THE FIELD NATURALIST

Quarterly Bulletin of the Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club

April– June 2012 **Issue No: 2/2012**

Marine Group Field Trip Report I

(Saturday 10th March, 2012) *Report by Bonnie J. Tyler*

Dept.of Chemical Engineering, University of the West Indies

For the first time since 1965, the club made a trip to Huevos Island on 10 March, 2012. Huevos Island is privately owned by Robert Boos but with the aid of Glenn Wilkes we were able to get permission to spend the day on the island. Although more than twenty people had expressed interest in the trip, by the day of the trip the group had dwindled to only 8 club members, Richard Peterson, Ann Solomon, Dan Jaggernauth, Mike Kelly, Glenn Wilkes, Selwyn Gomes, Eddison Baptiste and Bonnie Tyler and one visitor, Angela Francke a traffic researcher from Dresden Germany.

When we met with our boatman, "Spider," shortly after 7:00 am, the seas were calm and the sun was peeking through scattered clouds. As we headed down the islands we could see the yellow poui blooming on the islands from a distance. As we drew closer to Monos, we could also see the agave along the cliffs with their 2 meter high stalks of yellow flowers. The sea grew rougher as we crossed the second Boca, and we could see an interesting line of waves in the mouth of the channel. Glenn explained that these are called internal waves and are

On our way

Front left to right: Glenn Wilkes, Richard Peterson, Ann Solomon, Dan Jaggernauth

Back left to right: Spider (our boatman), Eddison Baptiste, Selwyn Gomes

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Editor's note
Many thanks to all who contributed and assisted with articles and photographs.

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caused when the denser water from the Caribbean flows under the more dilute water from the Gulf of Paria. The second Boca is the most treacherous of the three to navigate because of strong currents, rocky coasts and tricky waves and is generally avoided except during the calmest season. In 1800, the HMS Dromedary wrecked on the rocks by Huevos Island but luckily all 500 of her passengers were rescued.

Having safely crossed the second Boca, our boatman steered us to the crumbling but still usable pier at the east end of the beautiful beach in Tortue Bay (which was referred to as "Torture Bay" in the 1965 club trip report, published in 1967 http://ttfnc.org/livworld/lw1967/1967p12manuel.pdf). Tortue Bay offers the only safe access to Huevos Island, as the rest of the coastline is dominated by steep rocky cliffs. Perhaps for this reason, Huevos was never developed like the other two Bocas Islands and, with the exception of the guest house owned by the Boos family, the island remains the province of the wild. Surveying the lovely empty beach, where the Boos family once entertained Royalty, it was easy to be caught up in the romantic fantasy of a holiday escape to a private Caribbean isle. The guest house was open for our use and so we stowed our gear inside and in-

Internal waves in the mouth of the Second Boca

spected the plaques, maps, and books that are mementoes of the island's history. The guest house is currently in poor repair but the roof is still good and it could be restored to good condition with a little time and money.

I had organized the trip on behalf of the Marine Group and our goal was to investigate the marine life in Tortue Bay on the south side of Huevos Island, but several members of the group had different goals in mind. Matt Kelly hoped to be able to locate and investigate the Huevos cave that was once the site of an oil bird colony. Others were primarily interested in visiting a site they had never seen before.

After a brief perusal of the site, Matt and Glenn set out in search of the cave. The cave is reported to be on the northern island and we were at the far south end of the southern island so reaching the cave meant forging a trail northward across the island and then crossing the Boca Sin Entrada. Matt has written his own report so I will let him tell that part of the story.

In the Gulf of Paria, the seas are usually calmest in the early morning so we were anxious to get out and explore the Bay. Rich and I headed out along the west arm of the bay with snorkels while Selwyn snorkeled along the east side of the bay. Using our glass bottomed buckets, Dan and Angela began investtigating the rocky coastline where they found several crabs before the bottom fell out of the bucket. I'd resealed the buckets since our last outing but evidently not well enough.

In the center of the bay, where the bottom is sandy there was very little to see but along the rocky sides of the bay we found lots of reef fish. The reef itself is not particular interesting. We found only a few patches of finger coral and some blue clinging sponges. But despite the absence of a real coral reef, we found an abundance of reef fish.

One of the first things I noticed was an enormous school of surgeonfish *(Acanthurus sp),* which was something of a surprise. Schools of surgeon fish are common in Tobago and along Trinidad's North Coast but we had never seen them before in the Gulf of Paria.

There are three species of Surgeonfishes that are common in Trinidad & Tobago waters, the Doctor Fish *(A. chirurgus),* the Ocean Surgeon *(A. bahianus)* and the Blue Tang *(A. coeruleus).* All three species are oval shaped and grow to be 30 to 40 cm in length. The Ocean Surgeon is predominantly gray with bright blue highlights along its fins and head. The Doctor Fish looks very similar but has darker gray vertical stripes along its body. The Blue Tang is the most attractive of the three. It has the same basic shape but is a brilliant royal blue as an adult. Like many reef fish, the Blue Tang changes its appearance dramatically as it ages. As a juvenile it's bright yellow with just a hint of blue on the edge of its fins. Adults of these three different species commonly school together so one could easily presume that the different colour patterns were simply different developmental phases but they are in fact three distinct species.

The next thing that caught my eye was a pair of Queen Angel Fish *(Holacanthus ciliaris)*. The adult Queen Angel Fish sports a pattern of bright blue and yellow and I find it to be one of the most attractive fish found in our reefs. It's generally far less common than the more mundane French Angel Fish *(Pomacanthus paru)* and Gray Angel Fish *(Pomacanthus arcuatus)* but we saw large numbers of all three species in Tortue Bay. I easily saw more Queen Angel Fish that day than in the previous 5 years that I've been snorkeling around T&T.

Adult Angel Fish of all three species are almost always spotted in pairs. These fish mate for life and mated pairs work together to defend a territory and forage. Because they are territorial, once you've sighted a pair of Angel Fish, chances are good you will be able to find them near that spot on another day.

To round out the "groups of three", we also found three species of Parrotfishes, the Stoplight Parrotfish *(Sparisoma viride)*, the Yellowtail Parrotfish *(Sparisoma rubripinne)* and the Striped Parrotfish *(Scarus isert)*. In contrast to the Angelfishes that mate for life, Parrotfishes change both sex and colour as they mature. All individuals start out as females with relatively dull colours and mature into brightly coloured males. Stoplight Parrotfish, as an example, are a dull reddish brown in their female/juvenile phase and turn a bright blue green as adult males. I find Yellowtail Parrotfish fascinating to follow because they can modulate their colours to blend into the background.

At one point during the snorkel, I spotted a *magnificent Spotted Eagle Ray (Aetobatus narinari)*. Size can be difficult to judge when snorkeling but the span of its fins seemed very close to the span of my arms. It graciously let me swim above it for a minute or so allowing me time to admire its grace as flew through the water before it shot off in a burst of speed. A short while after the Eagle Ray disappeared I was surprised by a very large Barracuda *(Sphyraena barracuda)*. I've seen quite a few Barracudas snorkeling and despite their reputation, they are almost never aggressive to humans. Nevertheless, that nasty under-bite can seem quite menacing when a large one takes you by surprise.

We saw a very large variety of common reef fish in addition to those I've already named. These included many small fishes such sergeant majors, Yellow Tailed, Tri-colour and Dusky Damselfishes, Slippery Dicks, Harlequin Bass, Blue head Wrasse, Barred Hamlets, and Small Mouthed Grunts as well as medium sized fishes like the Porkfish, the Spanish Hogfish and both the Banded and the Spotfin Butterfly fishes.

