ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to Dr. M.C. Sathyanarayana, Reader, UGC Research Awardee and Research Adviser, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College (Autonomous), for suggesting the problem, inspiration, supervising and directing the work critically throughout the period of investigation.

I express my gratitude to Dr. M. Varadharajan, Principal, A.V.C. College for his support and constant encouragement.

I thank Dr. R. V. Radhakrishnan former Principal, A.V.C. College and presently Registrar of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli for rendering all assistance and facilities in the initial stage of my study.

I am very thankful to Prof. S. Swetharanyam, Head, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College for constant encouragement and support.

I am indebted to staff members of the Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College for their kind help and co-operation throughout the study.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for financial support.

I am indebted to Dr. S. Sathyakumar, Scientist E- and Head, Department of Endangered Species Management, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun who had deeply involved in the present study starting from designing, interpretation of results, for critical reading and comments on the manuscript.

My thanks are due to Dr. K. Ramesh, Project Scientist, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for his suggestions and providing relevant research publications.
Special thanks to the Doctoral Committee members Dr. S. Asokan, Reader, Department of Zoology and Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College and Dr. V. Gokula, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, National College, Tiruchirappalli, for their suggestions and encouragement during the study period.

I express my gratitude to Dr. Sukhdev Thakur, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Mr. C.K. Sreedharan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, Tamilnadu Forest Department, Chennai, Dr. V.K. Melkani, Conservator of Forest and Mr. R. Kannan, Conservator of Forest, Madurai Circle, Mr. K.G. Anand Naik and Mr. Srinivas R. Reddy, District Forest Officer, Theni Forest Division for having given me permission to carry out the present research programme.

I am grateful to Mr. P. Thangavelu, Assistant Conservator of Forests, Cumbam (Gudalur Range) and Mr. A. Aravarasan, Range Officer, Gudalur Range, Mr. R. Selvaraj, Forester and Mr. K. Palanisamy, Forester, Mr. S. Dhena Dhayalan, Forest Guard, Mr. S. Aarumugam, Forest Guard, Mr. P. Mayandi and Mr. K. Subburaj, Watchers for the help rendered during field studies.

The surveys involved in this investigation would have not been possible without the enthusiastic help of Mr. P. Lovi Doss, Mr. L. Ganesan, Mr. L. Kumar and Mr. P. Munusami, field assistants, frequently working under difficult conditions.

I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. M. Chokkalingam, Chief Engineer, Mr. S. Srinivasan, Executive Engineer, Mr. S. Anbazhagan, Superintending Engineer, Mr. P. Babu, Assistant Executive Engineer (Periyar Lower Camp – Gudalur), Mr. S. Natarajan, Assistant Engineer (Civil) Tamilnadu Electricity Board for having provided me Electricity Board staff quarters and for comfortable stay at Base Camp, Minnilayam, Gudalur, Theni Forest Division.

I express my gratitude to Mr. E. Petchimuthu, Assistant Engineer, Mr. S. Subramaniyan, Assistant Engineer, Mr. V. Ravi, Assistant Engineer and
Mr. R. Anbarasan, Assistant Engineer, Tamilnadu Electricity Board, Mr. R. Senkuttuvan, Post Master and Mr. R. Vivekanandan, Post man for their moral support and encouragements.

My special thanks are also due to Mr. M. Ashok kumar, Bombay Natural History Society for his help in statistical analysis of data and interpretation of results.

I am indebted to Dr. G. Selvanathan, Department of Chemistry, A.V.C. College for having helped me in the preparation of graphs and Mr. P. Richard Jegadeesam, Department of Visual Communication A.V.C. College for his help in Spectrograph analysis of Grey Junglefowl calls.

My sincere thanks to Dr. C. Subramanian and Mr. P. Kambarajan for their assistance and co-operation in the initial stage of my study. I am thankful to Messers G. Thomas Nithiyanandam, P. Radhakrishnan and Mohamed Samsoor Ali, Research scholars, A.V.C. College for their help in preparation of the thesis. The excellent technical assistance of Mr. C. Chakaravarthi, Technical Assistant, Ministry of Environment Project, A.V.C College in editing the photographs of my Ph. D., Thesis is gratefully acknowledged.

My thanks are due to Mr. K. Babu, Kerala Forest Research Institute and Mr. K. Srinivasan, Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History who provided me research publications.

I am grateful to Dr. C. Arivazhagan, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and Mr. S. Ram Kumar, Biologist, Tamilnadu Forest Department, Coimbatore for their help in preparation of Satellite Maps of Gudalur Range, Theni Forest Division.

I take this opportunity to thank Mr. K. Senthilnayagam, Librarian, A.V.C. College and the Librarians of Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore, Rapinat Herbarium, St. Joseph College, Tiruchirappalli, Loyola college, Chennai and Siddha Medical
College, Tirunelveli for giving permission to use the library facilities for my literature collection.

I am thankful to the Librarian, Wildlife Institute of India, Director, Bombay Natural History Society, Librarian, Salim Ali Center for Ornithology and Natural History for having sent the relevant literature.

I am grateful to Mr. K. Thiyagarajan, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Mr. P.P. Ayyappan, Programmer, Department of Computer Science, A.V.C. College for having provided me inter-net facilities to browse and download the relevant literature concerned with the present study.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Innasi Muthu, Director and Dr. Gabrial Paulraj, Research Associate, Entomological Research Laboratory, Loyola College, Chennai, Dr. K. Gunathilakaraj and Dr. M. Bharathi, Department of Agricultural Entomology, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore for their help in identification of insect remains recovered from the Grey Junglefowl pellets.

I thank Dr. V. Chelladurai, Research Officer and Dr. M. Padma Sorna Subramanian, Assistant Research Officer, Siddha Medical College, Palayankottai, Tirunelveli, Dr. S.J. Britto, Rapinat Herbarium, St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchirapalli, Dr. V. Karunanidhi, Reader and Mr. S.M. Nagarajan, Lecturer, Department of Plant Biology and Plant Biotechnology, A.V.C. College for their assistance in the identification of plants and seeds.

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. A. Veeramani, Periyar Foundation, Kerala, Dr. P. Kannan, Deputy Director, Madras Snake Park, Guindy and Dr. C. Sivaperuman, Expert Consultant, Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals, Chennai for their constant encouragement and the successful completion of my Ph. D., programme.
My special thanks to Mr. S.R. Ganesh, Mr. S.R. Chandramouli and Mr. P. Thirumalainathan, students of M. Sc., Wildlife Biology, A.V.C. College for having gone through the manuscript critically.

I am thankful to M/s. Students Xerox, Mayiladuthurai for extending their assistance in the alignment and printing the Ph. D., Thesis.

I express my sincere gratitude to my parents (Late) Thiru. V. Nallasivam and Mrs. N. Rukmani and my brother Mr. N. Palanivel who encouraged me at each and every stage of my study.