

Acknowledgments

For their instrumental work in envisioning the organization of this landmark report, we thank H. R. Pulliam, former director of the National Biological Service, and others, including G. Frampton, R. O'Malley, M. Ruggerio, T. Sisk, and the late T. LaRoe. We also appreciate the many constructive suggestions and the guidance of G. Farris, co-editor of *Our Living Resources: A Report to the Nation on the Distribution, Abundance, and Health of U.S. Plants, Animals, and Ecosystems*.

We realize that this report would not have been possible without the dedication, graphic design, editorial work, management, guidance, and good instincts of the following people: T. Charron, G. Farris, M. C. Hager, and B. Vairin of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center; N. Batik of Pleiades Publishing, and L. Stroh Huckaby of Fort Collins, CO.

Likewise, we gratefully acknowledge others who helped improve the report with information, support, or other work. R. Gregory, and staff including J. Cox, C. Lemos, M. Nichols, E. Rockwell, P. Vohs, and J. Zuboy, provided editing, review, and development of the report

in its early stages. For their generous support and for improvement of this project in many areas, we also thank J. Buys, R. Davis, M. Hixon, D. McGrath, S. Price, and H. Turner of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center; L. Barkow, R. Dodd, and M. Kirby of the Bureau of Land Management; and J. Shoemaker, P. Smith, R. Stendell, L. Lucke, and M. Dodson of the USGS Midcontinent Ecological Science Center; D. Morris, formerly of the USGS National Wetlands Research Center; and C. Savitt and his staff at Island Press.

Many photographers, both inside and outside our agency, graciously contributed their original photographs for use in the report. Their names are given in the photo credits in the body of the report. In addition, we appreciate the many publishers, state agencies, universities, and private organizations that allowed us to reproduce figures at no cost to the government.

We also thank the peer reviewers of the chapters and highlight boxes in this report; we believe their insightful comments and reviews help make this report scientifically sound.