ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Glory be to God,

who has,

out of a drop of fluid,

created such a variety of creatures.

I deem it a rare privilege and source of pleasure in expressing my profound and cordial gratitude to my respected, learned and revered Research Supervisor Dr. P. K. Saikia, for his scholarly guidance, illustrations, advice, keen interest, encouraging attitude-despite his multifarious preoccupations his cooperation and constructive criticism were the real sources of inspiration for me during course work and research.

I would like to express my thanks to Prof. O. K. Medhi Sir, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University and Prof. D. K. Sharma, Head Department of Zoology, Gauhati University for providing me the space and all necessary facilities along with their moral support and cooperation in carrying out my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. S. Hazarika, Principal, T. H. B. College for his help and encouragement to complete the research work.

I express my sincere thanks to the Conservator of Forests, North Assam Circle, Tezpur and Mr. Chandan Kr. Bora, the than DFO, Sonitpur (East) Forest Division for his official and moral support.

I would like to express my thanks to all my respected teachers of Department of Zoology, Biswanath College and my staff of T.H.B. College for their moral support and especially to Dr. Mukut Sarmah, who also spends his time in carrying my research work.

Throughout my work, my friends and seniors have encouraged and enriched my efforts through their cooperation and dedication. Among these
Dr. (Mrs.) Malabika Kakati Saikia, Gauhati University, Dr (Miss). R. Rajkhowa of T.H.B. College, Mr. Homnath Pokhrel (Gohpur), Sri Dhiren Pegu, Sri Kirtinath Mili, Sri Kokoi Pegu and Sri Gopal Pegu (all of Dhandi), Sri Bhanu Thapa and Sri Milan Kutum (Rajabari), Sri Suren Sahani (Kadamani), Sri Dilip Saikia (Biswanath Chariali), Sri Matrika Dhungana (Kuwari), Sri Tuntun Bora (Rikamari), Sri Joydev Upadhyaya and Sri Kamal Sarma (Burha-Chapari), Sri Baldev Mandal (Borsola), Sri Durga Upadhyaya (Borsola), Sri Arun Bora (Samarajan), Sri Hari Upadhyaya (Bordoibam), Dr. Uma Sarma, Dept. of Botany, Dhemaji College, Dr. Ajit Hazarika of Chaiduar College, Prof. Hiren Sharma, Head of the Department, Zoology, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (A.P.), Mr. Ganesh Pathak, ex-Principal i/c., T. H. B. College, Dr. A. Paul, Biswanath College and Sri Ajay Kr. Sharma, Nature’s Bonyapran, Bedeti. The support of these gentlemen’s is gratefully acknowledged. I am especially indebted, for their consistent cooperation, enthusiasm and support. Sri Bali ram Gogoi of Pahumara also deserves a lot of thanks for his help during the work at Satajan-Pahumara (Lakhimpur).

I also convey my thanks to the bearers of Department of Zoology, Biswanath College specially Sri Rohini Sharma who spends several hours in field with me.

I express my hearty thanks to Dr. Asad Rahmani, Director, Mrs. Reddy Nirmala, Librarian, Sujit Norwade, ENVIS Centre and other staff of BNHS, Mumbai who helped a lot during my stay at Mumbai for the research work and library consultation.

I express my hearty thanks to Mike Crosby, Senior Conservation Officer, Birdlife International, Asia Division whose suggestion (through e-mail) helped me to complete the work successfully.

I would like to thank Prof. P. S. S. N. V. P. Rao and Prof. Debasis Sen Gupta of Indian Statistical Institute (Applied Statistical Unit), Kolkata and Mr. B. R. Powdel, Research Scholar, Tezpur University for their help in

(ii)
statistical analysis of the data.

I also express my heartiest gratitude to Dr. Manoj Sharma, (Associate Prof.) and Dr. Kula P. Kalita (Associate Prof.), Biswanath College of Agriculture for their moral support and co-operation during the research work.

I am really glad to acknowledge my heartiest gratitude to my friend Dr. Prabal Sarkar, Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), New Delhi for his step by step co-operation during my research work.

I would like to express my thanks to my respected teacher Mr. K. D. Barua, ex-head, Dept. of Chemistry, Biswanath College for his moral support for the work. Dr. P. K. Mahanta and Mr. Amarjyoti Borthakur, my beloved teachers of Department of Botany, Biswanath College, deserve appreciation for sharing my efforts and extending their services for identification of aquatic vegetations.

I would like to thank Bhrigu P. Saikia, Jyotismita, Sunanda and other research scholars of Department of Zoology, Gauhati University who helped me to complete the research work.

I would like to thank UGC (NERO) for providing financial assistance as Minor Research Project for the research work.

In the end I would like to pay respect and thanks to my father and mother whose prayers, affection and extreme diligence strengthened me to go forward and to my brother Mr. Rajendra Upadhyaya (Gogamukh) for his help in the field, to my wife Daisy and daughter Tina and other members of my family, who helped me in my hour on need and inspired me to progress in life.

Sanjib Upadhyaya

-Sanjib Upadhyaya