



THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

Month in Review – March 2014

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During the month of March, the main Club field trip had members heading south to the Erin Savanna. One of the few remaining examples of natural savanna in Trinidad, the Erin Savanna is threatened by quarrying, squatting and the cultivation of non-native pine trees.



Looking out over the Erin Savanna. Photo by Kamal Mahabir



Aggregate mining. Photo by Kamal Mahabir



Bee hives. Photo by Kamal Mahabir

Some members of the Club arrived at the savanna ahead of the main group to do some birdwatching. Their efforts were rewarded with the sighting of a rare bay-breasted warbler *Setophaga castane*.





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Bay-breasted warbler (*Setophaga castane*). Photo by Nigel Lallsingh
Also of note was *Battus lycidas*, a rarely seen butterfly.



Battus lycidas. Photo by Kamal Mahabir

After the trip, a single specimen of moriche palm *Mauritia flexuosa*, was located by Dan Jaggernauth in another section of the savanna. It is unknown if other sections of the savanna still contain stands of this very localized palm.

Meanwhile, members of the birding group headed to Grande Riviere for the month's trip. The endemic Trinidad Piping-Guan *Pipile pipile*, was the main target and a few were seen, alongside the usual mix of forest birds which included trogons, honeycreepers and tanagers.



Trinidad Piping-Guan (*Pipile pipile*) in Grande Riviere. Photo by Kris Sookdeo

Last but not least, the Art Group visited Ajoupa Pottery in Chickland during the month. Here, members busied themselves with the task of recording the sights of the garden through their chosen medium.



A member of the art group at work in Chickland. Photo by Amy Deacon.