
Preface

Early in 2013 Charles Deeming (DCD) was asked by a colleague, Carl Soulsbury, if he was ever going to produce a second edition of *Avian Incubation*. The immediate response was 'probably not' largely because much of the information in the book was still valid, it would be time-consuming to update those chapters that needed it, and it was unlikely that the original contributing authors would want to be involved. Shortly after this brief discussion DCD attended a production meeting for a television programme about hatching of eggs and he was struck by the enthusiasm of the people involved directed towards the processes of development and incubation in birds. It was on the homeward train journey following this meeting that DCD came up with the concept of a sequel to *Avian Incubation* (now available to access for free at: www.oup.co.uk/companion/avianincubation2002 [username: avianincubation password: BH9WLxbh]) that brought the field up to date and complemented the original work. Having sketched a few titles for chapters, DCD then sought some feedback from friends and colleagues about the quality of the idea and questioned whether they would like to contribute to a new book about avian incubation? One such colleague was Jim Reynolds (SJR) who was very enthusiastic and made the rash suggestion that perhaps he could be involved in some way—certainly to produce a chapter or two at least or even to be an editor. Perhaps it was a moment of weakness on SJR's part, but having co-written papers in the past and sharing similar research interests, DCD took him up on his offer.

Thereafter, together we planned the layout of the book and approached prospective authors. Once we were close to a finished plan, we approached Ian Sherman, commissioning editor at Oxford University Press (OUP), the publisher of *Avian Incubation*, to sound him out on the idea. Receiving a generally positive response, we pressed on with our plans and presented a preliminary detailed plan for the book in which more

than half of the chapters had initial commitments from contributing authors. Fortunately, following review by OUP editors and expert referees, the publishers decided to commit to the project and we spent 2014 commissioning chapter drafts and liaising with authors to produce a completed set of chapters by the start of 2015. We are very pleased with the finished volume.

We are grateful to all of the authors who have contributed to this new book, without whom it would be much less of a reference work of value and would have taken much longer to prepare. Very many thanks to the following reviewers who assisted (sometimes at very short notice and within tight timeframes) with our assessment of the content of individual chapters: Glenn Baggott, Helga Gwinner, Daniel Hanley, Mike Hansell, Helen James, Doug Mock, Ruedi Nager, Richard Sibley, Tim Sparks, Patrick Walsh, and Simone Webber. We thank Ian Sherman and Lucy Nash at OUP for their support throughout this project. Many thanks go to Oliver Smart for the cover image.

DCD must thank Carl Soulsbury for planting the seed of this idea, which has proved to be very interesting and rewarding. DCD is always grateful for the patience of his family, Roslyn, Katherine, and Emily for persevering with his working at home. If, however, you want to pity someone then spare a thought for Millie the dog who during 2014 perhaps didn't have quite as many walks as she would have liked! Most of all DCD would like to thank SJR for his enthusiastic help on this project.

SJR must thank DCD for his initial approach about contributing to the book and for making it sound so exciting that he could not resist asking additional questions! SJR thanks his family, Laine, Tom, and Drew for their endless patience while countless hours were invested in writing, reviewing, and editing chapters. Without them, this never would have happened.

Charles Deeming (Lincoln) and Jim Reynolds
(Birmingham)
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