

Editorial

Matthew Cock has been a regular contributor to *Living World* since 1981 with his articles on the Lepidoptera, particularly the skipper butterflies and moths. His research has greatly added to our knowledge on the diversity of our fauna. In this issue, we continue his series on the Hesperidae and he also provides us with an interesting article giving an estimation of the number of moths in Trinidad and Tobago. His research has shown a doubling of the number of species of moths known from Trinidad and he is now working on the first list of moths from Tobago. We look forward to the completion of these projects, which would give a huge boost to our knowledge and understanding of this important, but poorly documented, part of the nation's biodiversity particularly as so few people are working in this field.

Elisha Tikasingh's article on the history of zoological collections shows that most of the collecting was done by local people who were interested in the environment. The article also shows that most of the collections went to overseas' museums, and he also provides a preliminary list of specimens housed in local and overseas' museums. There is an urgent need for a properly constituted, adequately staffed and funded Biodiversity Centre.

Very little is known about our spider fauna. Jo-Anne Sewlal and Bruce Cutler provide us with an annotated list of the spider families that are found in Trinidad and Tobago. The authors include some families found in the neighbouring mainland and which might also be found here.

There are seven articles on ornithology: one by Victor Quesnel

on the Screech owl and two short articles by Richard French on his observations on the Ruddy Turnstones in Tobago and the other on a retrospective view of our Club's ornithologists in the 19th century. The remaining bird articles are found in the Nature Notes Section, of which three are taken from the Trinidad and Tobago Birders' Journal, which never got off the ground. The remaining articles from this "Journal" will be published in our 2004 issue. There is also an article by Nigel Gains on the predation of a lizard by a Mockingbird, an observation not previously recorded for Trinidad and Tobago.

There are two articles, other than ornithology, in Nature Notes: one by Graham White on the temporary beaching of a whale at Waterloo, and the other, a report on a giant silk cotton tree by John Lum Young and others.

Information on fauna in our streams is generally lacking and it has been 13 years since we have had a paper on freshwater species of animals, so we welcome Professor David Bass (University of Central Oklahoma) to our pages with his article on macroinvertebrates in Tobago.

Our Editorial Committee continues to make changes, however slight, to the format of *Living World*, all in an effort to make it a more professional journal. In this regard we intend to follow as much as possible, recommendations given in the Council of Biological Editors Style Manual.

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