ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I feel privileged to express my deep sense of gratitude to my inspiring teacher and Supervisor Professor M.Y. Qadri, Director, Centre of Research for Development, University of Kashmir, Srinagar for introducing me to the field of Wildlife Ecology. I feel indebted to him for his unstinted guidance, invaluable suggestions and constructive criticism, which enabled me to accomplish the task.

I am also grateful to Prof. D.P. Zutshi, Centre of Research for Development, University of Kashmir for his invaluable suggestions and guidance during the field work as well as at the time of compilation.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. B.A. Subla, Controller of Examinations, University of Kashmir, Srinagar for his sincere suggestions.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Mir Inayatullah, Ex Chief Wildlife Warden and Mr. Ab. Rasheed Wani the present Chief Wildlife Warden, Department of Wildlife Protection, J&K State for permitting me to undertake studies in the wetlands. My sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Mohd. Ramzan Dar, Mr. O.N. Koul, Rangers Lake's Division and Mr. Gafar Sofi, Boatman at Hokarsar wetland for their co-operation and help during the field work.
My thanks are due to Mr. Sheikh Nazir, Haji Abdul Aziz Wangno and Mr. Manzoor Ahmad Wango for providing gut contents of ducks and geese.

I am highly grateful to Dr. K.K. Jamwal Physics Department, Kashmir University for generous supply of gut contents and for helping in photography.


I am thankful to Dr. Abbas Ahmad Mossavie, Head, Department of Ornithology, Aligarh Muslim University, Dr. W.A. Rogers - FAO, Advisor, W.I.I., Dehradun, Dr. A.T. Johnsing, Joint Director, Wildlife Biology, W.I.I., Dehradun and Mr. H.S. Panwar, Joint Director, Wildlife Management, W.I.I., Dehradun for their valuable suggestions.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to my colleagues, Mr. Rahul Koul and Sheikh Musaid Iqbal for their invaluable suggestions and providing their Camera and Zoom spotting scope for my field work.

I express my sincere thanks to Mr. Zafar Reshi, COPT, University of Kashmir, for identifying the plant material and for financial support. I am also thankful to Dr. Majeed Kak for identifying the macrophytic seeds and Mr. M.L. Tiku for helping in statistical analysis of the data.
To Miss Anjum Banday I owe much more than words can express.

I am highly thankful to Mr. S. Raof Andrabi and Mrs. Haneefa Bano for their encouragement and financial support.

Academic co-operation and help extended by Mrs. Tasneem Jan, Miss Anjana Tiku, Miss Aparna Ticku, Miss Sweety, Mrs. Sumara, Mrs. Santoosh, Mrs. Anjali Kaul, Mrs. Molina, Mr. G.M. Bhat, Mr. G.M. Athar, Mr. Zahoor Kaloo, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, Mr. Manzoor Ahmed Khan, Mr. M.Y. Peerzada, Mr. Farooq A. Lone, Mr. Hamidullah Dar, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Dar, Mr. Musadiq Andrabi and Mohd Amin is acknowledged with regards and thanks.

I am indebted to my family members for being highly interested in my studies and for the financial support. I also extend my sincere thanks to my brother, Dr. Asif Qadri and his family for their encouragement, financial support and for supplying relevant literature on Waterfowl Ecology from Washington, U.S.A.

Last but not least I express my thanks to Mr. Mohd. Yousuf Zargar for typing out the manuscript, carefully.

(S. Shabeer Qadri)