I spotted one enormous fish I believe may have been a Goliath Grouper but it hid itself in some rocks before I could make a definitive identification. Sadly, I don't have an underwater camera so I can't share any photos of the fish we found. Those who are interested can find excellent photos online of many of the common fishes found in the waters around Trinidad and Tobago at http://reefguide.org/carib/index1.html.

Rich and I returned from exploring the west side of the bay just about the time the rain

started falling in earnest. We found Selwyn and Ann taking shelter in the guesthouse and amusing themselves with the guesthouse's books. Dan, Angela and Eddy had headed up the hill to explore the forest. The climb up the hill is quite steep and there is no real trail through the thick brush. According to Angela, she and Eddy would likely have turned back very quickly if Dan had not pushed forward swinging his cutlass to clear the route with almost every step. Those who can read German may be interested to read the account Angela posted on her blog (http://angelasinfo.wordpress.com/2012/03/15/27-tag-spannende-tour/).

After a brief lunch, I headed into the forest looking for flowers to photograph, which is one of my hobbies. I am putting together a pocket field guide of Trinidad and Tobago wildflowers and hoped I might find a few interesting specimens for the guide. I didn't make it very far up the hill but I did find some very large *Anthuriums* flowering up the hill. When I returned to the beach, I learned that Rich had gone out snorkeling along the east side of the bay so I grabbed my snorkel and followed him out. As I was swimming out along the coast, I noticed that Rich had climbed out on a rock near the point where I was swimming. There was a current pushing me back towards the pier which is in general a very safe condition, so I kept heading out to see what Rich was up to on the rock. As I approached closer, I could hear him screaming for me not to come any further as he was trapped in a strong eddy and could not get back. As I turned around, I noticed that I had already entered the eddy that was pushing out towards the Boca but thanks to Rich's timely warning I was able to make it back to where the current was moving toward the pier and safety. As I hurried back to the others, I kept looking over my shoulder hoping to see Rich following me but when I arrived at the pier he was still trapped on the same rock. I went and told the rest of the group about Rich's predicament and we started planning a rescue. Glenn had a good length of rope and we were able to find some plastic bottles on the beach to use as a float. Glenn and Dan made a noble effort to fight their way out along the coast toward Rich but the cliffs were simply too steep. We briefly considered swimming out using an inner-tube that Selwyn found at the guesthouse but we quickly abandoned that attempt, realizing that we were more likely to get ourselves into trouble than rescue Rich that way. We tried signaling to a fishing boat that was just outside the bay to no avail.

Eventually, we were able to contact the boatman and he returned to the island about half an hour ahead of the original schedule. Dan and Glenn quickly hopped in the boat and using the rope and floats were able to get Rich safely in the boat in short order.

Overall, it was a very successful trip. It was some of the best snorkeling I've done in Trinidad waters. The number and variety of the fishes was excellent. Everyone in the group agreed that the club should plan another outing to the island soon involving all the club's special interest groups to explore this site that is relatively free from human impact. It was, however, also a trip that could easily have ended in tragedy. We were lucky

that Rich escaped with only minor scrapes and bruises. It is too easy for those of us who spend a lot of time exploring the natural world to become complacent about the dangers. We must be careful to remember to respect the power of nature as much as we admire it.

Right: House and jetty - Tortue Bay *photo: Angela Francke*

Club Members on Huevos Island 10th March, 2012 (left to right)

Front: Angela Francke (a visitor from Germany), Glenn Wilkes, Dan Jaggernauth, Eddison Baptiste, Ann Solomon

Back: Matt Kelly, Richard Peterson, Bonnie Tyler, Selwyn Gomes *photo: Matt Kelly*

Marine Group Field Trip Report II

(Saturday 10th March, 2012) *Report by Matt Kelly*

On Saturday, March 10, 2012, nine of us left the Island Homes Marina at Chaguaramas around 7:30am for the TTFNC Trip to Huevos. We were travelling a month later than the trip was originally scheduled, due to the unusually wet "dry season" we are having this year. The sky was not entirely promising either. Huevos was last visited as a weekend TTFNC Trip in June 1965 by 17 members. This time, we were crossing the water with our boatman who called himself "Spider."

Huevos is the second island out from Trinidad's mainland in the Bocas Islands of the Dragon's Mouth, which protects the Northern end of the Bay of Paria. It lies west of Monos, and east of Chacachacare. Human observations over the centuries show that due to heavy sea action, the island is actually separating into two islands, separated by the "Boca Sin Entrada" (the Mouth Without Entrance). The Southern section of Huevos comprises 172 acres, while the Northwestern section is 83 acres. The name "Huevos" means "eggs" in Spanish, and it is said that the island was named for the vast amount of Hawksbill Turtles which frequented there in early recorded history, who were taken in large numbers on or near the island by passing sailors and others, and whose eggs were also taken away in fabled numbers.

Having only Tortue Bay, on the South, suitable for landing, Huevos was not host to the amount of historical activity its two neighboring islands had. Historically, the island was the domain of one predominant family. In 1926, the island was leased to Carl Boos by the Huevos Syndicate. Since then, the island has been his family's beloved getaway place. His family ancestors will retain the lease until 2051.

Herman Boos, son of Carl, and very successful Director of the family firm, the Harriman Co., played host to many royalty and celebrities on Huevos. Some of his guests included: The Duke and Duchess of Kent (1935), Sir Anthony Eden (British Prime Minister 1955-57) (1959), Princess Margaret and Lord Hailes (to inaugurate the Federation of the W.I. in 1958), Princess Royal (1960), Princess Margaret and her husband on their honeymoon (1960) and Lord Mountbatten of Burma (1965). Old photos show the house, and jetty, which Herman built, looking quite the same as it looks today.

The sea was quite calm and flat for our half hour trip. As we passed Monos, I noticed several yellow poui trees in bloom. Tradition says that the poui will bloom at the start of the rainy season. We arrived on Huevos at 8:02am, to be greeted by a low-flying, and very noisy osprey patrolling Tortue Bay.

Tortue Bay is a sweeping bay, lined with coconut trees and Indian Almond, facing due south. It is surrounded by cliffs or steep slope, supporting xerophytic vegetation, about 300+ feet high all around, from what is called "Point Braba" to the east (having a large sentinel rock off its tip), and extending

to the west and south along a narrow finger of land which ends at "Point de Cabras." Cactus and agave abound above the bay. A few yellow poui bloomed up on the north-easterly slope.

The group disembarked on the jetty. We made for the main house, which we found open, and used as our base. Seven members of the group opted to head straight to the sea for swimming, snorkeling, and underwater investigation (after all, this trip is sponsored by the TTFNC Marine Group). Glenn Wilkes and I opted to explore the island. I was keen on trying to locate the oilbird cave, which is said to be in the Boca Sin Entrada. Older accounts describe a population of about 200 birds living here. There is no documentation which I know of since 1925 of anyone confirming the existence of this colony of oilbirds or the cave. Somewhere around 1933, a great mass of rocks evidently fell around the cave entrance. I was hoping to solve the mystery, and Glenn was game as well. Inside the house was a topographical map of the Bocas Islands, of which I took a digital photograph of Huevos, and which proved very useful for our travels.

