

## Preface

In December 1991, a diverse group of Indian and foreign ornithologists gathered at HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal, to take part in the International Symposium on Environmental and Hormonal Approaches to Ornithology sponsored by the Ornithological Society of India, UGC, DST and CSIR. This gathering of avian biologists was highly successful in the exchange of scientific results and ideas for future research as can be attested by examination of the selected updated papers appearing in this special issue. These papers span a broad spectrum from theoretical analyses to practical approaches of applied ornithology. The diverse topics covered in these papers include endocrinology, physiology, morphology, evolution, nutrients, ecology, conservation, behaviour and agricultural ornithology. This dazzling range of topics resulted in an exciting meeting. There were 54 excellent lectures and spirited discussions and the Srinagar ornithological conference was a memorable one for all participants. We hope that the readers of this journal will be able to share the enthusiasm and exhilaration experienced by the members of the conference.

Nevertheless the real importance of the Srinagar conference far transcended its scientific results. It brought together, for the first time in India, ornithologists interested in all aspects of avian biology. Indian ornithologists were able to exchange ideas and established cooperation for future work not only among themselves but with their foreign guests. And they could demonstrate the multiplicity and high standards of Indian science to their guests. The most significant outcome of this meeting was to complete discussion among the members on the working of the newly formed Ornithological Society of India and to establish the foundation for an invitation by Indian ornithologists to the International Ornithological Committee for a future International Congress of Ornithology. Work is continuing on this invitation and we hope that the first such congress to be held in Asia will take place in India.

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