This README file accompanies the manuscript “The overlooked complexity of avian brood parasite–host relationships”.

The file “lit\_review\_data\_final.csv” lists 1,810 research papers pertaining to obligate avian brood parasitism as returned by Web of Science when applying the following search terms across ‘All Databases’ covering the entire timespan of the database on 26 September 2020:

TS=(brood parasit\*) AND TS=(avian\* OR bird\*)

For each article, we extracted information on the year of study, the species of brood parasite(s) and host(s) involved, and the latitude and longitude of the field site location(s). For studies where field sites were listed but geographic coordinates were not provided, we added coordinates by either copying them from another study involving the same field site where the coordinates were listed, or manually finding a field site’s coordinates aided by the results returned by the *Google* search engine and the software, *Google Earth*. Studies were placed into one of six study categories: ‘field-based’, ‘laboratory-based’, ‘museum and/or collection-based’, ‘molecular and/or genomic’, ‘review and/or meta-analysis’, and ‘theoretical and/or computational’. The complexity of the studied system used in each paper was also classified as one of four brood parasite–host interaction categories: one-to-one (i.e. one brood parasite and one host), one-to-many, many-to-one and many-to-many (see Figure 1). Theoretical hosts (i.e. species for which there is no evidence of being a host to a brood parasite) or species that were non-native to the study area, were excluded from the dataset along with the respective field sites where the species were studied. Where a cell reads “NA” this is because data was not provided in the article (e.g. study site was not given) or was not applicable to the study (e.g. study did not work with more than one species of brood parasite).

The file “parasite\_host\_FINAL\_LIST.csv” is a list of all documented obligate avian brood parasites and their hosts based on Lowther (2012, 2017, 2019a, b, c, d) and the studies collated for the analysis of past research. Species names follow Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International (2019) taxonomy.

**References**

Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International. (2019). Handbook of the Birds of the World and BirdLife International digital checklist of the birds of the world. Version 4.

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Lowther, P.E. (2019a). *Host list of avian brood parasites 1, Anatidae*. Available at: https://www.fieldmuseum.org/sites/default/files/heteronetta-ver12aug2019.pdf. Last accessed 28 February 2020.

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Lowther, P.E. (2019d). *Lists of victims and hosts of the parasitic cowbirds (Molothrus)*. Available at: https://www.fieldmuseum.org/sites/default/files/molothrus-hosts-ver-09aug2019.pdf. Last accessed 28 February 2020.