A topographical map of Heuvos Island that was found inside the house on Tortue Bay

We started in back of the outbuildings, behind the house, and made our way up, heading due north. We followed a dry ravine, of which there were two or three going up. One of the ravines had been dammed at one time for a water source for the house. The slope continued up and up, till we reached about 500 feet in elevation, where it began to level off, and we were able to follow the saddle. From here, we could see both sides of the island much of the time. The forest was notable in the fact that it was mostly open, without much underbrush, there were almost no large trees. Many of the trees that we did pass were the gumbo limbo, or "naked Indian." We also saw many giant anthurium and manicou fig (ground-dwelling bromeliad). We both remarked about the preponderance of terrestrial termite nests, and paucity of arboreal termite nests. I found much of the foliage was covered by an orange-coloured rust, which on some plants seemed quite oppressive to their photosynthesis. We also encountered many tall cactus growing amongst the trees which were ei-

ther *Cereus hexagonus*, or more likely *Pilocereus langinosus*. I saw only two live butterflies; the common "Postman" (*Heiconia melpomene*), and a small whitish one with a dark border on the wing edges, which resembled something in the *Nymula* genus. I also found the remains of the wings of an "Emperor" (*Morpho peleides*), which had recently lost an encounter with a bird. I found two species of land-snail shells. I saw no reptiles at all, although Hans Boos had recorded six lizards and one snake in 1965. I also did not see any of the famous centipedes, for which the Bocas are noted.

Bird life was fairly active, and we had almost constant twittering of the red-eyed vireo, famous for their heard-but-not-seen habit of calling out, "Here I am. Where are you?" I saw one, and it appeared to be of the *olivaceus* race. I found that making the pygmy owl call had no effect on the birds here, as it has on the mainland. I had also noticed the same interesting phenomena on a previous TTFNC trip to Chacachacare.

As Glenn and I made the saddle of Huevos, we noticed an evident sour-stinky smell of bird guano. We saw an adult black vulture fly off near us, and I assumed there must be nesting activity. I began to look for rocks, holes in trees, or crevices; none to be found. But nest indeed. We found two immature black vultures together, who were about full-size, but still half-covered in a light-grey down. Evidently they did not have enough mature feathers on them, or they would have flown away. It appeared that their "nest" was just what cover they could have to "hide" under the leaves of a giant anthurium, as the ground under this plant was well worn. They hissed at us. We were able to get close, but did not want to agitate them enough for them to vomit the vile-smelling contents of their stomachs, as is their defensive habit.

As we made our way up to about 600 feet, we came to an opening, or clearing in the trees, where an area of about an acre was covered in low, but very thick bush, from 4 feet to about 7 feet high. We were near the top of the mountain, and many dozens of black vultures watched us warily from their perches on tree branches all around the clearing. Here, we found a clear, very well-worn path. Had we stumbled upon some kind of walking trail to the top? No. Following this trail only led into more well-worn paths, which all led in circles, in and out of the thick bush. The smell was most powerful here. There were more juvenile vultures hiding in the thick bush. There were scores of black vultures circling in the air. What we found, is that this whole area was a major black vulture nursery. Evidently, the vultures used the thick bush as protection for their "nests", which were just on open ground. All of the beaten paths were made by the feet of juvenile vultures walking about. The juvenile vultures we saw all appeared close to maturity. There were no rocks or crevices to hide in, just thick bush. There also must not be any preponderance of predators. Glenn named the area "Corbeaux Town."

At the island's highest point, just under 650 feet, we looked for, but could not find the Inter-American Geodetic Survey Marker, which is usually found at the highest point. Umbrella Rock was in the sea, just east of us. Knowing that the cliffs were steep above the

Boca Sin Entrada, we decided to try a round-about route down the westerly side. We walked down through some very steep terrain, with occasional large trees, set in an area of many spindly, stilt-rooted cecrophia trees in loose soil. We made it down to a height of about 75 feet above Balata Bay on the Western coast. Cliffs would not permit us to go any further. A combination of too much coastal cliff everywhere, heavy rain, time away from the group, and a torn ligament in my knee, gave us the hint to turn back. The 1965 trip was also unsuccessful in locating the cave. Due to our limited time on the island, I'm sure our list of fauna and flora is very much abbreviated. We will have to look for the cave another time.

I was able to discern 17 avian species, which I encountered in our six hours on the island. In 1965, ffrench trapped only three more species with three days of mist-netting. He must have identified many more. The birds I saw on Huevos were:

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*
American Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima* (pair, with one carrying a stick)
Orange-winged Parrot *Amazona amazonica*
Tropical Screech-Owl *Megascops choliba*
Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*
Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*
Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidoteryx ruficollis*
Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*
Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*
White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*
Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*
Yellow Oriole *Icterus nigrogularis*
One unidentified larger-size, dark-bodied hummingbird (my guess was a Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*)
Two different species of unidentified raptors were heard calling

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Marine Group Field Trip Report III

In which I need to be rescued

(Saturday 10th March, 2012)

Report by Richard E. Peterson

I've spent a lot of my life in the mountains, rivers and deserts of the temperate zone, but I seem to spend a lot more effort avoiding injury and not dying these days. Mosquito repellent and netting to ward off another case of dengue, which had me blind for 4 days and out of my head with fever. Tall boots and long clothing to ward off poisonous snakes (good so far) and insects (not so lucky). The constant attention required to walk or ride a bicycle in T&T amongst careless, heedless motorists and roving vicious dogs (who have knocked me into the ditch and torn apart my leg, respectively). Watching out for robbers during my walk to and from work at UWI, and keeping the flat securely locked (burglarized anyway). These are daily or weekly concerns, which means one has to become a little accustomed to them. Bonnie and I kayak and snorkel most every weekend out from the Northwest Peninsula to the Five Islands, and this seems normally a pretty safe (except for speeding motorboats) and relaxing activity. Thus it was rather a surprise when I found myself in fairly mortal peril, marooned on a small wave-swept rock off Huevos Island, jamming my bleeding hands and feet into jagged cracks to keep from being washed into the Caribbean Sea and drowned.

March the 10th had gone rather well thus far. Bonnie, as leader of the Marine Group of the TTFNC, had planned this club trip partly as part of celebration of her birthday. She had managed to get permission from the owner to visit the Island and had hired a pirogue for transport. We successfully had arisen early from bed, picked up our passengers (Angela from Germany and Club President Eddison Baptiste), joined up with our fellow club members, and even succeeded in finding our boatman. The weather was tropical, as befits the tropics, and we expected only light rain and winds. The boat ride went smoothly across First Boca and Second Boca and we found the dock at Huevos Island usable for landing. Bonnie and I were excited to get out snorkeling, as this was a new location for us, and we swiftly changed to our swim clothes and headed out towards the west. The bottom was sandy at first, with some rock and broken coral, and seemed unpromising. As we swam onwards, however, we came across more and more fish, of types different to our typical sightings around the Five Islands. There were plenty of familiar stoplight parrotfish, damselfish, grunts and wrasse, French angelfish, a big barracuda and stingrays on the bottom. However, we were delighted to see fish we expect more in Tobago, such as plentiful doctorfish and surgeonfish, Queen and Gray Angelfish, and banded butterfly fish. A large Spotted Eagle Ray, as big as me, flew smoothly, quietly and calmly next to me, and allowed me to follow it for some distance, marveling at the bright purple of its tail. As we approached the western end of the island the waves picked

up a bit and the passing ferry contributed to the chop. We were wary of currents as we approached the next Boca, so we headed back to the dock and house, arriving during a brief rain squall.

