

## PREFACE

Many North American ecosystems evolved under the influence of wildfire. Nevertheless, for much of the twentieth century, land managers concentrated their fire management activities on minimizing the amount of land that burned. The 1980s saw wider acceptance of fire with both wild and managed fire commonly incorporated into land management plans. Interest in this topic grew over the course of several years during informal discussions between the editors and organizers of the Third International Partners in Flight Conference in Asilomar, California in 2002. Those discussions led to a half-day symposium organized by one of us (VAS) that was held during the Partners in Flight Conference.

The focus of the symposium was to evaluate patterns in the way humans have altered fire regimes and to examine the consequences on populations of birds and their habitats throughout North America. The symposium was intended from the onset to serve as the basis for a volume of *Studies in Avian Biology*. Most of the 11 chapters contained in this volume are based on symposium presentations, although not all topics discussed in the symposium are represented here (e.g., Mexico).

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