



FIGURE 9.16 Posterior end of the pleuroperitoneal cavity of the male pigeon in ventral view. Gizzard and small intestine removed to show urogenital structures, viscera, and vessels.

Return to the duodenum. Carefully dissect the connective tissue between its ascending and descending portions and the pancreas. You will reveal several structures, including the bile ducts and pancreatic ducts (Figure 9.15). There are three of the latter, but only two are readily apparent. Also, you will reveal a large vein, the **pancreaticoduodenal vein**, accompanied by the

smaller **pancreaticoduodenal artery**, associated with the pancreas.

Carefully uncoil the intestines to observe that the **posterior mesenteric vein**, a branch of the hepatic portal system, extends posteriorly and eventually joins the venous system of the posterior abdominal cavity (see Figures 9.16–9.18). Once the hepatic portal system has