In our absence, some of the members had climbed up to the top of the island in an ultimately attempt to reach the oilbird cave on the other side. Bonnie took advantage of the trail they had blazed and went exploring. I took a bit of a lime, then went after her. I failed to discover exactly which way she went, and the way was steep and slick, so I returned to the house and took up my snorkel again. Selwyn Gomes had snorkeled out from the dock toward the East and reported nice fish, so I went that way. The water was a bit rough, so the best fish viewing was quite close to the rocky coast of the island. There is a large rock rising from the sea offshore from the southeast end of Huevos, and it looked rather choppy out there, so I elected

Richard marooned on a small wave-swept rock off Huevos Island
photo: Angela Francke

to stay clear of that. I entered a near-shore eddy as I continued east, which seemed good, so I poked along enjoying the fish. Suddenly I was surprised to find myself ejected from the eddy by a strong current, which pulled me inexorably toward the Boca. I very much did not wish to be pulled into the Boca, which I had been assured was quite dangerous, and within which I anticipated my own drowning. Therefore I swam like crazy toward some nearby rocks which rose slightly from the water, rather close to the large rock I had wished to stay away from. I had to grab the last rock as I hurtled past, and with effort pulled myself from the racing current and aboard. Unfortunately, the rock was both jagged and covered with mussels, barnacles and other sharp bits. Also, the waves washed rather strongly and often over the rock, so I had to jam my feet and hands into cracks to keep from being washed back into the current.

At this point, with all usable body parts crammed into uncomfortable crevices, I was able to take stock of my situation. I was not impressed. I was also bleeding from a lot of places, which rather stung as the saltwater cascaded over me. Since the waves were crashing over my head, I had to keep my snorkel on in order to breathe. The area above the sea surface covered barely a square meter. Altogether, it was a poor liming spot. I could see the swift waters passing me, heading east toward Monos Island. To my north was Huevos, but unfortunately the aspect was all cliff. To my south was the big rock, with surging waters heading into the Gulf of Paria. To the west was my wife, friends and safety. I hypothesized that there might be a bit of current heading west, should I leap into the water and swim very hard away from my present predicament. I waited until a large wave from the East crashed over me and took the plunge. Almost immediately, the rapid current again swept me toward the Boca. In a complete repeat, I swam like crazy and was just able to regain the last rock before open water. Damnation! I rested a bit, then repeated the experiment with the exact same results, other than the fact I was leaking more blood from each attempt. My hands and legs were looking shredded. Not good. I reconsidered. There was a second, slightly higher rock, just to the west of the Last Rock. I swam very hard against the powerful current and made it. Good, but the waves were still crashing over my head, and I still had to keep all available body parts jammed into sharp cracks to keep from being washed off. Not good enough. I could see a fishing boat out to the south, which raised the possibility of rescue. With attentive timing, I could sometimes wave my arm toward them 5 times between those other, saltier waves which came over my head. This was a little sketchy, since I rather had to have a firm hold when the saltwater crashed over, and it was very sketchy when the waves mistimed. In any case, the boat continued fishing, whether they could see me or not, and I was getting rather tired so I gave up this idea of rescue. Anyway, I'd been in a number of "situations" during my long outdoor career, and by necessity always gotten myself out of them. I noted with interest that the soles had been ripped from my sandals. Oh well, nowhere to walk on this rock!

Now, to my amazement, things got worse. I

could see my sweet Bonnie swimming blissfully toward me, peering happily at fish and planning to join me in my "lime" upon the rock. I have been putting in a mile in the UWI pool 2 or 3 times a week, so I have some swimming strength. Bonnie, rather less. I doubted there was any way she could win out against the current, and was horrified at the idea of seeing her swept past me to drown in the Boca. I screamed at her, at the top of my lungs, over and over, as the sea continued to wash over me. Finally, she heard, and turned back, just before she was caught in the grip of the water. My throat was raw. With relief, fatigue and pain I watched her swim away from me, and I felt very lonely as I clung to the Last Rock But One. Eventually, I saw her reach the distant dock. Some time later, as rain fell lightly, I saw some of the other club members, with a cloth tied to a pole, attempt to signal the fishing boat, also without success.

According to the tide tables, the tide was supposed to turn about mid-day. I had come back out snorkeling before lunch. So, shouldn't the tide change, and I could just ride the current the other way? Good thought. I continued to wait, and study the water, and cling to the rock, and bleed, and get more and more tired and lonely and to feel a bit bleak. Eventually I decided to make another attempt to swim free. As before, I psyched myself up, waited for a big wave, and launched hard off the Last Rock But One.

Go go go go! And just like before, the water blasted me back toward the Boca and I only just regained the Last Bloody Rock. A rest, a psyching up, a big wave and I returned to the Last Rock But One. But so, so much more tired. Far off, I could see tiny figures on the dock waving at me. Did they want me to try again? Man. I just didn't know if I had the strength any more. Of course I had no food or water with me, just my snorkel and soleless sandals. Bummer. Looks like I simply was not going to get myself out of this one. How embarrassing to drown during a little snorkel, especially the day before my wife's birthday.

A new thought. Hey, we came by boat. Maybe if I waited, and wasn't washed off the rock, my friends would come get me when the pirogue arrived to pick us up. And so they did. I stuck to the Rock (an hour or so), and the boat eventually came, and Dan Jaggernauth threw me a rope and they towed me into deep water and Glenn Wilkes pulled me into the pirogue. Bonnie was waiting as we pulled up to the dock, and the cheerful Club members declared that this was the first successful rescue in Club history!

There is an addendum to the rescue. It was still early afternoon, and Angela had never been into Edith Falls, so Bonnie asked me if I felt up for it. I was feeling rather pleased about living and all, so I joined Dan, Bonnie, Eddy and Angela in hobbling (on my part) up to the Falls. On the return we got to watch a monkey (a howler, based on Angela's photo) swinging and scurrying along the tops of the bamboo. After returning to the cars, we decided to also go to Bamboo Cathedral. By this time I was feeling a bit stiff, actually, and decided to stay with the cars as guardian (we'd had a window smashed here before)

and experiment with the medicinal value of some rum. As the others left, I told them that if they saw more monkeys I didn't want to hear about it! (Monkeys are cool.) Moments after my colleagues left, I heard branches clicking and moving in the bamboo. As I watched, not one, not two, but 3 capuchin monkeys crossed over the car above my head, messed about a bit, then returned and went their way. An interesting naturalist day, all told.

The day ended with memorable visit to the Bamboo Cathedral, Chaguaramas

photo: Eddison Baptiste

Annual TTFNC Tobago trip

(23rd - 25th March, 2012) *Report by Graham White*

The TTFNC Tobago trip was held from the 23-25 March 2012 and was attended by 12 members. We arrived at Crown Point on schedule at 8:00 pm. By this time Selwyn Gomes has already arranged cars and was rearing to go. The TTFNC dozen headed in three cars to Charlotteville for an early night. We were accommodated at Man-of-War Cottages by Pat Turpin.

Group photo: TTFNC Tobago trip 2012 (left to right)

Front: Natasha Mohammed, Esperanza Luengo, Betsy Mendez, Neezam Mohammed, Yves Johnson, **centre:** Neil Birbal, Wahid Hosein, Jeff Ingraham (visitor), Selwyn Gomes, Matt Kelly, **back:** Bobby Oumdath, Haroon Husain, Graham White, Roger Ramdeen

photo: Deon Adams

Selwyn selected the cottage nearest to the bar and left the other two groups to select their accommodation. The following morning the early risers prowled the compound while Haroon Husain and housemates went on a hunt for buljol and bake etc. Presumably at the owners house, Betsy Mendez and Esperanza Luengo were well supplied with *arepas* and *empanadas*.

