

# THE FIELD NATURALIST

BULLETIN OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALIST CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

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## MEETINGS - FIRST QUARTER 1986

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the club to be held in the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College on Thursday January 9, 1986 at 5.30 P.M.

### A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the last A.G.M.
- 2 Business arising out of the Minutes
- 3 Honorary Secretary's Report for 1985
- 4 Honorary Treasurer's Report for 1985
- 5 Election of Officers for 1986
- 6 Other Business

Notes on Election of Officers for 1986

- a) David Rooks, outgoing President, through eligible for re-election, is unable to offer his services for the ensuing year.
- b) The Committee Members posts held by Miss Anne-Marie Kacal (Junior) and Mrs. Cathy Powell became vacant in October and November 1985 respectively.
- c) All other Committee Members being eligible for re-election, are willing to offer their services for 1986.
- d) It is every member's duty to vote for the new committee.

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You are also invited to attend the monthly meetings to be held on Thursdays February 13th and March 13th 1986 at 5.30 p.m. at the Audio-Visual Room of St. Mary's College.

### A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation of the Minutes
- 2 Business arising out of the Minutes
- 3 Announcements
- 4 Exhibits and Miscellaneous Notes
- 5 Other Business
- 6 Lecture

### L E C T U R E S

- Feb. 13th - VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH PACIFIC by Michael Camps  
Mar. 13th - BACHACS by Gene Pollard

### F I E L D T R I P S

- Feb. 23rd - ARIPO SAVANNAH  
Mar. 23rd - FISHING POND (Leave POS 6.00 a.m.)



ESPECIALLY FOR NEW MEMBERS

What to expect from the Club and what the Club expects of you

1. The Club has monthly lectures/meetings and outings which you are invited to attend. When on outings members are required to observe the objectives of the Club, especially in the conservation of Nature and natural resources which of course demands that the surroundings be left as intact and as clean as possible. All garbage should be taken back with you to be disposed of and not left for other members to have to collect. No musical instruments should be brought on field trips to the forests - on these trips we want to listen to the music of nature. Young children will be allowed only if accompanied by parents or guardians. Every member should bring along his or her basic requirements for the day i.e. water and food. In the rainy season a change of clothing will help.
2. Quarterly bulletins are sent to all financial members. The annual subscription becomes payable in January.
3. Biennially you will receive a copy of the Club's Journal 'Living World'.

Field Trip to Salibia Reef, Toco, on September 29, 1985 - Frankie Farrell

Even before getting on to the reef a number of birds were seen and recognized by David Rooks, Graham White and Paul Christopher. There were semipalmated sandpipers (*CALIDRIS PUSILLA*), western sandpipers (*CALIDRIS MAUPI*), spotted sandpipers (*ACTITIS MACULARIA*) and a willet (*CATOPROPHORUS SEMIPALMATAS*). The sandpipers were seen wading in the very shallow water over the part of the reef closest to the shore. The willet was an interesting sighting as it is a rather uncommon visitor to these parts. Inevitably the common seabirds were sighted such as the frigate bird (*FREGATA MAGNIFICENS*), the brown booby (*SULA LEUCOGASTER*), the pelican (*PELICANUS OCCIDENTALIS*), and the common tern (*STERNA HIRUNDO*). These were all circling above the water looking for their food. An interesting sighting was the ruddy turnstone (*ARENARIA INTERPRES*), a winter visitor from the north which is only seen in small numbers. It was obviously looking for molluscs and crustaceans on which it habitually feeds. Other birds seen among the trees near the beach were a blue heron (*FLORIDA CAERULEA*), a bananaquit (*COERBA FLAVEOLA*) and a few keskidees (*PITANGUS SULPHURATUS*).

The Salibia reef has the distinction of being the only well defined reef in Trinidad. Apparently the conditions suitable for a coral reef, especially the temperature and the salinity of the water, are met at this point, enabling the reef to thrive. A few fish were seen for which I can only give the popular names. They were gobies, parrot fish, juvenile snappers and footballers. The latter were those black and yellow striped fish so often seen in shallow waters among the rocks or in this case among the corals. There were a number of algae growing upon the coral. The most conspicuous and common were *CAULERPA*, which by a little stretch of imagination could be said to look like lettuce, and also a deep olive-green filamentous algae which I have not identified. On some pieces of coral there could be seen something looking like red paint splashed on irregularly. This I have been given to understand is *LITHOTHAMNION* which has a binding effect on the finger coral. Here and there also a number of sea-anemonies were seen. Four different kinds of coral were observed: a green coral, a brown coral, finger coral and staghorn coral. I am unable to give the scientific names for these.

The coastal vegetation with one or two exceptions was typical. The most common plant was of course the coconut (*COCOS NUCIFERA*). Then there was the almond (*TERMINALIA CATAPPA*), the seaside grape (*COCCOLOBA UVIFERA*) and the scotch attorney (*CLUSIA ROSEA*). Here and there were manchineels (*HIPPOMANE MANCINELLA*) and *PHYLLODENDRONS*, the latter growing on the trees and the rocks. The less common plants seen were one of the jumbie beads (*ERYTHRIAA CORRALLODENDRON*), a *MORINDA*, that member of the coffee family that produces a light green irregularly shaped composite fruit, and *DALBERGIA SPP.* a member of the pea family which is found in many places along the north coast. Among other small plants under the coconuts were to be found wild gingers (*HELICONIA PSITTACORUM*). An unusual find was a balata (*MANILKARA BIDENTATA*), rather stunted and growing horizontally out from a rock wall.

Luisa Zuniaga  
Honorary Secretary

December 29, 1985.