Acknowledgement

I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Dr.A.V.Ramachandran, Professor, dept. of Zoology, my guiding teacher, for making me understand the finer aspects of my research problem. His expert guidance, invaluable suggestions and personal interest shown in my research work is also truly acknowledged.

I greatly acknowledge Prof. Bonny Pilo, Head dept. of Zoology and Dean Faculty of Science, for providing necessary facilities required for my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M.V.Asnani ,Reader dept of Zoology, for her timely help and guidance during my research investigation. Her Technical expertise is specially acknowledged.

I owe my special thanks to Dr. M. Michael Aruldhas, Professor and Head, PGIBMS, Taramani, Madras, for permitting me to avail the facility to do hormone assay, and Dr. Antony Jeyraj, Dr.R.R.Manimaran and Mr. A.Thiruvengadam for help and guidance.

I am also thankful to Dr. Desai, Director, Model Poultry farm, Baroda and his staff, Dr. N.M.Bhatt, Dr. M.Z.Saiyed, and Dr. Saji for their valuable suggestions and regular supply of chicks for experimental purpose.

Financial assistance provided by CSIR, New Delhi, in the form of research project is also acknowledged. I am also thankful to the Govt. of Gujarat for providing me research scholarship.

My acknowledgement would be incomplete without thanking Mr.D.S.Dandekar, my colleague and friend, for his inspiring thoughts and help rendered.

I thank Dr. Dipti .N. Prasad for acquainting me with the techniques and Dr. Ami Raval for the help, kindness and goodwill.

I also thank Dr. A.K.Kurup, Ms. Sonali Barve and Ms. Neelima for helping me in one way or the other.

I am thankful to all my teachers and members of the non-teaching staff, especially Mr. S.S.Kahar for the help rendered.

Friends are like diamonds - Forever. I thank Ms. Jai Sule, Mr. Sukar Anjani, Ms. Veena Yadav and Mr. Shital Pawar for making life livelier.

The kindness and love my parents and sisters - Devsmita and Aradhana has always been a morale booster.

At this moment, I remember my uncle, Late Prof. V.L.Devkar (M.Sc.FMA London), who has been my idol and source of encouragement throughout my life.

Ranjitsinh Devkar