After breakfast we drove southwest along the leeward road through Hermitage to Bloody Bay with a short walk at Hermitage Bay Road. One agouti *Dasyprocta leporina* was seen briefly just before Hermitage Bay and we were able to list 27 bird species. By the time we returned to Charlotteville the bird list had reached 44 species with at least 350 Laughing Gulls at Charlotteville and possibly up to 100 more on the rocks at Pirates Bay. It was difficult at this distance to distinguish them from Royal Terns.

We had an excellent lunch at Charlotteville followed by a short siesta. After lunch we drove across to Blue Waters Inn to take the boat to Little Tobago where we were guided by Deon Adams of Frank's Glass-bottom-boat Tours.

Little Tobago Island is designated by Birdlife International an Important Bird Area based on the overall number of breeding seabirds, especially Audubon's Shearwaters *Puffinus lherminieri,* Red-billed Tropicbirds *Phaethon aethereus* and Brown Noddys *Anous stolidus* as well as the biome restricted species Rufous-vented Chachalaca *Ortalis ruficauda* and Copper-rumped Hummingbird *Amazilia tobaci*. Highlights of the trip included good views of nesting Brown Boobys, *Sula leucogaster,* Audubon's Shearwater and Red-billed Tropicbirds, the latter actually nesting under the viewing platform. We visited viewing platforms 1, 2 and 3 but no White-tailed Tropicbirds *P. lepturus* showed. We were able to get nice views of White-tailed Nightjars *Caprilmulgus cayennensis*, and a further 27 bird species. Apart from birds we saw an iguana, *Iguana iguana,* a few zandolies *Ameiva ameiva*, two machettes *Mastigodryas boddaerti dunni* and a few giant hermit crabs. The machette seen in Tobago is a sub-species endemic to the island. This one was drinking water from a bird feeder. Matt saw and photographed a *Gonnatodes ocellatus*, the Ocellated Gekko a species endemic to Tobago. We did not see the Scaly-naped Pigeons *Patagioenas squamosal,* which have recently set up residency on Little Tobago. The first record of this species for Tobago was in 2005 shortly after hurricane Ivan hit Grenada and it is suspected that this may have assisted the expansion as Grenada had the closest population of Scaly-naped Pigeons.

On our way back from Little Tobago we slowly drifted across the Japanese Gardens at the western end of Goat Island. We saw the giant brain coral, which looked a bit worse for wear. Natasha Mohammed noted Blue Chromis *Chromis Cyanea*, Slippery Dick *Halichoeres bivattatus*, Goat Fish (Mullidae), Black Durgon *Melichthys niger*, and Trumpet Fish *Aulostomus maculatus*. A few members commented on what to them was a giant fish broth. No Lionfish were seen, but this is not surprising since the first record of this species in Tobago's waters on February 17 2012. The Indo-Pacific Lionfish are dangerous inva-

sive predatory species with no natural predators in the Caribbean and which may prey on important reef species.

We got back to Charlotteville and reunited with Richard Luger who had spent the day diving with Caroline Hardie of Charlotteville Adventure Dive Centre. He dived around London Bridge and his highlights included a large Nurse Shark *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, Barracuda *Sphyraena sp.*, large Nurse Shark *Ginglymostoma cirratum*, Barracuda *Sphyraena sp.*, Trumpet Fish, several types of Angle Fish (Fam. Pomacanthidae), Morey Eel (Fam. Muraenidae) and several Spiny Lobsters *Panulirus argus*.

After dinner Selwyn, Graham and Richard set off the meet Matt Kelly and search for a Striped Owl *Pseudoscops clamator* which had been seen between Bloody Bay and Parlatuvier. The Striped Owl is a rare resident of Tobago which is not found in Trinidad. One nest which was discovered at Prospect in 1978 was in tall grass. We were a little apprehensive as the Owl had been regularly seen near a house, their residents of which were getting annoyed by the regular nocturnal visits by birdwatchers. They threatened to kill the Owl. Despite driving back and forth until eleven o'clock the owl refused to show himself. To our chagrin we later learnt that the owl had been spotted at 8:00pm that evening.

The following morning most of the group went across to Pirates Bay for Snorkelling. Selwyn saw some interesting Squid and Neil Birbal, who was snorkelling for the first time saw 'fishes'. Graham walked up to flagstaf Hill (it is steeper than it looks) where he met up with Matt Kelly. The bird list for the morning was 46 species and we came across a couple more agouti. The highlight for the day was probably the Perregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* at Flagstaff and a Belted Kingfisher *Ceryle alcyon* at Speyside. We saw several Trinidad Motmots *Motmotus bahamensis*, which since 2009 was designated as a distinct species making it the second endemic bird species to Trinidad and Tobago.

We met up at Jemma's in Speyside for lunch with the view of Goat Island and Little Tobago. After lunch everyone needed a bit of a rest before we headed off for the Crown Point. During the siesta hours at least four *Anolis aeneus* and one *Anolis richardii* were observed and photographed on the trees in the compound. It was on the TTFNC trip in May of 2007 that *A. aeneus* was first observed in Tobago. Subsequently in November 2008 two members conducted a rapid survey of the species in Tobago, including the present site in Charlotteville, but failed to find any specimens east of Lowlands. This observation suggests a rapid expansion of the species in the past three years.

We learnt an important lesson when we got to the airport. Some members had been offered an earlier flight when they were leaving Trinidad on Friday. They took up the offer so that they can have the cars ready in time for the arrival of the rest of the group. Unbeknown to them however, because they did not travel on their originally scheduled flight they were deemed to have been no-shows and thus cancelled for the return flight. It was only Betsy's resolute insistence that Sel-

wyn was our 'leader' and had receipts for 'all the tickets' and we 'can't leave him here' that got Selwyn on the plane. Selwyn was also Betsy's ride home! The lesson? Always re-confirm. Never mind when they tell you that you don't have to.

Overall all participants enjoyed the trip and thank Selwyn for making all the arrangements.

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vi **White, G., Smith, S and Charles S.P.** 2011 The Establishment of *Anolis aeneus* (Gray) in Southwestern Tobago, Trinidad and Tobago**.** *Living World, Journal of the Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club,* 2011 pg 50-53

TTFNC Tobago trip 2012 photos

Photo 1
Audubon's Shearwater
photo: Matt Kelly

Above photo 2
Red-billed Tropicbird
photo: Graham White

Below photo 3
Machette couesse
- **Subspecies endemic to Tobago**

photo: Graham White

Above photo 4
White-tailed Nightjar
photo: Graham White

Below photo 5
Gonatodes ocellatus
–A Tobago endemic
photos: Matt Kelly

TTFNC Herpetology Group Trip to El Tucuche
4th & 5th February, 2012

by Matt Kelly and Mike G. Rutherford

Twelve hearty souls met at the Mohammed Ali Jinnah Memorial Mosque in St. Joseph's on the morning of Saturday, February 4th, to convoy through Maracas St. Joseph, on to Loango Village, where we would start our ascent to Trinidad's second highest peak, which is 936 meters or 3072 feet above sea level, only a mere 4 meters short of the highest peak. Five of us would spend the night on top.

