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From the Editor

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From the Editor

Avian biology is no different than other scientific disciplines in being supported by a number of foundational principles. Some of these principles are the result of plentiful empirical evidence, whereas others have much less support. Nevertheless, it seems to me that people in general are most comfortable when there is a common set of truths that are widely held. Professionals summarize these principles in textbooks, and professors in turn teach them to generations of students. Yet advances in science are often achieved when a prevailing paradigm is challenged.

In this volume, Kevin Winker challenges major aspects of the allopatric speciation model. Differentiation in geographically separated populations led to the development, and subsequent general acceptance, of the allopatric model. Winker suggests, however, that differentiation and speciation without multigenerational spatial isolation is widespread in seasonally migratory animals.

Publication of Winker's manuscript illustrates one of the values of a monograph series. When I read the manuscript I initially concluded that it could be substantially reduced in size and shifted to a journal feature article. Upon reflection, however, I realized that there are some topics that require detailed explanations and development of multiple interacting issues; and this is especially true when all or part of a prevailing paradigm is being challenged.

This monograph is certainly not the last word on models of speciation. In fact, in developing his model, Winker invokes resource competition, which has its own underlying assumptions and associated critics. My hope is that this monograph will encourage additional debate and subsequent refinement of models and, thus, advances in our understanding of speciation. This new monograph is a timely addition to the recently published *Ornithological Monographs No. 67* on avian subspecies. Let the debate continue.

Michael L. Morrison