ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

At the eve of representing the investigations, I would like to express my heartiest thanks and deep sense of gratitude to Professor Amalash Dutta, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University, Guwahati under whose supervision, guidance and personal care I carried out this study. The encouragement and enlightenment received from him will be a constant source of inspiration for me not only in the present day but also throughout my life. It would not have been possible for me to complete this work without his mental boost.

I would express my heartiest thanks to Dr. Bodheswar Kalita, Head, Department of Zoology, Morigaon College, for his support, help and encouragement throughout the period.

I must offer my thanks to Prof. P.C. Bhattacharya (Retired), Department of Zoology for encouraging me to take this project. My thanks also go to Dr. P.K. Saikia, Reader, Department of Zoology, GU for his valuable suggestion in preparing the avifaunal section of the thesis.

I wish to express my sincere thanks and gratefulness to Sri Simanta Kumar Goswami, Director, Green Guard Nature Organisation; Sri Ranjan Kumar Borthakur, General Secretary for being generous and enough help in field works during the entire period. I would always remember with reverence the help and assistance I received from them.

I am taking the opportunity to render my sincere gratefulness to the Deputy Secretary, UGC, NERO for providing me the fellowship under FIP to carry out the research project.

I am also thankful to the Head of the Department of Zoology, GU for granting me the necessary permission to work in the laboratory.

I cannot possibly adequately express my gratitude to my wife Nilakshi Bhuyan, M.Sc. for her all sorts of inspiration and assistance in every step of the
project and mental support right from the starting till its completion. I must also thank my son Prajnanjyoti (Rupam) and Pratyush Ranjan (Deepam) for their help in various computer works of their own and memorizing me about computer applications.

I am also thankful to Dr. H.K. Deva Sharma, Principal, Morigaon College, D. Patar, Chandra Tamuly and Gopal Das for their timely help in various official procedures.

My words of thanks are also expressed for Digant Goswami, Prashanta Goswami, Kandarpa Bordoloi, Sachidananda Bordoloi, Jiten Das and Pranabjyoti Patar all from Green Guard Nature Organisation for their help in various survey works and Dhananjay Kusre, Dept of Zoology, Morigaon College and Nirod Kumar Bora M.Sc. Morigaon H.S & M.P. School for their valuable suggestions. Special thanks are due to Sri Niranjan Bhagobaty, Senior Technical Officer, Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology for his excellent help in the statistical and analytical works for completion of the thesis. M/S Das Graphics & Offset Press, Maligaon, Guwahati – 11 for setting and designing of the thesis also deserves my thanks.

I finally dedicate this work to my parents who always showed me the right way and the good wishes of all my near and dear ones who have given me the mental strength to achieve my dream.

Date: 23.08.2011
Place: Guwahati

(Kamal Chandra Bhuyan)