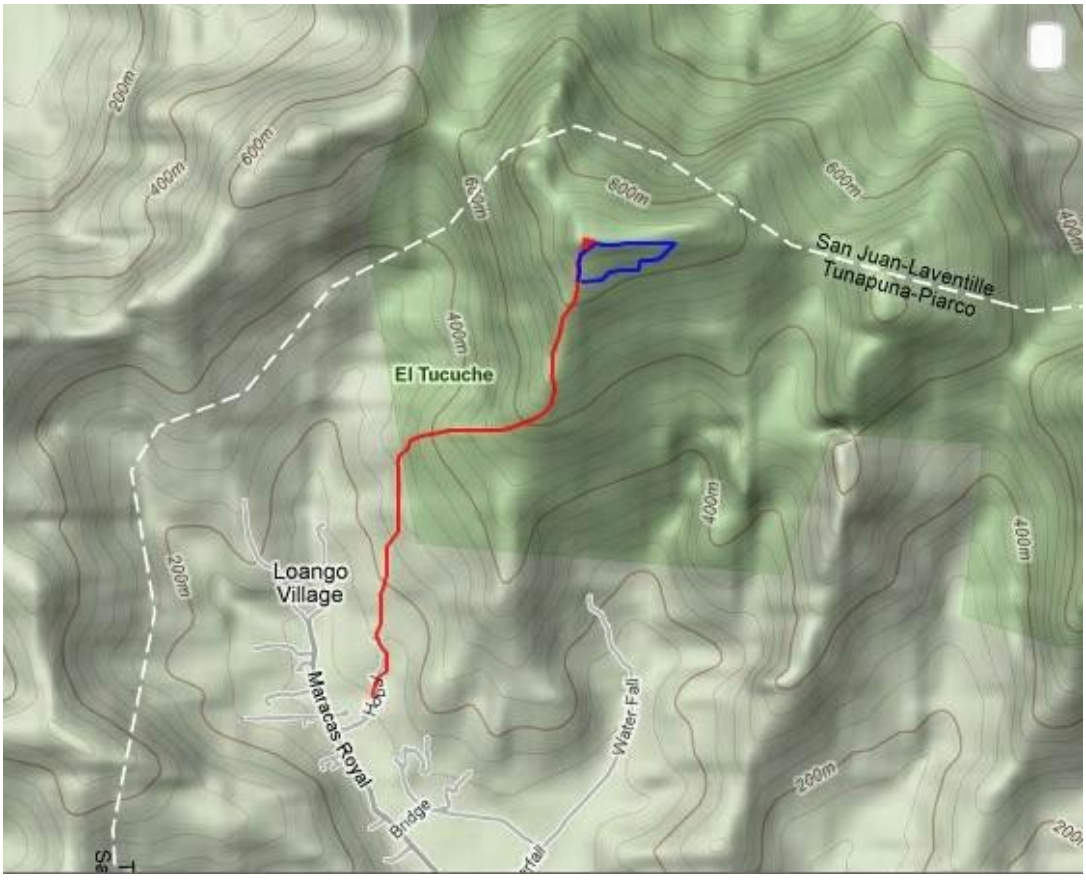
Mike Rutherford gave a brief talk about the purpose of the trip, to look for reptiles and amphibians around the peak during the night. Then, at 12:05, Dan Jaggernauth led the group up the hot (31C/88F) and sunny Hobal Trace. The word, "tucuche" was an Amerindian word for "hummingbird." It is said that this mountain was sacred to them, and Trinidad's most famous petroglyphs are found at nearby Caurita. As we climbed, Dan explained many of the botanical features of the flora we passed. The trail was also found to be embedded with many beautiful quartz crystals showing up where the substrate had been cleared by minor flooding. Just about everyone left with one.

Using Google Maps, it was judged that the

El Tucuche Route -

We followed the Hobal trail (red line) up to the top and then during the night we walked a circuit just south of the peak (blue line).

This map was made using Scribble Maps.



starting point was about 140 meters above sea level. That would make the vertical rise to the summit of 796 meters or just over 2600 feet. This trail is ranked a "7", which is next to the toughest rating in the TTFNC Trail Guide (of which a painting of El Tucuche graces the cover). About an hour and a half along, the trail really gets steep, and quickly gains elevation up "The Devil's Staircase", an apt name, as we passed many broken-off fragments of stressed footwear which gave out along this trail. Dan told us of a foot race he participates in, called "The Brutal Race", which takes runners up this same trail, over the mountain, to the North Coast, and back, tallying around 15 miles!

Well into clouds, mist and occasional drizzle, we reached the summit at 2:45 PM. It was a tough slog, mainly because of the weight of the backpacks, with camping and overnight gear, extra food and water. Upon arrival, the temperature had dropped to 22C/71F. It would remain at 18.5C/65F throughout the night. About 10 meters west of the clearing on top, was a Survey Marker Monument which read:

INTER-AMERICAN GEODETIC SURVEY
DO NOT DISTURB
TUCUCHE
RM NO 2
1953

TTFNC Herpetology Group Trip to El Tucuche2012 (left to right)

Front : Amy Deacon, Liz Griffith, Aidan Farrell, Laetitia Brechet, Richard Peterson

Back : Matt Kelly, Mark Charran, Dan Jaggernauth, Bonnie Tyler, Stephen Smith (standing), Javed Omardeen (squatting), Mike Rutherford

One of our target species was the El Tucuche Golden Frog (*Phytotriades auratus*), endemic to Trinidad's highest altitudes. The frogs make their homes in the giant tank bromeliad (*Glomeropitcairnia erectiflora)* and although there were many of these up in the trees we did not want to disturb them too much. Instead Mike went to work searching through some fallen tank bromeliads, not much chance of finding the frogs in them but there were lots of interesting invertebrates including cockroaches, some millipedes and two scorpions *(Tityus trinitatis* and *T. discrepans*).

Thick-tailed Scorpion
Tityus discrepans

As well as the herpetological work the group also observed many birds. Ones identified on the summit in Cloud Forest (or Elfin Wood land Forest) were; Rufus-breasted Wren, male and female Bay-headed Tanagers, male and female Purple Honeycreepers, Speckled Tanager, Silver-beaked Tanager, Bananaquit, Tropical Parula, male White-bearded Manakin, Yellow-legged Thrush, Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush, Little Tinamou (calling in distance) and Brown Violetear Hummingbird. Viewing was far from optimal, as we were enveloped in constant cloud cover and we were lucky to get the one-minute view of Las Cuevas Bay that we did.

Around 5:00 PM, Dan left with Bonnie Tyler, Richard Peterson, Amy Deacon, Aidan Farrell, Liz Griffin and Laetitia Brechet who were not staying the night. The "overnighters" were; Mike Rutherford, Stephen Smith, Mark Charran, Javed Omardeen and Matt Kelly. We set up camp just before dark, consisting of two tents and one hammock. The wind and mist were constant all night with some occasional drizzle, as a Cloud Forest should be. Just before the time of sunset, there was a burst of Lepidoptera activity with several species of butterflies of most probably crepuscular habits, but all were too quick in poor light for us to come to any conclusions.

About 7:00 PM, we went on a foray into the forest and followed a gently sloping switchback trail which runs east to west just to the south of the peak. We searched for about 2 hours, but had no luck with the Golden Frog. We did however find two other types of frog in fairly high numbers. The first was the Dwarf Marsupial Frog (*Flectonotus fitzgeraldi),* which was found calling from low vegetation all around the peak. They made a sound which was similar to a chirping cricket and at

a very rough estimate we encountered about one or two every 5 metres or so along the trail. The second species was Urich's Rain Frog (*Pristimantis urichi*) which is readily identifiable by looking for the blue section in the top third of the iris. This frog was also present in quite high numbers although we found some on the ground as well as on the low vegetation.

