## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I was fortunate to receive support from several people who made the process of researching and writing this book both enjoyable and fulfilling. First, I owe a profound debt of gratitude to Dr. Nomura Ko, who graciously hosted me for an extended period at Nagoya University. His generosity and support provided the ideal environment for my research to take shape. Similarly, Dr. Fukuoka Mariko kindly welcomed me to conduct research at the National Museum of Japanese History (Kokuritsu rekishi minzoku hakubutsukan), where I also had the privilege of working with Drs. Sekizawa Mayumi and Matsuo Kōichi. Their encouragement, questions, and sharp insights were instrumental in helping me refine and deepen the ideas that form the core of this book. I am also deeply grateful to the peer reviewers, whose astute comments helped me to think more broadly and explore new perspectives. Finally, I would like to thank Rio for sparking my desire to investigate wildlife conservation more deeply.