ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I express my deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness to Dr. John George, M, Sr. Lecturer and Research guide, Department of Zoology, Mar Thoma College for Women, Perumbavoor, for his constant inspiration, valuable guidance, constructive criticisms and painstaking scrutiny of the manuscript during the course of this research work.

I greatly acknowledge the Bombay Natural History Society (Mumbai), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ministry of Environment and Forests for all sorts of help including financial assistance rendered during the early study period.

I place on record my deep sense of gratitude to Mr. T. M. Manoharan, former Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) for granting the permission to carry out the present study and also my sincere thanks are due to the following staff of Kerala Forest Department during my study period: Mr. Surendranathan Asari, PCCF, Mr. V. K. Sinha, CCF (Wildlife) and the Personnel of following Sanctuaries Aralam and Wyand and Silent Valley National Park.

I am greatly indebted to the Principal and staff, Department of Zoology, Mar Thoma college, Thiruvalla, the Principal and staff of the Department of Zoology, Mar Thoma college for Women, Perumbavoor for their support and cooperation during my research. I express my thanks to Mahatma Gandhi University for providing me JRF for one year, 2001.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. J. C. Daniel, Honorary Secretary and Dr. A. R. Rahmani, Director, BNHS for their support encouragement and constructive comments on our work throughout the tenure of my study.

With deep respect and esteem regards, I place my thanks to the following personell for their timely help rendered during the course of research; Dr. Neil B. Armantrout and Ms. Kimberly McClurg, US Fish & Wildlife Service; Dr. A. G. K. Menon, Scientist Emeritus, Dr. K. Remadevi, Zoological Survey of India, Chennai; Dr. B. F. Chaangar, Dr. Ranjit Manakadan, Dr. Gayatri Ugra (Bombay Natural History Society); Dr. C. K. G. Nayar and Dr. K. K. Subash Babu, Limnological Association of Kerala.
My sincere thanks are also to BNHS, KFRI, and M.G. University for providing me with necessary helps and library facilities.

I remember Dr. C.R. Ajithkumar, BNHS with gratitude for the guidance and advice given to me the earlier part of my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to my friends and co-researchers; Baby. V. S., Raju Thomas, K., Dr. Hillaljyothi Sinha, Seema, K, Biju, P. N, Ajithkumar, T.K, Shaju, C.J., Anoop. P. Anildevan, Dr. Biju Balakrishnan and Aanchal shetty for their affection. Constant encouragement and timely help.

Above all, I specially express my heartfelt gratitude to my wife LAYA, she was always around me through out the period of my thesis writing by helping me in data entry and typing and giving me moral support and love; my parents and brother (Unni) were the backbone of my success, I specially acknowledge Paviachan, Ratnamma, Laneesh, Vijayalakshmi teacher, Kannan, Gandmas, Nisha, Nishad with full heart for the moral support, incessant encouragement, timely persuasions and warm blessing.

C.R. BIJU