

Acknowledgements

I thank Dawn Frith for her inexpressibly appreciated love, companionship, interest, advice, copy editing, index production, constructive criticism and unsurpassably diverse support. To John Disney and Peter Fullagar I owe a considerable debt of thanks: they played a pivotal role in bringing the Woodhen back from the brink of extinction. Both graciously accepted my proposed intention to write this book and generously supported my efforts throughout my researches by providing published and unpublished texts, information, photographs, constructive discussion, advice and criticism. Draft chapters they wrote – including information about exotic introductions, Woodhen studies and conservation efforts – were of particular value. Peter generously prepared and supplied the sonograms.

Glenn Fraser, who was responsible for the success of the Woodhen Captive Breeding Programme kindly made his notes available to Disney and Fullagar, and these are edited and paraphrased in Appendix 1 herein. My gratitude to Fraser is as great as is my admiration of his avicultural skills. In addition, he generously read drafts of Chapter 7 and Appendix 1 to offer constructive criticism, resulting in improvements and provided discussion and photographs.

Robert Harden, who long studied wild Woodhens, most generously made available a draft of a paper by him, John Robertshaw, David McFarland and Justin Billing, the important significance of which to our understanding of Woodhen biology is clear herein. Robert also provided valuable constructive thought and criticism on drafts of several chapters. David Priddle, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW), kindly provided and discussed Woodhen banding data and also offered valuable constructive criticism on several draft chapters.

I am particularly grateful to Ian Hutton, long-term resident Lord Howe Island ornithologist, naturalist, conservationist and fine photographer, for generously sharing his profound knowledge of the island and its avifauna in general and the Woodhen in particular. I first saw his 2005 book *The Woodhen: from the Brink of Extinction* on my visit to Lord Howe in January 2008 and it played a part in stimulating my enthusiasm for undertaking this one. Ian also kindly provided constructive criticism of the draft chapters of this book and most generously provided particularly fine and pertinent photographs.

My good and admired friends Stanley and Kaisa Breeden kindly read the first half of the book and offered helpful constructive thought, discussion and criticism. Walter Boles and Patricia Egan of the Australian Museum kindly provided advice and material, for which I am most grateful, as did my good friends Stephen Garnett, Frank Steinheimer and Eddy Mills. For generously contributing valuable images I thank Frank Allen, John Disney, Glenn Fraser, Peter Fullagar, Ian Hutton, Helen Lansdowne, Lord Howe Island Museum, Ederic Slater and Ian Woodforth. My thanks also to the Australian State and National libraries and their staff for invaluable help in finding various texts, illustrations and permission to reproduce as is indicated in captions. I also sincerely thank those who provided photographs and permission to reproduce them, as is acknowledged in their captions.