PREFACE

Writing this book in the *Functional Biology Series* has allowed me to combine two of my major academic interests, research on the biology of the sticklebacks and teaching courses on theoretical ecology. The purposes of the book are twofold. The first is to demonstrate that the theoretical framework in ecology and evolutionary biology that has been developed, much of it over the past two decades, can be used to illuminate our understanding of the ways in which animals function in everyday life. The second is to show that the knowledge that can only be gained by a close and detailed study of a taxon will be required to test critically this theoretical framework.

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