



## Acknowledgements

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## Foreword

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**A**vian medicine has been an integral part of veterinary medicine for a long time, but still relatively few veterinarians include members of the avian species among their patients. This is rapidly changing as companion birds become increasingly popular. The economic and emotional value of these pets is significant. Veterinarians who have adequate education and talent to provide services for companion and aviary birds have a competitive advantage in private practices.

*Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* fills a critical need for a reference and medical text capable of raising the standard of veterinary care for birds. It can be predicted that users of this text will become more competent, provide improved service to their patients and clients and, realizing their limitations, understand when to refer cases to colleagues with more expertise. The scope of this work is comparable to that of other reference texts that have been available for many years for most of the other animal species with which veterinarians practice their art and science. For companion avian practitioners, the book documents the scientific basis for veterinary practice that benefits these animals. *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* also marks a stage in the maturity and acceptance of avian species as patients for veterinary practitioners.

Veterinarians and other scientists interested in the avian species will recognize the considerable efforts that the editors and authors have made. *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* is rooted in fact and made relevant to practice by the experience of the

contributors. These experiences, when combined with scientific facts derived from dispersed literature sources as a foundation, plus the excellent illustrations, come together in a way that makes *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* a powerful tool for education.

Education in avian medicine is expanding in some of our veterinary colleges. Some colleges have strong, internationally recognized programs in poultry and/or companion avian medicine. These programs are likely to provide centers of excellence for all veterinary students interested in birds. This book will be a resource to stimulate and enhance that student interest.

Avian medicine has a great future. New standards based on comprehensive scientific information are available. In the past, much empirical or clinical experience information was held by relatively few practitioners. Their experiences, while shared through traditional continuing education programs and some publications, were not widely accepted as having a strong scientific foundation. This book provides critical linkage between scientific data and clinical experience. Time will prove the acceptance and usefulness of the efforts of the editors and authors. I commend them for their contribution to veterinary medicine and appreciate having this opportunity to provide a few introductory thoughts.

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