

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I would like to thank the Almighty for His endow in the form of blessings.

I am indebted to my parents, whose unremitting faith, trust and encouragement helped me enormously in achieving this goal. I am thankful to my mother for her painstaking efforts and inspirational directions and to my late father, for showering his blessings, which helped me throughout. An attempt to thank them will inevitably fall short.

I deem a great pleasure to acknowledge Dr. G. S. Padate, my guide, Lecturer, Department of Zoology, M. S. University of Baroda, for her invaluable guidance and support till the completion of the work. I am also thankful to her for getting me aquatinted with the beautiful and colourful world of birds.

With due respect, I thank Prof. P. M. Ambadkar, retired Professor of Zoology and The Principal Investigator of the ICAR funded project on "Breeding success of Agriculturally important species of birds" for permitting me to work in the project under which this work was carried out. I am thankful to Indian Council

for Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for granting me the scholarship for Senior Research Fellow.

I also take this opportunity to thank Prof. Bonny Pilo, former Head and Prof. A. V. Ramachandran present Head, Department of Zoology for their encouragement and providing necessary facilities during the course of study.

I express my thanks to Dr. Ami Rawal for getting me acquainted with the methodology and for the help rendered during the initial phase of my work.

My sincere thanks to Dr. B. Suresh, for his valuable help in data analysis and his warm encouragement during the final phase of the work.

I express my gratefulness, to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of the Department of Zoology, for showing their kindness and goodwill and helping me in various ways during the entire course of study.

A note of gratitude to all my colleagues and friends Sapna, Ranjit, Geetika, Bhawna Gautam, Bhavna, Sonali, Neelima, Aditi, Anubha, Shlipa, Manju, Praveen, Kinnari and Monali for their timely help during the tenure of study. The definition "A friend in

need is a friend indeed" was fulfilled by all my juniors, Virendrasinh, Biren, Nikhil, Jennipher, Dharmendra, Shiva, Durgesh, Archana and Shreeram, who whole heartedly helped me in all possible ways. I show my sincere appreciation to all of them. I am also thankful to all my well-wishers who rendered their help in one form or the other during the course of the study.

My sincere thanks to Govindbhai and Dipakbahi for providing the birds as and when required. I would like to thank Sailaish Katara for typing the bibliography.

I wish to record my deep sense of gratitude towards my in-laws for patiently bearing with me during the tenure of my work. My thanks are also extended to my brother, Anupam, for his help in typing. I express my gratitude to my sister, Ananya for being a morale booster and providing emotional support.

I deem it a matter of great pleasure to acknowledge my husband, Surajit and daughter, Anushka for being understanding, supportive, inspiring and heartening all throughout as they are inseparable part of my achievement.