the finding of ticks on birds in other parts of the world are many. As the majority of the tick species and the bird hosts listed are not indigenous to the study area (described in Section 3), it will be irrelevant to go into details of such studies. However it is felt desirable to broadly review the literature showing the parasitism of birds by ticks in the different zoogeographical regions of the world, pointing out wherever it is pertinent the ticks species and the related bird species from which ticks have been collected in this study.

Nearctic region:

Two species of Haemaphysalis occuring in North America and several species of Ixodes have been reported parasitizing birds. Haemaphysalis leporis-palustris, the adults of which are primarily ectoparasitic on rabbits, have been recorded in their immature stages on 45 species of birds by Peters (1936). The hosts included thrushes, sparrows and larks, related species of