Urich's Rain Frog
Pristimantis urichi

Along with the calling frogs we also heard a noticeable slurping sound under foot as we walked along, which Mike pointed out to be giant earthworms retracting into their tunnels. We also encountered many spiders, opiliones and stick insects and with the aid of UV torches we found a few more scorpions. There were also a couple of tree snails taking advantage of the moisture laden air to crawl through the vegetation. It was great to see a live *Drymaeus mossi* as we had only found empty shells earlier in the day. With its white, yellow and orange colouring it is a beautiful snail. The other species was the smaller *Helicina nemoralis*.

Tree Snail *Drymaeus mossi*

We woke to the same cool, overcast, misty, breezy weather. After packing up three members of the party headed down to spend time searching in the lower forest whilst two people stayed up to watch for more birds. On the walk down we managed to find a couple of reptiles, spotting a Turnip-tailed Gecko (*Thecadactylus rapicauda)* hiding in the buttress roots of a large tree and more alarmingly finding two Mapepire Balsains (*Bothrops asper*). They were both lying in the middle of the path with the first one only spotted after two people had already walked over it. We cautiously moved them off the trail so that anyone following would not make the same mistake we had.

Birds sighted along the way below the Cloud Forest included Palm Tanager, Neotropical Palm Swift, Caribbean Martin, Purple Honeycreeper, Bare-eyed Thrush, Great Kiskadee, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Crested Oro-

pandola, Bananaquit, Copper-rumped Hummingbird, Orange-winged Parrot, Blue-headed Parrot, Stripe-breasted Spinetail, Plain Antvireo, White-chested Emerald Hummingbird, Collared Trogon, Turquoise Tanager, Blue Dacnis, Blue-grey Tanager, Ruddy Ground Dove. There were also two identifications based on calls, the Bearded Bellbird and the Ornate Hawk-eagle.

Although we did not find our target species we did manage to confirm that the populations of Dwarf Marsupial Frogs are seemingly healthy around the peak and it is with much anticipation that we await our next trip up El Tucuche.

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Dwarf Marsupial Frog *Flectonotus fitzgeraldi*

Bug Group Field Trip to Nariva

(26 - 27 May , 2012) *Report by Christopher K. Starr*

ckstarr@gmail.com

The Bug Group's weekend trip to the area of the Nariva Swamp was fruitful in most respects. Present were Somdutt Bhaggan, Natasha Joseph, Mike Rutherford, JoAnne Sewlal and Chris Starr. Mike's main attention was to land and freshwater mollusks, while the others concentrated on wasps.

The core aim of the latter was to advance the Bug Group's two research projects on independent-founding social wasps (locally known as Jack Spaniards): basic nesting biology of *Mischocyttarus rotundicollis* and the pacing of the colony cycle in *Polistes lanio*. Each of these species is widespread in South America, but *M. rotundicollis* has received virtually no scientific study, while *P. lanio* has been the subject of several studies toward the southern end of its range. Nariva seems to be the only part of Trinidad in which *M. rotundicollis* is at all abundant, and it may not be present at all through most of the island. (Neither species is found in Tobago.)

We conducted our studies in Kernaham Village on the south end of the swamp. One part of our plan of research went poorly. In some cases we had not unambiguously mapped the locations of active *P. lanio* colonies, so that we could not be sure which was which. Accordingly, we postponed the start of monitoring until July or August. At the same time, it appeared from the several colonies that we were able to identify with certainty that our planned one-month interval is about right.

At the same time, we collected an unbiased sample of old *P. lanio* nests in order to work out the colony-level life table, a replication of what we had earlier done at the University Field Station (UFS) at Mt Hope. Preliminary indications are that about half of the colonies survive the founding stage and continue into the growth stage, consistent with the UFS data. After dark, we collected a sample of active *M. rotundicollis* colonies for analysis of their composition. This is done at night in order to ensure that all adults are present.

We found Kernaham Village a pleasant place to work, in large part because the local people were friendly and interested in what we were doing. The two social wasps nest almost exclusively in and on buildings, yet none of the villagers showed any reluctance when we requested to poke about the outside of their houses and sometimes underneath, day or night. We took the opportunity to point out to these (mostly) farmers that Jack Spaniards prey on caterpillars, so that unless a colony is situated to pose a hazard to people or livestock it is in their interest to leave it alone. (We disturbed many colonies, and Chris received several stings from *P. lanio*. *M. rotundicollis* is much less aggressive and can hardly be provoked to attack.)

In many buildings we found the two species nesting close to each other, while in others one species predominated. It is not apparent what nesting conditions, if any, favour one species or the other. The niche separation be-

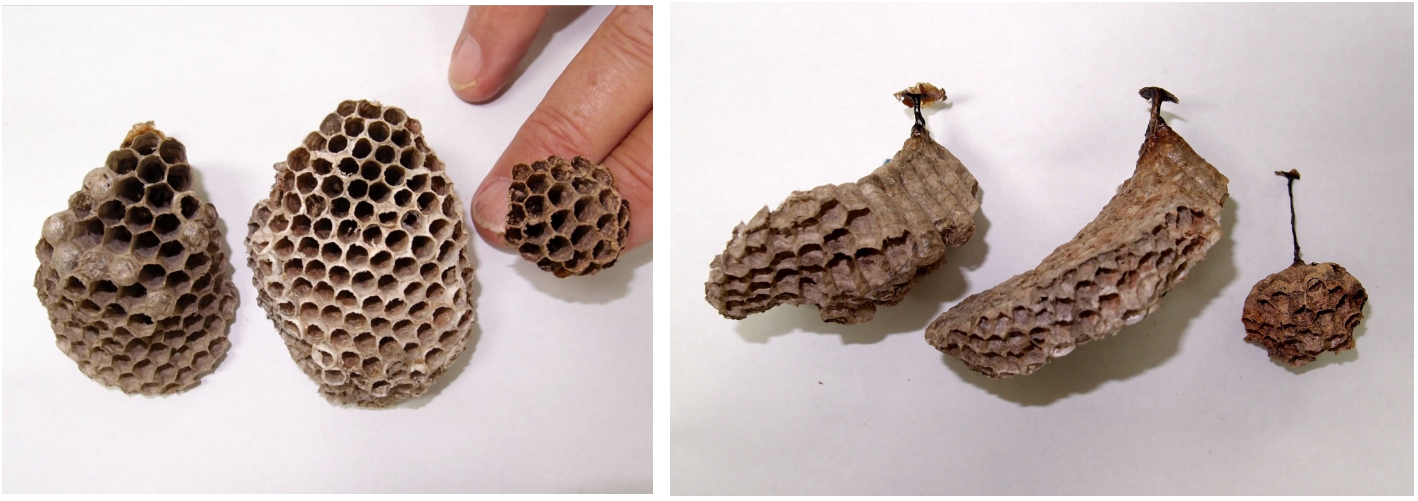
tween the two is more probably based on their prey. The one other wasp that nests abundantly in Kernaham buildings, *Sceliphron fistularium*, hunts only spiders. Its conspicuous mud nests seemed to be almost everywhere, so that the Nariva area would be a good place for anyone wishing to study this attractive and interesting solitary wasp.

On trees beside one house we found an extensive aggregation of juvenile *Nephila clavipes*. The mature females of this widespread species are by far the largest orb-web spiders in Trinidad. This spider is normally solitary, but occasionally appears in aggregation for unknown causes.

