

Preface

The idea for this book came about when Navjot and Cagan were having dinner in Palo Alto (California) in December 2006. With this book, we basically wanted to advance the field of conservation ornithology. Our hope was that such a book would facilitate more, and sorely needed research on tropical birds. In order to achieve comprehensive coverage in expertise and geography, we invited Jos and Scott to the project.

The resulting book is the first on the major issues in tropical bird conservation presented in a contemporary conceptual and empirical framework. We provide an up-to-date summary of the conservation problems faced by tropical birds and outline potential solutions. Because birds are the best known group and are key indicators of ecosystem health, they provide an excellent lens through which to observe and understand global conservation problems such as climate change, declines in ecosystem services, habitat loss, fires, overexploitation, and invasive species. Therefore, the book also provides an engaging synopsis of the major issues in tropical conservation and the problems also faced by other tropical wildlife. We have attempted to cover key tropical and subtropical areas around the globe, but our scope is limited mainly to terrestrial birds. The broad ecological approach should prove complementary to the detailed species' accounts provided by Birdlife International.

With millions of individuals around the world passionately engaged in observing and conserving tropical birds, this book will serve as an important resource and companion to all the people interested in birds and committed to studying and conserving them. The book is written in an accessible fashion so that it can be used by advanced undergraduate and graduate students.

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