

# CONTENTS

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Contents .....  | 5   |
| Preface .....   | 7   |
| Acknowledgements .....  | 9   |
| Introduction .....  | 11  |
| Glossary .....  | 15  |
| <i>Section 1. Background</i>  |     |
| Chapter 1. The Origin .....   | 19  |
| Chapter 2. What is special about passerine birds? .....   | 27  |
| Chapter 3. The troubled route to an understanding of the relationships among passerine birds .....                          | 35  |
| Chapter 4. Research methods used for interpreting passerine evolution .....   | 39  |
| <i>Section 2. Classification and families of passerine birds</i>  |     |
| Chapter 5. An updated classification of passerine birds .....   | 45  |
| Chapter 6. The suboscine passerines .....   | 65  |
| Chapter 7. Suborder Passeri: the basal oscine families .....  | 115 |
| Chapter 8. Cohort Corvides: the crow-like passerines .....  | 131 |
| Chapter 9. Infraorder Passerides and the 'higher' songbirds .....   | 169 |
| Chapter 10. Superfamily Paroidea: the tits and their allies .....   | 185 |
| Chapter 11. Superfamily Sylvioidea: the Old World warblers and their allies .....   | 191 |
| Chapter 12. Superfamily Certhioidea: creepers and wrens .....   | 237 |
| Chapter 13. Superfamily Muscicapoidea: mockingbirds, starlings, chats,<br>Old World flycatchers, thrushes, and allies ..... | 245 |
| Chapter 14. Superfamily Passeroidea .....   | 263 |
| <i>Section 3. Thematic chapters</i>   |     |
| Chapter 15. The worldwide variation in biodiversity: some central questions and concepts .....                              | 319 |
| Chapter 16. How new species evolve .....  | 327 |
| Chapter 17. Global variation in species diversity .....   | 339 |
| Chapter 18. How species diversity accumulated over time .....   | 347 |
| Chapter 19. Conservation implications .....   | 363 |
| Chapter 20. Synthesis .....   | 369 |
| Appendix 1. A short earth history: how the earth changed during the era of passerine birds .....                            | 375 |
| Appendix 2. An updated chronology of passerine birds .....  | 387 |
| References .....  | 397 |
| Index .....   | 433 |