Acknowledgments

We are indebted to three of our colleagues with whom we have collaborated for many years and who have directly or indirectly contributed much of the code, and more, documented in this book: Andy Royle, Olivier Gimenez, and Bob Dorazio. Over the years, they have been extremely generous in helping us to learn how to use WinBUGS efficiently and correctly. We thank the following people who have read and commented on parts or the book or helped otherwise: Andy Royle, Fitsum Abadi, Raphaël Arlettaz, Florent Bled, Richard Chandler, David Fletcher, Beth Gardner, Olivier Gimenez, Vidar Grøtan, Jérôme Guélat, Ali Johnston, Fränzi Korner Nievergelt, Bill Link, Mike Meredith, Jim Nichols, Marco Perrig, Tobias Roth, Beni Schmidt, and Giacomo Tavecchia. We are grateful to Steven Beissinger for writing an inspiring foreword. We furthermore thank the people who provided data sets, as well as the photographers who gave us their great shots of some of the organisms behind the numbers we crunch. The participants at our workshops (Sempach 2010 and 2011; Patuxent 2010) have been extremely important to try out what works and what does not and for honing our book, which is meant to be a gentle introduction to Bayesian statistical population modeling for exactly this kind of audience. Specifically, we are indebted to Andy Royle and his colleagues at Patuxent for hosting the BPA workshop in November 2011. We also thank our employers, the Swiss Ornithological Institute (www.vogelwarte.ch) and the Laboratory of Conservation Biology (www.cb.iee.unibe.ch) at the University of Berne, for giving us creative time for research and writing. Finally, we feel a deep gratitude to our families, especially our wives Susana and Christine, for their love and patience and for granting us the freedom required to write this book.