



Preface

With the increased need for competent avian practitioners and the formation of avian specialty programs worldwide, clinicians as well as academicians will be required to have a more comprehensive understanding of applied anatomy, physiology, internal medicine, pharmacology, disease management and preventive medicine.

Avian Medicine: Principles and Application has evolved to reflect this change and provides its readers with a definitive reference text that blends the science of health with the art of clinical medicine.

This book was designed to provide relevant information for every reader: it introduces the beginner to avian medicine; it provides a learning opportunity for the veterinary student; it stimulates the seasoned practitioner to expand and deepen his diagnostic and therapeutic skills; and it heightens the awareness of the avicultural community to state-of-the-art medical care.

By applying the information presented in this book, the competent avian practitioner will be able to effectively provide the highest quality care for his patients and guide the companion bird client or aviculturist in implementing an effective preventive health program.

Beginning practitioners can learn basic evaluation, support and surgical techniques while developing an expanded understanding of advanced procedures that can be performed by specialists in avian medicine and surgery.

Most of the principles in this book have been detailed with respect to psittacine birds. In general, these principles can be applied to the care of other avian species. For example, information presented in the endocrinology, theriogenology, cardiology and flock management sections of the book may be applicable to ratites, pheasants or waterfowl.

With the restriction of bird imports, it is now necessary for aviculturists to produce all companion birds in the United States. The success of this endeavor will depend on continued exchange of knowledge be-

tween the aviculturist and the veterinarian. It is hoped that this book will emphasize the importance of this liaison, even if in a consulting capacity.

According to philosopher Emmet Fox, “The mere acquisition of fresh knowledge received intellectually makes no change in the soul.” Likewise, scanning the book for drug doses will not improve the quality of one’s avian practice. A commitment to studying and applying the principles set forth in this book will.

Readers may be encouraged to approach this book, especially some of the comprehensive “core” chapters, from a new perspective. For example, study groups may be developed to systematically examine the individual chapters and discuss their application to the care of birds.

No matter how the book is approached — from group study, individual investigation or as reference for a clinical case, the challenge to the reader is to improve the health of birds by fully applying the information provided in this text.

Advancement in the field of avian medicine will require all interested individuals and allied industries to provide the means necessary to advance our understanding of birds through sound, well designed, clinically relevant research. It was the intention of the authors and editors of this book to stimulate its readers to become actively involved in the advancement of avian medicine.

Although the amount of information concerning the care of companion and aviary birds is increasing at incredible speeds, there are times when one has to concede that, with regard to avian medicine we don’t even know what we still don’t know. This paradox can only be resolved by constantly investigating the unknown, and applying newly derived information to the resolution of identified problems.

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