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## Clinical Avian Medicine

Edited by **Greg J. Harrison, DVM, Dipl Emeritus ABVP-Avian Practice, Dipl ECAMS n.p.** and **Teresa L. Lightfoot, DVM, Dipl ABVP-Avian Practice**

Clinical Avian Medicine is the much-anticipated follow-up to the 1994 landmark text, *Avian Medicine: Principles and Applications* or, as most people refer to it, "Ritchie, Harrison and Harrison." I believe that the new text offers many improvements over the older one, and that Drs. Harrison and Lightfoot have produced the most current, informative and illustrative clinical avian text to date.

The volumes are well organized, and each chapter is written by recognized experts in the field of avian medicine.

Maximizing Information from the Physical Exam is an amazing chapter with useful hints and good photographs of normal and abnormal physical exam findings. The chapter on therapeutics is actually a 100-page, single-spaced formulary with a reference for every drug dose. Integrative therapy and low-risk pest management include information not likely to be found in any other avian or exotic text. Evaluation and treatment of the major body systems are covered, starting in Volume I and continuing in Volume II.

The hematology and the biochemistry sections are extremely useful. The endoscopy section provides a great illustrated review, and the necropsy chapter contains exceptional photographs of normal prosections with the important anatomic features clearly marked.

### + On the Plus Side

The editors and their 48 contributors have succeeded in creating a user-friendly and visually informative text. There are hundreds of high-quality color photographs that occur throughout the text rather than in isolated sections containing "color plates."

The diagrams, charts and graphs incorporate color and shading to make the presentation of information as clear as possible. This is especially helpful in chapters that are chart-intensive, such as those covering nutrition and the endocrine system. The index is user friendly: if a topic is found in more than 4 or 5 places, it is further broken down for easy location. In general, chapters appear to be well referenced.

### - On the Minus Side

While there is no doubt that Clinical Avian Medicine will become a new benchmark for avian medicine and surgery, I was puzzled by several omissions. There are no chapters devoted to the respiratory system, bacterial disease or parasites. Many references to these topics are found throughout the text; however, I would have preferred to have been able to "thumb through" individual chapters on these subjects. There is also no specific anatomy section.

There were several chapters that were shorter than I expected. The section on diagnostic imaging contains only 7 pages. It includes only a few normal radiographic images and no pathologic ones. The section on orthopedic surgery is also relatively short. It lacks many of the diagrams of splints and other examples of fracture repair found in other avian texts. The chapter *Chlamydophila psittaci* is less than a single printed page and has only 2 references. In Dr. Harrison's previous book, this same topic encompassed 13 pages and over 50 references. Even though important aspects of this topic were presented elsewhere in the volumes, I believe many readers would have appreciated that it be covered in detail in one place.

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Clinical Avian Medicine is aimed at avian veterinarians, but it will also be of value to aviculturists and others with an interest in avian husbandry and disease. It is an outstanding resource that has set a new standard for avian texts because of its superior graphics and readability. If a picture is worth a thousand words, then no avian text to date can come close to conveying information as clearly as this one. Clinical Avian Medicine updates *Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* and complements the older text without replacing it. The newer text covers many topics that were not presented in the older text while not attempting to cover some that were. "Harrison-Lightfoot" will sit on my bookshelf right alongside "Ritchie, Harrison and Harrison."

