

PREFACE

Urban bird ecology is not a new field in ornithology. One need look no further than the rich literature from Europe and such classic works as Emlen's 1974 *Condor* article on urban birds in Tucson, Arizona, to recognize the deep roots of study of urban birds. However, interest in urban bird ecology, and urban ecology more generally, waned after the 1970s, with relatively few studies appearing until the late 1990s. The turning point among many of us with interests in urban birds came about with the 2001 publication of *Avian Ecology in an Urbanizing World* (Marzluff et al. 2001). In this volume appeared a number of papers on urban bird distributions, gradient analysis, and scale, to name a few, that demonstrated how understudied, important, and ultimately fascinating the world of urban bird ecology was to science. As many readers of this current volume can surely attest, the volume now stands as a seminal work in the field less than a decade after its publication.

In the spring of 2005, several of the authors from *Avian Ecology in an Urbanizing World* attended the Emerging Issues along Urban/Rural Interfaces: Linking Science and Society conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Over dinner one evening with Roarke Donnelly, Mark Hostetler, Jim Miller, and ourselves, the question arose as to what had been learned since 2001. This dinner conversation led to the idea for a symposium at the IV North American Ornithological Conference to be

held in Veracruz, Mexico, during the fall of 2006 that would highlight five years of progress in urban bird ecology. Subsequently, a proposal for the meeting was put forward and accepted, entitled "New Directions in Urban Bird Ecology and Conservation." What we originally proposed as a half-day symposium grew into a full day of 21 talks, with more potential talks submitted to the conference than we had time slots available. The symposium was heavily attended during the meeting, and it was evident to us that interest in urban birds was growing!

Upon seeing the symposium title and talks, Dr. Carl Marti invited us to develop it into a volume for the Studies in Avian Biology series. Following the symposium we set out to produce a volume based not only on the talks, but also involving other noted urban bird ecologists. Thus, our goal was to provide a sequel of sorts to *Avian Ecology in an Urbanizing World*. The volume before you represents both classic approaches and new ideas in urban bird ecology and conservation from around the world. Some authors were recruited with targeted invitations, but we also chose to open the volume to submissions from any participants in the 2006 symposium to provide a mix of both established urban bird ecologists and investigators new to the field. We are pleased that the ultimate body of works includes a wide diversity of topics, locations, and ideas to help move our field forward.

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LITERATURE CITED

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