



ABOUT THE COVER

A Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) swoops from the air to capture a mouse running in total darkness. Thanks to its asymmetrically positioned ears, the Barn Owl can locate prey quickly and accurately at night. The owl needs only to tilt its head up or down to equalize input to its two ears, pinpointing the location of the mouse. It can locate mouse sounds to within 1 degree in both the vertical and the horizontal planes. In comparison, humans can locate sounds about as well as a Barn Owl in the horizontal plane but only one-third as well in the vertical plane. (See page 194 for details.) This image is a composite of high-speed photographs.

"This text comfortably straddles the necessity of presenting basic up-to-date information about birds with the intrigue and mystery of science in action."

DOUG LEVEY, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

"Gill knows the avian literature. It is clear that he has a wealth of information and knowledge that he is presenting to the reader. The chapters cover the topics completely."

FRED WASSERMAN, BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Instructor and student resources available online at www.whfreeman.com.gill3e



W. H. Freeman and Company
41 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10010
Houndmills, Basingstoke RG21 6XS, England

COVER DESIGN: VICKI TOMASELLI
COVER PHOTOS: ANDY HARMER/PHOTO RESEARCHERS, INC.

