
Preface

This book is intended to be an introduction to what I consider to be the essentials of ornithology; those areas of the broader biology of birds that are, in my view, the minimum that a student of ornithology should know. In writing the text I am aware that in places I could have included more depth, and that in places I could have provided a broader treatment, but my aim was to produce a relatively short useful text and so I was unable to follow through every avenue of thought—no matter how much I should have liked to!

Instead, by covering a breadth of material and by restricting myself to case studies that should be accessible to all, I hope that I have provided the reader with a 'way in' to academic ornithology.