

Editorial

This year has been another challenging year for many, and as such we are especially grateful to our editorial team for their contributions, and also to those who have generously given their time and expertise to review submissions. On top of everything else, serious technical issues with our server meant that we were forced to re-upload our entire archive of journal articles. This was no mean feat and would not have been possible without the dedication and perseverance of Kris Sookdeo and Deosaran Maharaj, who ensured that we have a fully open access online archive once again. We apologise to anyone who struggled to access material from the website earlier in 2021; we sincerely hope that we are now back on track.

The 2021 issue of Living World comprises a Guest Editorial, two Research Papers, five Nature Notes and one Report. The Research Papers are dominated by papers on Lepidoptera and strongly supported by observations made by non-specialists. The first is an account of the Notodontidae of Trinidad & Tobago by Matthew Cock. This is a major family of moths with 156 species present in T&T and 61 are new records for Trinidad. Our second paper, also by Matthew, provides an account of 45 new lepidopterans for Tobago.

Our Nature Notes are varied and, as usual, serve as a reminder of how much more there is still to discover about local biodiversity - even through chance observations. Saifudeen Muhammad and Mike Rutherford describe the first instances of a two-headed snake hatchling in Trinidad, coincidentally a species named in honour of one of the authors. Gervonne Barran and Milena Mechkarska describe an instance of a Tropical Wolf Spider preying upon a Trinidadian Stream Frog in Tamana Caves. This

follows three notes published in Living World in 2015 describing other prey items of this spider. Our 2014 issue included a research article describing the first observations of anvil-use by Trinidad Motmots in Tobago to open gastropod shells. In the current issue Rainer Deo presents evidence of motmots using an anvil to prey upon and dismember a Manicou Crab. Hukaymah Ali, Rainer Deo and Mike Rutherford provide the first records of the terrestrial nemertean *Geonemertes pelaensis* for Trinidad. This is a species that some of us have probably mistaken for a free-living planarian and proves the value of not taking all observations for granted. Finally we have an account of a Hawksbill Turtle nesting during the day in northeast Trinidad by Shirley-Ann Ramphal, Samantha Ramnarine, Renata Ramoutar, Lanya Fanovich and Ryan S. Mohammed.

From the report of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Status and Distribution Committee, we learn that 95 records of rare birds were submitted to the committee during 2020, representing 48 species. The Capped Heron was added to the official list of birds of Trinidad and Tobago, and Zone-tailed Hawk and Crested Caracara were found in Tobago for the first time.

We are grateful to Michelle Cazabon-Mannette for contributing a Guest Editorial highlighting the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on conservation of marine turtles in Trinidad & Tobago. It is clear that any impacts of the pandemic on wildlife cannot be considered in isolation, and this insightful piece places the current threats to turtles locally in an historical, social and ecological context.

Amy Deacon,
Graham White

Cover Photograph

This year's cover shows a "rufous morph" female Hook-billed Kite photographed by Kevin Foster along Coora Rd, Siparia on 26 July 2020. Adult male birds tend to have the rufous coloring replaced by gray. This species is an extremely uncommon resident in Trinidad and is seen here feeding on its preferred diet of land snails. Its deeply hooked bill is an adaptation for extracting snails from their shells.