ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Though my name figures on the very first page of this thesis, many more individuals have been involved in completing this work. To all of them, I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

The kind benevolent, excellent and resourceful guidance of Dr. B.B. Hosetti, Professor and Chairman, Department of Applied Zoology and Wildlife Management, Kuvempu University, virtual architect of a time learner in me his generosity, liking quality and imparting administrative skills remains highly acknowledged. I shall remain grateful to him as he was salvage-crew against time and tide, has left the investigator without words to express his deep sense of gratitude and indebtedness.

My prostrations to Dr. M. Venkateshwarlu, Professor, Dr. Nagaraj, Associate Professor, Department of Applied Zoology, Kuvempu University and Dr. Vijayakumara, Assistant Professor, Department of Wildlife Management, Kuvempu University, for their generosity in providing the useful suggestions with motivation.

I thank Smt. Bhagya Hosetti, for her incessant, moral support and encouragement.

My thanks are also due to the non-teaching staff of the Department of Applied Zoology and Wildlife Management for their timely help.

I am highly thankful to the RFO and forest officials, Sri. K. Malavalli, (ACF), Dr. T. Parameshwar Naik, Mr. Mruntyunjaya and Mr. Ramesh for permitting to carry out work in the Bankapura Peafowl reserve and Jogimatti study areas. I express my deep sense of gratitude to the Managers and Swamijis of Sri Adichunchanagiri matt, Mandya who permitted to carry out research in a great pomposity. I express my gratitude to Librarian Prof. C.K. Ramakrishne Gowda and Staff for providing timely facilities during the period of my research.
I am grateful to my teachers Prof. M. Krishnappa, Dr. Y.L. Krishnamurthy, Prof. M.B. Shivanna, Dr. Raja Naik, Dr. J. Narayan, Dr. S.V. Krishnamurthy, Dr. G.Y. Dayanand, Mr. B.S. Nijagal, Mr. Tejaswi Kumar and Mr. M. Venkatesh (S.A.V.T) for their support.

Sincere thanks to my research colleagues and well wishers Smt. Geethanjali, Ms. Deepa D. Bhat, Mr. Akilesh Kumar, Mr. Harisha M.N., Smt. Shruti R. Swamy, Ms. Rekha, Mr. Raghavendra Gowda, Dr. Naveed, A., Mr. Somashekar Achar, Mr. Girish Janney, Mr. Prakash, Mr. Tejaswi Kumar, Dr. Pramod Kumar, Dr. Jothi Sri Gowri, Dr. Ashashree, Mr. Shivan, Mr. Prakash, Mr. Umesh and all my friends for their co-operation and encouragement.

I gratefully acknowledge the blessings and inspirations I had received from Poojya Sri Sri Prasannanath Swamiji, Shimoga, the true architect of my life.

Above all words fail to adequately express my whole hearted thanks to my parents Sri. G. Amarnatha, Smt. Arundati, brother Mr. G.A. Adarsh, sister-in-law Smt. G.A. Smitha and and all family members who have encouraged me throughout my career.

Finally, a word of thanks to all those who have consciously or unconsciously helped and to S.G.S. Computers, Shankaraghatta in bringing this thesis into the present form.

- Ajay. G.A