Mike, meanwhile, scrutinized the waterways and their shores for snails. These were surprisingly sparse in the canals around the village. One species of note was *Omalonyx matheroni*, a freshwater slug and potential pest of watercress and other crops. Another agricultural pest slug, *Sarasinula plebeia*, was common in fields at night. Other notables were the river conch *Pomacea urceus* and the smaller *P. glauca* and a few land snails, including the very widespread *Helicina dysoni*. The very small *Allopeas* sp. abounded in compost piles. It was evidently the harvest season for river conch, which were on sale in large numbers along the main road.

On a canoeing excursion, Mike saw a manatee near the bridge over the Nariva River. The most notable bird was a crested caracara, *Caracara plancus*, characterized by Richard ffrench as "a rare visitor to Trinidad". A night stalk near BushBush turned up two water mapepires (*Helicops angulatus*) and a false mapepire (*Leptodeira annulata*). There are at least two small caimans in the largest of the ponds behind the Forestry station.

We thank the Forestry Division for making available its spacious, comfortable Kernaham station to us for overnighting. This helped to make the field trip an especially fruitful one.



Old nests of three social wasps found in and on Kernaham Village buildings. *Polistes lanio* (left) and *P. versicolor* (middle) are very similar, except that *P. lanio* wasps and nest cells are larger. *Mischocyttarus rotundicollis* (right) has a much longer narrower petiole, which attaches to the middle of the comb on top instead of at one end. *photos: Mike Rutherford*

A Tribute to David Rooks

My friend, mentor and fellow environmentalist

by Pat Turpin
President/ Environment Tobago
His Friend, his student and comrade in arms

With the passing of David Rooks, so too has passed one of the greatest repositories of the natural history of Trinidad and Tobago. He was a living library. A self taught naturalist, ornithologist, ecologist and advocate for conservation throughout Trinidad & Tobago.

David's environmental career did not really become his passion until he had lived several lives and a colourful ones at that. His first career was in the oil industry- He was trained as an oilfield driller by my father in the dense forests of south Trinidad (Forest Reserve and La Brea). During that time he was an avid hunter and camper. It is said that converted hunters make the greatest conservationists.

Not to be outdone, he invested in an import business in Trinidad in the 1960's, his career path took another turn however in the 1970's, and this brought him to Tobago to assist with Cocoa production at Charlotteville Estate in NE Tobago. He put down roots there. Perhaps not even realising the major impact this would have on his future and the conservation movement in the island.

Historically, David had a lot of exposure to nature lovers. His Grandfather, Henry Caracciolo was one of the Founders of the Field Naturalist Club of T&T in 1891. Himself, becoming one of the Presidents of the TTFNC in the 1960's and subsequent years. It was

David Rooks

through the lobbying of the TTFNC that environmental interests in Tobago were brought together in 1996 to form the NGO –Environment Tobago. David was the first President of Environment Tobago. David's experiences during these years, the

issues dealt with, the advocacy that was instrumental in the implementation of environmental legislation, the people he encountered, and the" in the field" knowledge he had acquired made him an ideal teacher (I was one of his students), and a knowledgeable naturalist guide. He was appointed as David Attenborough's field guide during the filming of "Trials of Life". And so began the last of his careers as a leading Naturalist guide for T&T. As the years progressed, he added many awards to his resume. His love for nature evident in everything he did.

A natural progression to writing about his experiences, findings, and observations began a parallel career as an environmental journalist for many local and international journals and magazines. In the years to come, these works will need to be compiled and preserved.

The environmental community mourns his loss; we have lost a warrior, a true advocate for the natural environment. Uncompromising, in his stance for environmental justice and for this we will be eternally grateful. For his friends, a story teller beyond compare.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to the Family and Friends of

David Rooks

A naturalist all of his life, David has been President of the Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalist Club four times.

The unique contribution of this treasured individual and member of the Club will be explored in upcoming TTFNC publications.

Management Notices

New members; Volunteers; Publications

New Members

The Club warmly welcomes the following new members:

Junior members:

Ordinary members:

Adanna Alexander, Jean-Philippe Talma, Francis Jones, Rachael V Frank, Gregory Thompson

New life members:

New Website

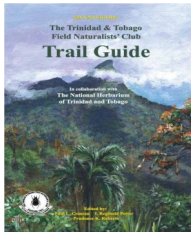
The Club has transferred to a new domain name and email address. The change allows us more space and greater control to reach out to the public and stay in touch with members.

Website: www.ttfnc.org **Email:** admin@ttfnc.org

facebook http://www.facebook.com/pages/Trinidad-Tobago-Field-Naturalists-Club/68651412196?v=info

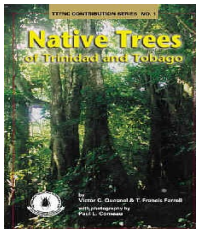
PUBLICATIONS

The following Club publications are available to members and non-members:

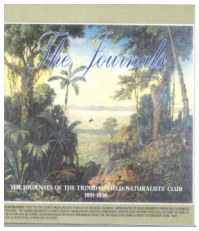


The TTFNC Trail Guide

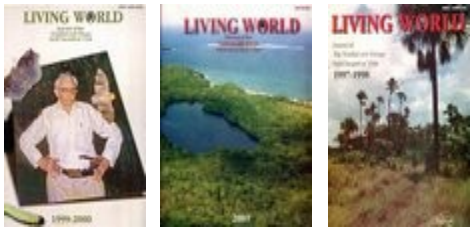
Members = TT$200.00



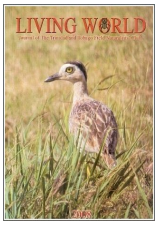
The Native Trees of T&T 2nd Edition Members = TT$100.00



Living World Journal 1892-1896 CD Members = TT$175.00



Living World Journal 2008
Living World Journal back issues
Members price = free



Living World 2011 supplement

Due to limited supply Living World 2011 supplements are $20.00 each.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Greenhall Trust

Started in 2005, in memory of Elizabeth and Arthur Greenhall, dedicated artist and zoologist respectively, the Trust offers financial assistance to aspiring artists and biologists (in areas of flora and fauna) in Trinidad and Tobago. Full details are available on their website: http://www.greenhallstrust-wi.org/link.htm

Your 2012 Annual Membership Fees are Due:

Please view bottom right of the mailing label to check if your subscripition has been paid.

Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club
P.O. Box 642, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

NOTES TO CONTRIBUTORS

Guidelines for Articles and Field trip reports:

Contributors and authors are asked to take note of the following guidelines when submitting articles for inclusion in the newsletter

1. Articles must be well written (structure/style), and be interesting and fun to read.
3. Articles must have a sound scientific base.
4. Articles submitted must be finished works. Please no drafts.
5. Articles should generally not exceed 3000 words. Longer articles, if interesting enough, will be broken up and published as separate parts.
6. Articles should be submitted as a text file, word or text in an e-mail.
7. Field trip reports may include a separate table listing the scientific names, common names and families of plants and animals identified within the body of the report.
8. Photographs can be in any of the following formats JPEG, BMP, PICT, TIFF, GIF. They must not be embedded into the word processing files. Information on the image content including names of individuals shown must be provided.
9. Acceptable formats for electronic submissions are doc and txt.
10. **All articles must reach the editor by the eighth week of each quarter. Submission deadline for the 3nd Quarter 2012 issue is August 31th 2012.**
11. **Electronic copies can be submitted to the 'Editor' at: admin@ttfnc.org Please include the code QB2012-3 in the email subject label.**
12. Hard copies along with CD softcopy can be delivered to the editor or any member of Management.