ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted to Dr.K.Manimozhi, M.Sc., Ph.D., Lecturer (SS) in Zoology, Post Graduate and Research Division of Wildlife Biology and Zoology, A.V.C. College (Autonomus) Mannampandal for suggesting the problem, scientific freedom, magnanimous understanding, guidance and constant encouragement throughout the study.

My sincere thanks to Dr. R.Kanakasabai, M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D., Professor & Head, Post Graduate and Research Division of Wildlife Biology and Zoology, A.V.C College (Autonomus) Mannampandal, for his keen interest in research and for providing necessary infrastructure facilities in the department to pursue my research.

I am thankful to Prof.A.Rajamohan M.Sc., M.Phil., Principal, A.V.C., college for his support and facilities provided throughout the study period.

I wholeheartedly express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. G.Ramaswamy M.A., M.Sc., M.Phil., P.G.D.C.A., who has been deeply involved in my research work from statistical analysis of data to computer programming.

I am thankful to Dr. R.Sathiyamoorthi, Professor of statistics, Annamalai University, for his valuable suggestions in the statistical interpretation and analysis of data.

I express my special thanks to the Director, Bombay Natural history Society, Mumbai, for providing me with Brahminy kite weight index from the Point-calimere bird ringing station.

I am grateful to all my colleagues in the Department for their moral support.

I gratefully acknowledge the following experts in the field of raptor research for having sent the reprints and passed valuable suggestions, Dr.Sergej Postupalsky, Professor Emiretus, Madison, U.S.A., Dr.Charles J.Henny, Biological Resources Division, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem, Science Center, Corvallis, U.S.A, Dr.N.Woffinden, Professor of Biology, University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A, Dr.I.Newton, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Cambridgeshire, England, Dr.Fabian M.Jaksic, Professor of Ecology, Director of Academic Affairs, Santiago Chile, South America,
Dr. Joseph K. Schmutz, Professor, Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, Canada and Prof. Stephen Debus, Department of Zoology, The University of New England, Armidale, Australia.

I am much grateful to Dr. S. M. Ramaswamy, Head of the Department, Centre for Remote Sensing, School of Earth Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli, for permitting me to update the study area map through IRS - IA LISS II satellite Images with PROCOM facilities.


I place on record the valuable service rendered by Mrs. B. R. Computer Point, 28. S.P. Koil Street, Chidambaram for neat execution of the thesis.

Last but not the least to my wife Mrs. A. Therasammal M.A., M.Ed., my children A. Vinodh, A. Reena and A. Gayathri for their patience and encouragement throughout the period of my research.

(J. Alphonse Jayabalal)