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### **Fungal diseases of columbiformes and anseriformes.**

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Because of the high incidence of aspergillosis, fungal disease is an important condition in the waterfowl. Although this is generally a disease of individual birds, epizootics have been reported when overwhelming spore loads are present. By contrast, the occurrence of fungal disease is quite sporadic in the pigeon. In both groups of birds, however, the zoonotic potential of fungal diseases such as cryptococcosis, histoplasmosis, and blastomycosis is clinically significant. The abundant creatinine levels in droppings serve as a nitrogen source for these organisms. This allows their numbers to increase dramatically, which in turn increases the risk of disease transmission. Because pigeons often live in close proximity to people, their role in disease transmission is considered particularly important.

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### **Fungal diseases of birds of prey.**

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Aspergillosis and candidiasis are ranked among the most common infectious diseases in birds of prey. The prevention of these fungal diseases is often easier than treatment. Thus the clinician should strive to prevent infection by minimizing stress, maintaining a healthy environment, limiting long-term use of antibiotics and corticosteroids, and reducing exposure to fungal organisms. Although less commonly diagnosed among wild, free-ranging birds of prey, a high incidence in a free-ranging population should make the clinician think of an immunocompromising factor (i.e., toxins, human encroachment or low prey base) that may be contributing to infection. The diagnosis of aspergillosis and candidiasis often requires more than just the identification of the agent, as these ubiquitous organisms often are cultured from healthy birds of prey. In those birds of prey in which a fungal infection is highly suspected or proven, antifungal drugs remain the mainstay of treatment, although available drugs and modes of delivery have improved in recent years.