

## Acknowledgement

Completion of this Ph.D. thesis, for a student in remote mountains, is a Himalayan feat. The path was tough with often-unpredictable encounters. Technical, moral and financial support with sacrifices, dedication and hard work turned in the accomplishment of the thesis. This is a greatest achievement of my life, a dream of my parents and expectations of well wishers. Today, my dream has come true with the credit that goes to all those who were besides me in this venture.

Brevity they say, is always desirable. In the pleasant tasks like thanking others may be the anxiety and can be done away with any pressure. Moreover, being the only place in this little piece of science where I can say something without attaching diversity value, *P* value and *F* ratio, I might as well make it long. With this excuses, I embark on a long thanks-giving session.

The work in this thesis has been done as a collaboration of G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED) and The Mountain Institute (TMI), USA, with support from people of Yuksam, Khanchendzonga Conservation Committee and the Travel Agents Association of Sikkim. The support of the Government of Sikkim and the North Bengal University has been overwhelming. This work has been funded by Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN) under Biodiversity

Support Program (BSP) of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and followed by one year support from IDRC- Canada, Asian Program.

Perhaps first and foremost, I sincerely express my gratitude to Prof. Padmashree A.N. Purohit FNA, former Director, (GBPIHED) who is presently Director of High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, Srinagar (Garwal) and Dr. L.M.S. Palni FNASc, Director, GBPIHED, Almora who initiated the Sikkim Biodiversity and Ecotourism Project (SBE) implementation. I got an opportunity to hold the challenges with responsibility in the project funded to test the BCN hypothesis. Dr. Palni took personal interest in my work and provided technical inputs in all occasions when I was with him and through correspondence.

Never the less, Dr. E Sharma FNASc, Scientist "D" and Incharge, GBPIHED- Sikkim Unit, with his friendly, patience and understanding support gave me confidence to continue and strive beyond my perceived limitations. It is impossible to recurrent all instances in which he helped and provided a sympathetic ear to my complaints. Without his help I may never have completed my Ph.D thesis. Thanks is also due to Dr. R. C. Sundriyal, GBPIHED- Itanagar, for outstanding guidance on permanent plots placements and for other contributions.

In the path of my struggling tenure, Dr. D.C. Deb, University of North Bengal has equally shared his experience and lead me on proper tract when I was deflecting in my study with confusions. His valuable and strong comments on my synopsis as well as thesis manuscript have broadened my knowledge to provide concise and qualitative output.

It is a great fortune for me to have Frank Hampell, Marina Hampell, Tino C. Mishler, Nick Dymond and Bharat Prakash Rai with me at field. Their various technical ideas and ample suggestions made me confident to work on avian ecology, which otherwise, a completely new subject to me.

Professor J. S. Singh FNA of the Banaras Hindu University also visited my work site in the West Sikkim and provided valuable inputs especially on forest structure and species association.

I would certainly be remiss in not thanking Dr. Rodney Jackson for his unyielded technical support at field as well as for his strong comments and regular concern for this work. Likewise, Dr. Jim Bland, who made strong comments with suggestions on my synopsis and provided many literatures on bird community study, is also a man for the credit. Credit also goes to Dr. G. K. Saha for his moral and ideal support during the initial phase of research. Dr. Ajit Kumar was always keen to help and provided

valuable inputs in the manuscript. Dr. Dhruvad Chaudhary is equally thankful for his suggestions and guidance.

Analysis of data sets from massive set generated by me was not a simple task. In time of need, when I was in dilemma on the processing of data Dr. Quamer Quershi, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun helped me by providing remedial measures. Critical comments by Dr. Salim Javed, Dr. Jamal A. Khan, Dr. Satish Kumar, Dr. Sunita Pradhan and Dr. Sarala Khaling were very useful in completing this work..

I can't stand aside without thanking Government of Sikkim as different Departments shared their knowledge and experience, being co-operative to my research. Noteworthy are Department of Forest, Environment and Wildlife, Department of Land Revenue, Department of Planning and Department of Tourism. Personal thanks are also due to Mr. Gut Lepcha, former Director of Khanchendzonga National Park for his help in various stages of my Research. I indebtly thank Mrs. Usha-Ganguly Lachungpa for her help in providing literature and other technical support.

I am thankful to Dr. S.C. Rai, Er. A.P. Krishna, Mr. L. K. Rai, Dr. K. K. Singh and Dr. Rita Sharma (GBPIHED) as I especially appreciated them for their understanding, being co-operative and overall resources they provided during my writing phase. I received constant inputs from Dr Gabriel Campbell, Dr Nandita

Jain, Mr Renzino Lepcha and Miss Bidhya Pardhan of TMI who were associated with SBE project.


Thesis writing needs ample literature and it is obvious that all the credits of providing literature goes to libraries of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Delhi University (DU) and G. B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora and Sikkim Unit. Mrs Sabita Krishna GBPIHED- Sikkim Unit, Mr. Birendra K. Pal of WII, Mrs. N. Hussain of AMU, librarians of GBPIHED- Almora and DU have taken great pain on helping me to photocopy the materials for which I personally express thanks to all of them.

The work involved in this thesis far exceeded than what possibly had I done alone. Many porters, yakmen, guides and travel agencies have provided various kinds of support that made this work comprehensive. My colleagues Alka Jain, H. Birkumar Singh, Ghanashyam Sharma, Purnima Sharma, Santosh Chettri, Mohan Thapa, Sunil, Prem, Jaganath Dhakal, Syambir and Mr R. K Das deserve my hearty thanks for their arguments, discussion and cooperation, which resulted into many good fortunes of corrections and modifications. Thanks are also to all Yuksam and Khecheopalri communities who provided constant moral support without which this work wouldn't have been possible and easier. Friendly and ever encouraging discussion of Kinzong S. Bhutia

and Pema Gyalsing Bhutia of Khanchendzonga Conservation Committee also have added many useful field information on the matter.

If some persons are instrumental to my completion of the field work then they were Bhanu Raj Sharma, Phurba, Sherpa and Sanman Subba who tirelessly trekked and supported me in the harsh field condition. Their help went way beyond the call of duty and I shudder to think of the mess I may have been in without their help. I am equally thankful to Mr. M. V. S. Manian for his technical support in the compilation, graphics and presentation. I am also thankful to Mr. Ajay Rastogi and Mrs. Ruchi Pant for their understanding and cooperation.

Above all, my family members were my sole source of inspiration, which ultimately geared up my enthusiasm for research and lead to complete this thesis. There is many more person who has directly or indirectly had been a source of constant moral support or a part of technical work, thus all whosoever were beside me for my venture deserved my thanks.

  
13/9/2000  
NAKUL CHETTRI