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Marthina Greer
Iowa State University

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**Book News**

**Caged Bird Medicine/Selected Topics**

by Marthina Greer*

The authors have written a book designed for a small animal practitioner who sees the common problems encountered when treating caged and aviary birds. It was written not to cover all aspects of caged bird medicine, but to "provide the basic information required to diagnose and treat the common disease conditions of pet birds."

The species and anatomy of caged birds are discussed and well illustrated. The basics of a physical exam, general signs of illness, and additional diagnostic procedures which may be used are discussed. The nutrition for different species is listed in table form. Methods of medicating, routes, and dosages are given for drugs which would commonly be used.

Diseases of the respiratory and digestive systems, Psittacosis, Pacheco's disease, and Newcastle's disease are thoroughly discussed including symptoms, diagnosis, lesions, treatment, prevention, and epidemiology. Also discussed are nutritional and metabolic diseases, lameness, tumors and egg-binding, anesthesia (both local and general), first aid, and post mortem examination. Additional material of value that is often overlooked, such as saving and cleaning oiled birds and the care and feeding of orphaned birds, are covered.

At the end of each chapter is a list of questions which the reader can use to quiz himself on the contents of that chapter.

The book has no photographs, but does include a number of line drawings which do an excellent job of illustrating the anatomy, breeds, and disease conditions discussed in the adjacent text. There are also a number of tables covering rations, diseases, medications, and treatments.

The appendix includes examples of forms which can be used for: an owner history form, a checklist for examination of the cage, a physical exam form, and instructions to an owner taking his bird home from the hospital. The authors have intended these to be copied and used by the clinician.

This book should be ideal reading and reference material for the clinician whose experience in dealing with caged birds is limited but would like to expand his knowledge and improve his expertise in this area.


*Ms. Greer is a fourth year student in the College of Veterinary Medicine, ISU.*

*Iowa State Veterinarian*