BOOK REVIEWS


In recent years, avian diagnostic imaging has improved in terms of quality and available techniques. Simultaneously, knowledge in the field has increased, and it is to be welcomed that a book summarizes these recent developments in the field of raptor medicine. The current book is divided into five main sections: radiographic procedures, radiographic anatomy, clinical radiographic conditions, diagnostic mistakes, and advanced imaging techniques. The included interactive DVD adds additional advanced imaging techniques, such as ultrasound, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and computed tomographic (CT) scanning.

In the first section, basic principles of raptor radiography are well described and illustrated with excellent photographs. The chapter includes useful remarks for both the general practitioner and experienced avian veterinarians and contributes to the production of good-quality radiographs. The second section of the book, and the most valuable section, illustrates the normal radiographic anatomy of nine different species of birds of prey, including falcons, hawks, eagles, and owls. For each species, good-quality, normal radiographs of the skull, whole body, wings, legs, and feet, each supplemented by a simple anatomical drawing, are most useful for interpretation and are recommended as a reference guide for similar radiographs. The following section illustrates clinical and pathologic conditions in standard radiographs, supplemented by clinical and macroscopic photographs of alterations. Representative radiographs were selected for traumatic problems, management-related diseases, infectious diseases, degenerative diseases, and neoplastic diseases. These radiographs are well described, and pathologic alterations are well labeled for identification. The most common diagnostic mistakes in radiographic positioning and interpretation are briefly illustrated in the fourth section. The last section of the book covers advanced imaging techniques and is supplemented by an interactive DVD. An introduction to these relatively new techniques in avian medicine, including ultrasound, MRI, and CT scanning, introduces the interested veterinarian to these new diagnostics. As a result of its limited extensiveness, it is a pictorial glimpse into the future and might stimulate others to use these techniques when they are available.

In conclusion, this book is a well-illustrated and well-explained pictorial reference with respect to radiographic interpretation and can be highly recommended to any clinician or veterinary student involved with birds of prey. —Hanspeter W. Steinmetz, M.Sc., Dr. med. vet., Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Clinic for Zoo Animals, Exotic Pets and Wildlife, Zürich, 8057 Switzerland (hsteinmetz@vetclinics.uzh.ch).


The editor and primary author of this book is a Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Baghdad University’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Iraq. He has assembled a multiauthor team that includes faculty members from other veterinary schools and veterinary centers in such places as Jordan, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, and Oman. Each author has done a commendable job.

The book consists of 30 chapters. The first nine chapters are general interest topics covering such subjects as the history of domestication, socioeconomics, breeds, husbandry, production, and camel sports. Chapter 10 covers nutrition and does so well, but the repeated use of the incorrect term “rumen” interspersed with more accurate and precise anatomic nomenclature is off-putting. Chapter 11 covers metabolic and nutritional deficiencies, Chapter 12 physical and chemical disorders, and Chapter 13 physical examinations.

Starting with Chapter 14, organ systems are covered in turn: digestive, endocrine, female reproduction, male reproduction, urinary, respiratory, nervous, cardiovascular, hematopoietic, musculoskeletal, and skin. Not surprisingly, the reproduction chapters are the most detailed. Chapter 26 is an overview of infectious diseases and is oddly formatted, as though the proofs ended up at the printers. The last chapters cover viral, bacterial, fungal, and parasitic disease and are probably the strongest in the book.

The book is illustrated with many black and white photographs, perhaps more than necessary. Tables are few, but the ones included are useful. Appendices are lacking, but all the chapters appear to be rigorously referenced. A few typographical errors were noted throughout the text but were uncommon and not overly distressing, considering the foreign authorship.

Texts on camel medicine are not common; the only other one I have is a hardbound Proceedings of the First International Camel Conference held in 1992 in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Although this new text is not perfect, it should be useful to any zoo library or zoo veterinarian whose collection includes these species, as well as to private practitioners who treat camels and biologists whose interests include the Tylopoda. I found several different sites online to purchase this text, with prices ranging from $70.00 to $225.00. —Ned Gentz, M.S., D.V.M., Dipl. A.C.Z.M., Albuquerque Biological Park, 903 Tenth St SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102, USA. (ngentz@cabq.gov).