

Preface

Ecology and the natural sciences have not tended to be technology-oriented subjects, as many monitoring techniques depend on human skills. However, technology not only follows from a need, it can also suggest applications, as the use of camera traps has shown, with an increasing number of researchers realising their value.

At present, wildlife CCTV is mainly used by large organisations such as wildlife trusts, wildlife parks and gardens, and is generally installed by CCTV technicians. However much of the technology and many of the applications do not require as much technical knowledge as might at first appear, and I believe that usage will only develop if it can be implemented by CCTV 'non-experts'.

The applications described in this book are based in the UK. In other countries distance and climate may be more challenging, as may the nature of the wildlife subjects. Equipment will need greater protection if monitoring potentially destructive wildlife, or if carried out in extreme climates. However, CCTV principles will be the same wherever they are used, and the great variety of wildlife found in countries other than the UK will supply a huge range of subjects to study.

CCTV is, I believe, the next logical step in wildlife monitoring, and in its various forms can enrich the experience of the wildlife enthusiast and increase the repertoire of the ecology consultant and the researcher

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March 2016